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FROM THE OFFICE OF JAMES COLBERT, JR.—SUPERINTENDENT

Of Note...

It has been a productive week at HCDE. I began the week with a meeting of my Executive Leadership Team, immediately followed by a Development Committee meeting related to the Academic and Behavior School West, as well as other regularly scheduled weekly meetings.

Tuesday was a busy day for both the Board and me. We started the day with a Board Budget Workshop prior to the regularly scheduled July Board Meeting, and we wrapped up with a Policy Committee Meeting at the conclusion of the Board Meeting. I am appreciative for your service to HCDE, overall, and for your approval of the initiatives we presented.

Wednesday, I took advantage of yet another opportunity to increase HCDE's visibility within the community college sector by meeting with the President of the Kingwood location of Lonestar Community College. The meeting was successful and I look forward to further developing a relationship with representatives at that entity.

Also on Wednesday, the Department hosted a farewell reception for Dr. Dee Mattox-Hall upon her retirement as the Senior Director of the Schools division. We are appreciative for her 47 years of service—seven of them here at HCDE—and for her undying dedication to the Schools division. We wish her well as she moves into this next phase of life.

Yesterday, the Human Resources division hosted another employee event in their ongoing campaign efforts to enhance employee morale. This division is committed to ensuring a cohesive environment for all staff as it relates to organizational

morale. Over the course of the campaign, attendance has been excellent and employees enjoy the opportunity to come together.

For the past several weeks, we have been engaged in the initial planning stages of the Annual Staff Meeting event. This year's meeting will be held on the morning of Thursday, August 24, at the Kingdom Builders Center. This is the same location where last year's event was held. Additional details will be forthcoming. I look forward to this opportunity to motivate, inspire, and rejuvenate staff for the upcoming academic year.

Looking ahead, next week I will be attending a meeting of the Education Foundation Board on Tuesday. I also have a meeting with the Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM) Board, where I serve as a member. Finally, I will also be meeting with the North Harris County Education Alliance.

Again, thanks for your service to HCDE. I appreciate your dedication and commitment to forwarding our mission.

I hope you have a relaxing weekend, and I hope you enjoy this issue of **The Connector**.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

- Board Meeting

Thursday, August 24, 2017

- Annual Staff Meeting

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Chemical Industry Bucket Assembly Gives Science Teachers Products and STEM Careers to Share with Students



Chemical industry leaders show off products being manufactured at area plants to teachers through a bucket assembly at Harris County Department of Education, 6300 Irvington, July 18, from noon to 1 p.m. “Science Teachers and Industry,” an annual, summer workshop

held for secondary science teachers and sponsored by the Texas Chemical Council gives the teachers a better understanding of the chemical industry and Houston-area chemical plants. This year, chemical industry leaders focus on educating students about STEM career opportunities available in the industry.

Academic science specialists and industry experts present a full scope of environmental viewpoints during the four-day workshop held July 17-20. Included are a field trip to a chemical plant, an overview of the Houston Ship Channel, careers in the chemical industry, and materials and experiments to take back to the classroom. The companies also use the opportunity to reinforce their concern for the health and safety of its workers, community, and the environment.

HCDE science curriculum director Lisa Felske coordinates the workshop and says the teachers meet chemical engineers, plant managers, and other industry professionals as they tour a chemical plant each year. While at HCDE, teachers get an overview of the cycling of plastics--from raw materials to manufactured products to plastic recycling.

“Previous years had a focus on air and water quality,” Felske said. “This year, we focus on careers in the chemical manufacturing industry. We have industry representatives as well as career and technical education representatives to talk to the teachers about STEM careers.”



For more information about HCDE educator professional development and training, access www.hcde-texas.org.

ADVANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING BY TRAINING THE TRAINER

Trainings hosted at HCDE this week

JULY 17, 2017

Test Prep Series for TExES Core Subjects EC-6 Exam (#291) - SCIENCE Sessions ONLY

Online Instructor’s Training - Part III

Science Teachers and Industry... Learning about Chemicals and the Environment - July 17-20, 2017

JULY 19, 2017

HCDE Principal Certification Academy Information Meeting

JULY 20, 2017

Charter Roundtable

Test Prep Series for TExES Core Subjects EC-6 Exam (#291) - MATH Sessions ONLY

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

HCDE Purchasing Division Receives Prestigious Procurement Award



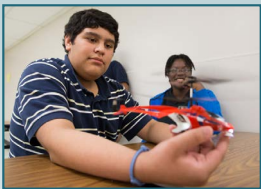
The Harris County Department of Education Purchasing division was notified this week that they received the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award from the National Procurement Institute.

This prestigious award recognizes organizational excellence in public procurement and is designed to measure innovation, professionalism, productivity, e-procurement and leadership attributes of procurement organizations.

HCDE Purchasing division staff are invited to attend the 22nd Annual Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award Ceremony in October to be recognized for their success.

For more information, visit <https://npiconnection.org/aep/Index.asp>.

Students Participate in Helicopter Drone Challenge at AB School West



A dozen students at Academic and Behavior School West ended their summer school activities with a helicopter drone challenge this July. The event allowed students to practice their dexterity and socialization skills as they maneuvered the helicopter drones through timed obstacle courses. View a gallery of photos. Password is hcde1889: <https://hcdetx.smugmug.com/Schools/AB-West-Helicopters/>

Center for Grants Development Secures Half Price Books Donation for Students



HCDE's Center for Grants Development division worked with Half Price Books to secure a donation of more than 400 books for students participating in the CASE for Kids Summer Learning Day on July 13, 2017. The books were handed out at the end of the event to each school or nonprofit organization.

Watermelon Social at North Post Oak Quells Summer Heat Blues



HCDE staff at North Post Oak enjoyed watermelon in mid-July as temperatures continue to rise in Houston. The social has become a tradition for HCDE employees, many of whom participate in the 10-hour stretch summer flex schedule. View the photos: <https://hcdetx.smugmug.com/organize/HumanResources/Watermelon-Social-NPO->

Service

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



CASE for Kids Featured on Newsfix39 Broadcast

CASE for Kids is featured in a Newsfix39 feature story about Summer Learning Day. The event held July 13 was covered by Channel 39 reporter Mike Rosenhouse and featured an interview with Dr. Lisa Thompson-Caruthers. View the story: <https://youtu.be/rlyGuOqcOII>

Harris County Students Have a 'Blast' at Summer Learning Day



Harris County students in summer afterschool programs participated in Summer Learning Day hosted by the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids, or CASE for Kids, on July 13. The event focused on science and numeracy and featured various space-themed activities to help prevent “summer slide.”



Systemic Achievement

...with purposeful intent

Organizational Morale

In an effort to meet the Board's goal for me as it relates to this element of performance to

- Create an open and positive environment for sharing resources and exchanging ideas to improve organizational climate;
- Seek systematically to improve the climate by obtaining and utilizing feedback from employees of the Department;
- Model and support responsible risk-taking so that all employees can be innovative and try new ideas;
- Celebrate accomplishments and acknowledge excellence;
- Ensure fair and equitable management practices; and
- Demonstrate quality management through delegation of authority, team building, consensus development, leadership development, and self-management.

This week, we celebrated the accomplishments of Dr. Dee Mattox-Hall as she retires from HCDE as the



Senior Director of the Schools division. She ends her career in education after 47 years of service, with seven of those years here at HCDE. We salute her work and we wish her the best during her retirement. We appreciate her significant contributions to both the division and the Department.



By continuing the tradition of celebrating staff accomplishments, I am striving to meet the Board's expectations of me to establish a culture among staff so that all strive to achieve excellence and do not accept mediocre performance; and ensure that all supervisory staff administers personnel practices with consistency and fairness—with respect for the individual, among other related indicators.

HCDE BOARD

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Position 3, At Large

Michael Wolfe

Position 5, At Large

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