



WEEK OF OCTOBER 29, 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

3 *SuperMENTors
Making a Difference*

4 *CASE Debate
Teens Compete
with Argument,
Confidence*

6 *'Good News You
Can Use!' to
Focus on Positive
Partnerships*

Of Note...

It's hard to believe that we're approaching the end of the first semester of the 2018-2019 academic year. Time flies when great things are happening!

I began this week with a meeting of the Executive Leadership Team. I also met with one of my mentees, and I conducted my regularly-scheduled internal meetings with staff. On Tuesday, I met with the superintendent of Fort Bend ISD. As already mentioned, it is important to me to keep my finger on the pulse of our client school districts.

Yesterday, I conducted Agenda Review in preparation for the regularly-scheduled Board Meeting to be held Wednesday, November 14. I am ending the week attending a breakfast meeting with fellows and graduates of the American Leadership Forum program, and conducting other meetings with internal staff.

This week in the area of teaching and learning, HCDE offered the following: Workstation Make and Take for Grade 5; Getting Started with Guided Reading: Grades 3-6; Outer Edges Online- Organizing with Google; Workstation Make and take for Grade 7; Harris County School and Public Librarian Leadership Team; Developing Assessment Capable; Visible Learners; Great Explorations in Math and Science (GEMS): Elephants and Their Young/Mother Opossum and Her Babies (6 hours G/T update); TEXES Core Subjects EC-6 Exam (#291)- Fine Arts/PE/Health Test prep; Basics and Outer Edges, Creating with Google; Attendance Officers' Share Session; Make them Think! What Successful Readers and Writers Do (Secondary); Brain-based Strategies to Engage All Learners; Workstation Make and Take in Comparing Numbers for pre-K and kindergarten; Workstation Make and Take in Comparing Numbers for Grades 1 and 2. HCDE remains a powerful force in Harris County and beyond when it comes to our train the trainer model in the professional development arena.

Looking ahead into next week, I will conduct our IMPACT Meeting at Fortis Academy, giving leaders in education an opportunity to see first-hand, all that this innovative environment has to offer. Later Monday, I will depart to Austin for a UIL meeting in my role as a board member. I will be in UIL meetings all day Tuesday, returning to the office Wednesday. Upon my return to the office, I will conduct Leadership Team Meeting. A PFC Meeting will also be held Wednesday at Fortis Academy.

I am also looking forward to a Superintendents' Tour to be held at Fortis next Thursday. Offering education executives as much visibility to Fortis as possible is essential. I will also be meeting with Humble ISD's superintendent next Thursday.

We will be celebrating Choice Partners' success in hitting its first ever \$1 million month over a celebration lunch. We are excited about this major accomplishment in the life of this program within HCDE.

Please be reminded that the special board committee meeting on the legal services RFQ will take place all day next Friday.

In closing, I hope you enjoy this issue of **The Connector** and I hope you have a relaxing weekend. Thanks for your continued service to HCDE.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November Board Meeting—Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Educators, Vendors Attend Textbook Showcase at HCDE



Educators from across Harris County gathered for the 2019 English language arts and reading and Spanish language arts and reading ELAR/SLAR Showcase. About 150 educators, plus 26 vendors were in attendance. The showcase was provided for area school supervisors, principals, and teachers involved with selecting instructional materials in grades K-8 for state-wide adoption. All adopted materials are scheduled to be implemented in schools beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.



ADVANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING BY TRAINING THE TRAINER

OCTOBER 29, 2018

Workstation Make and Take for Grade 5

Getting Started with Guided Reading: Grades 3-6

Outer Edges Online - Organizing with Google

Workstation Make and Take for Grade 7

OCTOBER 30, 2018

Harris County School and Public Librarian Leadership Team

Developing Assessment Capable, Visible Learners

Great Explorations in Math and Science (GEMS): Elephants and their Young/Mother Opossum and Her babies (6 hours G/T update)

OCTOBER 31, 2018

TExES Core Subjects EC-6 Exam (#291) - FINE ARTS/PE/HEALTH Test Prep

Basics and Outer Edges - Creating with Google

NOVEMBER 1, 2018

Attendance Officer's Share Session

Make them THINK! What Successful Readers and Writers Do-Secondary

Brain-Based Strategies to Engage All Learners

NOVEMBER 2, 2018

Workstation Make and Take in Comparing Numbers for Pre-K and Kindergarten

Workstation Make and Take in Comparing Numbers for Grades 1 and 2

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

SuperMENTors Making a Difference



Four men from the community recently gave an hour out of their day to read “How Do Dinosaurs Go to School?” to students at the Fifth Ward Head Start Center.

These men are part of the REAL SuperMENTors Read program, a mentoring program in which men from the Houston community commit one hour of their time to read, once a month. The program is a part of the ongoing HCDE Head Start Significant Male Initiative formed in 2002 to encourage male involvement throughout the HCDE Head Start centers.

The program works by recruiting, selecting and assigning mentors to each school. Mentors commit to at least one hour, once a month between October and May to read to students. During the month of May children celebrate their SuperMENTors.

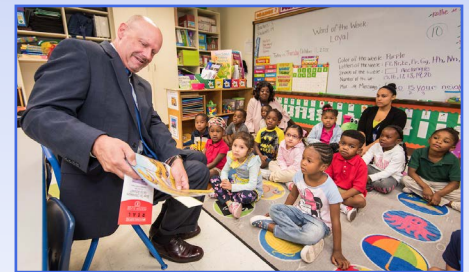
Gary Whitt, Bank of Texas senior vice president, is in his fourth year of participating in the SuperMENTor program and is one of three from the bank to mentor at the Fifth Ward Head Start Center. Bank of Texas also donated to the program this year to supply books.

“This is a great opportunity to give back and know the good work that is being done and being able to participate has been rewarding,” he said. “The teachers here are amazing and it’s great to see the development of the children from the first time you read to last time, especially the ones that I have seen two years in a row. This is my favorite thing to do each month and I like how the location can be geared towards where we work.”

Bank of Texas also donated over \$7,000 to the program this year to supply books.

Urban Enrichment Institute Mentoring Coordinator Michael Scott is in his first year and wanted to continue being a role model to youth after serving as a teacher in Houston ISD.

“I believe it’s life purpose to serve the youth by empowering and helping them develop,” he said. “Even though it’s just once a month, you build a relationship with the students and look forward to having that time to come and share something fun with them. The joy that you get in return can’t match the time you put in.”



SuperMENTor volunteers come from a multitude of businesses and are community members from across the greater Houston area. Additionally, through corporate sponsors, participating students receive a copy of the book read to them each month to grow a home library.

Reading dates are the second Thursday of each month beginning in October through May. Each school site will work with its mentor, as needed, for scheduling reading dates.

To sign-up to be a mentor, fill out the form at <https://bit.ly/2RWAATZ> and email to SuperMENTors@hcde-texas.org.

For more information on the REAL SuperMENTors Read program at HCDE Head Start, please contact Armando Rodriguez at 713-696-2179 or e-mail SuperMENTors@hcde-texas.org.

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

CASE Debate Teens Compete with Argument, Confidence



The first CASE Debates tournament held this school year with 100 Harris County students had all the makings of a rival football game, minus the helmets.

Instead of jerseys, the 50 debate teams were outfitted with ties, dress shoes, pressed shirts, sharp wit and organized arguments.

For a second year, the debate program funded through Harris County Department of Education's Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids (CASE for Kids) is paired with the successful Houston Urban Debate League (HUDL) model, a nonprofit organization which promotes academic and advocacy skills among urban teens through debate.

For the past 10 years, HUDL grew its student numbers throughout Houston inner city schools to 1,000. CASE for Kids teams recruited its 200 team members from the other 24 Harris County school districts like Alief, Spring and Galena Park. Competition is heightened as up to 40 schools vie for the top honors at competitions.

Enter CASE Debates team member Maegan Madison Ford, 16, a junior at Spring Early College Academy, a college-focused charter school in the Spring Independent School District.

Debate fuels her confidence as a public speaker. She plans to use her new objective thinking skills and organized rhetoric when she becomes a biomedical engineer. Besides, it's her extracurricular, she says, brandishing a confident smile.

"At Early College, we don't have sports teams or band, so I would consider debate my band or sport," she said. "This is our competition, and this is what we want to win."

HUDL board chair Heather Hatfield says another benefit of debate is that it gives youth a voice and encourages teens to pay attention to the world around them. She also points out the statistic that most debaters go on to college.

County School Superintendent James Colbert Jr. credits the HCDE Board of Trustees for seeing the value of the program and providing start-up funding to support its expansion into the other 24 Harris County school districts. The CASE Debates program is easy to promote to the 10,000-plus students served through CASE for Kids as an established afterschool curriculum.

"Our number of student enthusiasts continues to grow, and we see the value of a competitive, academic program that builds confidence among our inner-city youth," Colbert said.

"It's good for the kids," said Enrique Solis, the debate coach at the Spring Early College campus. "It speaks to the skills our students will need in college like public speaking, working in teams, being persuasive and writing concisely."

Student and debate captain Da'vion Javonte March likes to argue and talk about controversial subjects in the controlled environment debate offers. The sophomore is already working on an associate degree and plans to become an anesthesiologist as a long-term career goal. He's concerned today about the decisions he's making for the betterment of his team.

As the Spring ISD team readies for round two in the tournament, they take time to rally together for a photo with their coach.

Brimming with confidence and camaraderie, this team of 12 is ready to go out and challenge the world as creative, confident, critical thinkers.

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Vendor Exhibit Offered by Choice Partners Gives Customers a View of Products, Services



Several hundred participants from School districts, universities, colleges, counties, municipalities, nonprofits and other governmental entities viewed products showcased by 79 vendors at the Choice Partners Purchasing Co-op Vendor Exhibit Oct. 26 at the Norris Center in west Houston. Choice Partners is the purchasing cooperative for Harris County Department of Education and provides legal, competitively awarded contracts for technology, facilities, food, products and services. The process saves both time and money.



Opportunity

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

'Good News You Can Use!' to Focus on Positive Partnerships



Communications and Creative Services will begin featuring “Good News You Can Use!” news stories which highlight our partnerships with area school districts and organizations. Here are a few of the logo options which will be used in communications deliverables. Looking forward to delivering good news to you on a regular basis! We hope you will send your good news story ideas our way! All submissions will be considered: communications@hcde-texas.org

Lights On Afterschool Coverage: National, Local

CASE for Kids was highlighted recently in the Afterschool Alliance website as part of the Lights On Afterschool! Celebration. The school featured is a Partnership Project school in Houston ISD called Park Place Elementary. The celebration was also included in a Univision 45 news broadcast. View the coverage: <https://youtu.be/itEyovdixbY>



Systemic Achievement

...with purposeful intent

Management of Administrative, Fiscal and Facilities Function Community Relations

In accordance with the Board's expectations of me to:

- **Oversee a budget development process that results in recommendations based on Department priorities and available resources;**
- **Oversee budget implementation in a way that ensures appropriate expenditure of budgeted funds, and provides for clear and timely budget reports; and**
- **Implement and oversee a planning process that results in goals, targets, or priorities for major areas of operations**
- **Establish and maintain a program of public relations to keep the public well-informed of the activities of the Department, affecting a wholesome and cooperative working relationship between the Department and the community; and**
- **Work with other governmental entities and community organizations to meet the needs of students and the community in a coordinated way**

Recently several hundred participants from school districts, universities, colleges, counties, municipalities, nonprofits, and other governmental entities viewed products showcased by 79 vendors at the Choice Partners Purchasing Co-op Vendor Exhibit at the Norris Center in west Houston.

This event comes on the heels of Choice Partners hitting \$1 million in revenue in



one month! A celebratory lunch for that milestone is scheduled for Thursday of next week.

By Choice Partners Purchasing Co-op realizing these successes, I am striving to meet the Board's goal for me to:

- **Maintain visibility and involvement in the community with ISD superintendents, elected officials, community leaders, and the HCDE board;**
- **Be open to the ideas and needs of the aforementioned, and listen and accept criticism;**
- **Communicate the needs and accomplishments of the Department in a variety of formats; through written reports, communication with the media, community, school districts, political arenas, and public meetings;**
- **Ensure successful investment strategies, purchasing practices, and excellence and compliance in procurement processes and transparency disclosures;**
- **Technology improvements, and a variety of other functions and responsibilities wholly illustrate our successes in the area of administrative, fiscal and functions.**

HCDE BOARD

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

November Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 14, 2018

