

Of Note...



As usual, I began this week with a meeting of my Executive Leadership Team. In addition to the usual items on the agenda for that meeting, a representative from the Center for Safe and Secure Schools provided an Overview of the Incident Command System. It was an informative meeting. I conducted Leadership Team Meeting on the following day and it, too, was productive.



This past Wednesday night, I represented HCDE as I provided the welcome at the Houston Area Alliance of Black School Educators' (HAABSE's) Teacher of the Year event. The well-attended celebration included many ISD superintendents and recognized the achievements of exceptional educators. Significant to everyone assembled, there were more than 1,000 people in attendance.

Yesterday, I held internal meetings, most of which are weekly standing commitments. Today, I attended the Public Facilities Corporation Board Meeting, also an informative meeting.



This week, in the area of teaching and learning, HCDE provided the following trainings and workshops for educators throughout Harris County: Model Drawing for Grades 6-8; Re-Schedule: A View from Above: Literacy, Maps and Exploring Our World; STAAR Academy: Grades 5 and 8 ELAR Close UP; Alternative Certification Program for Teachers- Information Session; TExES Principal (268) 4-Day Test Prep Boot Camp; STAAR Academy Biology EOC: Essential Tools for RTI; What Do You Mean? Building Better Questioning Strategies into Instruction; Interpreting Multiple Representations of Data in Grades 2-3; Interpreting Multiple Representations of Data in Grades 4-5; Facilitating Meaningful Academic Circles in Mathematics- A Framework for Building Community; and Youth Voice.

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 4, 2019

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Looking ahead into next week, I will begin the week as usual, with a meeting of the Executive Leadership Team; I will also continue my volunteer efforts with the Head Start division's SuperMENTor program. As always, I encourage all members of the board to participate in this worthwhile and rewarding endeavor—a program that encourages a love for reading in young children while also doubling as a mentoring program. I find it very rewarding and enjoy every opportunity I have to make an impact in the lives of our youngest learners.

I conducted Agenda Review yesterday, in preparation for the February Board Meeting, to be held Wednesday, February 27, 2019.

I ended this week attending the Harris County Precinct 2 Annual Superintendent's Luncheon. This event is always a relationship building and strengthening opportunity. It offers HCDE the visibility necessary to ensure its viability in the community that supports education.

In closing, I hope you enjoy this issue of **The Connector**. As always, thanks for your service to HCDE. Have a relaxing weekend.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

HCDE Board Meeting—Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Title



Four Harris County Department of Education teachers were honored as nominees for the 2019 Houston Area Alliance of Black School Educators (HAABSE) Secondary Teacher of the Year at the Teacher Awards & Recognition Ceremony. Suzanne Boyd, AB West; Joyce Gillaspie, Fortis Academy; Lopamudra Gupta, Fortis Academy; and Ashley Johnson, Highpoint School were among 180-plus teachers from the Houston area being honored. HCDE Superintendent James Colbert Jr. greeted over 1,000 attendees and thanked the teachers for being angels and an inspiration to students.

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

City Connections Photo Op Provides Opportunities for Council Members to Meet with Service Providers

CASE for Kids has been setting up City Connections photo opportunities for council members at Houston City Hall. The photos provide the council members the opportunity to network with service providers who are bringing afterschool services to their respective areas as they present a check representative of the funding provided to each organization. The funding comes from the City of Houston. In 2017-2018, more than \$550,000 in city funding was provided for afterschool. CASE for Kids administers the City Connections program.



City Council Member Karla Cisneros with afterschool service providers in her district who participate with the City Connections program.

The first photo session was held Feb. 4 and other sessions are set for Feb. 11 and 12.

Local Educators Learn 3 Phases of Learning at Making Literacy Visible



Chula Vista Elementary School District Principal Olivia Amador-Valerio recently presented the Making Literacy Visible workshop to local educators at Harris County Department of Education. This workshop demonstrated how using the right approach at the right time helps more intentionally designed classroom experiences hit the surface, deepen and transfer phases of

learning. Attendees covered visible learning research; its connections to learning as it relates to literacy; the best approaches to use in each state of learning; and the tools for measuring impact on student learning.

Local Educators Learn 3 Phases of Learning at Making Literacy Visible

An Ethics Class was provided on January 31, 2019 to City of Houston's Public Works/ Engineering Dept field workers. It was a pilot program, and it had good reviews. We will be working with the City of Houston to provide training to their PW-Engineering Department estimated at 4,000 over a year's period. The Coordinator for the event was Carlos De Hoyos from the City of Houston PW Engineering Department in conjunction with Dr. Jesus Amezcua. 100% of the participants felt the course was relevant and important.

ADVANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING BY TRAINING THE TRAINER

FEBRUARY 4, 2019

Model Drawing for Grades 6-8

FEBRUARY 5, 2019

RE-SCHEDULE: A View From Above: Literacy, Maps and Exploring Our World

STAAR Academy: Grades 5 & 8 ELAR Close UP

Alternative Certification Program for Teachers - Information Session

TEXES Principal (268) 4-Day Test Prep Boot Camp

FEBRUARY 7, 2019

STAAR Academy Biology EOC: Essential Tools for RTI

What Do You Mean? Building Better Questioning Strategies into Instruction

FEBRUARY 8, 2019

RE-SCHEDULE: Interpreting Multiple Representations of Data in Grades 2-3

RE-SCHEDULE: Interpreting Multiple Representations of Data in Grades 4-5

RE-SCHEDULE: Facilitating Meaningful Academic Circles in Mathematics - A Framework for building community

Youth Voice

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Chavez Honored as 2019 Next Generation of Afterschool Leaders



Harris County Department of Education's Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids (CASE for Kids) Program Coordinator Jacqueline Chavez was recently honored as one of the National Afterschool Association's (NAA) 2019 Next Generation of Afterschool Leaders. The NAA chooses up and coming young afterschool leaders under age 30 for the award.

"The feeling of having all of your hard work recognized is wonderful," Chavez said. "It made me think of all the people who helped me get to this point in my career. It also motivated me to keep going and continue helping kids reach their full potential."

In selecting honorees, the NAA sought to highlight emerging professionals who are active in the afterschool community— young leaders who possess passion, creativity and a commitment to youth; who embrace professional development; and who embody the NAA core competencies. Twenty-four individuals were profiled in the winter 2019 issue of NAA's Afterschool Today magazine. To view the digital edition of the magazine, go to <https://bit.ly/2R7MYz9>.

She has been in her current position for about two years and provides support and consultation to service providers and community-based, out-of-school time programs. CASE for Kids provides resources, training and afterschool services for over 14,000 students in greater Harris County.

After graduating from the University of Texas in Austin, she served as an AmeriCorps member with United Way of Greater Houston and Project GRAD Houston, two partners of CASE for Kids. With these programs, she started working with youth outside the classroom through reading programs and mentorships.

While working at the United Way, she would go to different elementary schools during after-school hours and facilitate a peer tutoring program in reading and math. Her ah-ha moment

came at the end of the school year when an older student tutor asked if she could be involved in the program every day because she loved working with her buddy.

"I knew the older student tutor made a new friend, but also gained confidence in her math skills," she said. "It truly was a joy to work with kids in a more informal setting."

Chavez had a chance to interact with AmeriCorps members from CASE for Kids through different service projects and started to get an idea of what CASE for Kids was all about.

"When my service term ended, I knew I wanted to continue working in the afterschool field and the assistant director of Project GRAD recommended me for a job with CASE for Kids," she said.

Afterschool and CASE for Kids provides so many opportunities for youth to learn about different careers and hobbies.

"I saw politicians and activists in the making at CASE Debates tournaments where they debated about climate change and education policies," Chavez said. "Kids in afterschool are exploring and discovering their interests around Harris County, and we need to continue giving them the opportunity to learn about them in a safe space."

About Harris County Department of Education: HCDE provides special education, therapy services, early education, adult education and after-school programming. Services are funded by government grants, fees and a

local property tax of approximately \$9 per homeowner. For every dollar in local property tax collected, HCDE provides \$4.40 in services to the 25 Harris County school districts. We operate four campuses for students with profound special education needs and adjudicated or recovering youth who require a low, student-teacher ratio and highly structured environment. One-hundred percent of students served on HCDE campuses are at-risk. We are governed by an elected board of seven trustees and have 1,076 employees and 33 facilities, including 15 Head Start centers. More info at www.hcde-texas.org.



Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

3,263 Talented Teens in Harris County Earn Regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards through HCDE

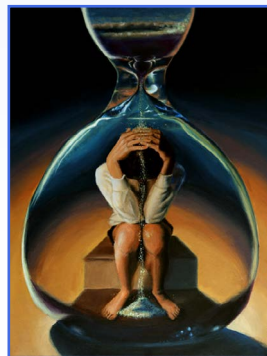


Harris County Department of Education recognizes the art and writing talents of teens throughout Harris County as regional sponsors of the celebrated 2019 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Artist award ceremonies, receptions and scholarships are announced as 3,263 Harris County students from public, private and home schools receive awards.

View the student awardees: <https://hcde-texas.org/scholastic-awards/awardees> .

Twenty-two school districts, 26 private schools and home schools are represented as students earn Gold Key, Silver Key and honorable mention awards. Top-award Gold Key recipients advance to national judging to be considered for Gold and Silver Medals which are announced March 12 and awarded on June 6 through a ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Awardees find common ground with alumni Scholastic Art & Writing honorees and famous writers and artists such as Stephen King, Dan Fogelberg, Sylvia Plath, Robert Redford, Truman Capote, Andy Warhol, Joyce Carol Oates, Marc Brown and Jaida Jones.

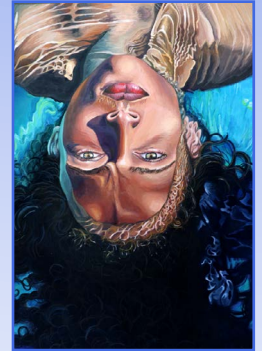


The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, founded in 1923, provides young artists and writers in grades 7-12 with the opportunity to showcase their art and writing talents. The competition's mission is to bring outstanding visual art and writing created by teens to a national audience by showcasing the work and encouraging creative and career development.

“Judges who are writing and art professionals volunteered to judge an amazing record number of 7,742 entries of art and writing this year ranging from photography to poetry to mixed media to short stories,” said Andrea Segraves,

regional coordinator for Scholastic Art & Writing at HCDE. “In addition to being beholden to our judges, we recognize the dedication of teachers who help these young artists cultivate their talents and assist them in entering their work.”

Students submitted their work through the 759 teachers who support and participate in HCDE's regional competition. Several hundred volunteer art and writing professionals judge the submittals.



“We are grateful for the supporters of Scholastic Art & Writing in Harris County—from the community supporters who offer space to showcase art and writing to the companies who offer student scholarships to the hundreds of judges who volunteer their time,” said HCDE Superintendent James Colbert Jr. “There is a deep well of artistic talent represented, and we are proud to host, showcase and support this iconic program.”

The following area school districts are represented: Aldine, Alief, Alvin, Clear Creek, Crosby, Cy-Fair, Deer Park, Galena Park, Goose Creek, Houston, Huffman, Humble, Katy, Klein, New Caney, Pasadena, Pearland, Spring Branch, Spring, Tomball and Waller.

Private school students with awards include: British International School of Houston, Concordia Lutheran High School, Duchesne Academy Of Sacred Heart, Emery Weiner School, Episcopal High School, Houston Christian High School, Incarnate Word Academy, Kinkaid School, River Oaks Baptist School, St Agnes Academy, St Francis Episcopal Day School, St. John's School, Veritas Christian Academy, the Village School, Awty International School, Presbyterian School, St. John XXIII Preparatory High School and St. Thomas Episcopal School.

Through the art categories, students gain 361 Gold Keys, 514 Silver Keys, and 835 honorable mentions. In the writing categories, students earn 359 Gold Keys, 579 Silver Keys, and 615 honorable mentions.

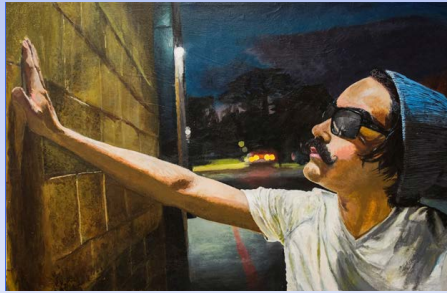
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Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

3,263 Talented Teens in Harris County Earn Regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards through HCDE (continued from page 4)

Ten students earned recognition through the American Voices and American Vision nominee awards. These 10 awards are judged nationally through Scholastic Art &



Writing in New York City for American Voices/American Visions Medals. One in each art and writing category will be selected and announced in March.

American Visions (art) nominees: Carolina Colon, Clear Lake Intermediate School, Clear Creek ISD; Julia Espino,

Cypress Woods High School, Cy-Fair ISD; Axel Maldonado, Sam Rayburn High School, Pasadena ISD; Anthony Vega, Sam Rayburn High School, Pasadena ISD; and Annie Zhu (individual entry).

American Voices (writing) nominees: Nyla Hartigan, St. John's School, private; Kahani Malhotra, Village School, private; Luke Stein, Klein Collins High School, Klein ISD; Jack Trent, St. John's School, private; and Elizabeth Willms, Deer Park High School-North Campus, Deer Park ISD.

For more information about HCDE's regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards and opportunities to sponsor, judge and enter the competition, go to www.hcde-texas.org/scholastic-awards.



American Vision Nominees

Five art entries are selected for the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards American Visions nominees. These nominees are judged at a national level with other affiliate nominees. This year's art pieces come from Clear Creek, Pasadena and Cy-Fair ISDs. Congrats to these talented artists!

Ceremonies, Receptions, Exhibits to be Held in February, March to Celebrate Scholastic Art & Writing

Ceremonies, receptions and exhibits will be hosted throughout February and March to celebrate the accomplishments of Harris County Department of Education Regional Scholastic Art & Writing awardees. Venues range from Spring Street Studios to Texas Art Supply to the Ballroom at Bayou Place..

View the wide range of opportunities to view the talent and meet the artists and writers:

<https://hcde-texas.org/media/uploads/2019/02/2019-Regional-Scholastic-Art-and-Writing-Events.pdf>

Systemic Achievement

...with purposeful intent

Community Relations

In an effort to meet the elements associated with this expectation of performance for me to

- **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.**

As a result of HCDE hosting the Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Awards on behalf of the 25 Harris County School districts and



charter and private schools, 3, 263 talented teens earned regional awards through the Department of Education.

HCDE recognizes the art and writing talents of teens as we serve as a regional sponsor of this monumental program. Formal announcements are made at receptions, ceremonies, and exhibits to be held later this month and in March. Information regarding these upcoming events is forthcoming.

By HCDE continuing to sponsor such an invaluable program, I am working to achieve the Board's goal to maintain visibility in the community and involvement with ISDs and superintendents, and other community leaders; present a positive, professional image of the Department; maintain visibility in the community; be open to the ideas and needs of the community; and communicate the needs and accomplishments of the Department, as appropriate.

HCDE BOARD

Board President

Josh Flynn

Vice President

George Moore

Richard Cantu

Eric Dick

Danny Norris

Don Sumners

Michael Wolfe

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

