

## Of Note...

It's been a busy week for both HCDE and me. I spent the week carrying out my responsibilities as a Board Member of the University Interscholastic League (UIL), followed by attending the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA)/Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Convention—with both events being held in Austin.

The first part of the week was centered around addressing pertinent issues related to items on the UIL table for discussion and decision. As you know, the UIL exists to provide educational extracurricular activities related to academics, athletics, and music, and as its governing body, we ensure that UIL activities, decisions, disciplinary measures, and other related functions are carried out in balanced and equitable fashion.

The remainder of the week has been spent at the TASA/TASB Convention. These two entities collaborate to produce a transformative experience for school board members, superintendents, and other school leaders that improves governance and leadership in Texas public schools and enhances statewide support for public education. These conventions are informative, provide a platform for networking with my colleagues from all parts of the state, and serve as an exceptional professional development opportunity on various levels. The convention ends Sunday. I will return to the office Monday.

This week in the area of teaching and learning, HCDE hosted and/or facilitated the following trainings and workshops: Outer Edges Online-Analyzing with Google; Improve Problem Solving in Operations and Algebraic Reasoning; Quest for Grants Training Series: Diversity Your Funding Through Government Grants!; Model Drawing for Grades 3-5 and 6-8; Digging Deeper: Applying Webb's Depth of Knowledge to the Science Classroom; and Equity in Education: Leveraging Differences for Student Growth. HCDE continues to serve as a leader in professional development for educators and leaders in education across Harris County and beyond.

Looking ahead into next week, I will conduct my regularly-scheduled Executive Leadership Team (ELT) Meeting Monday morning, followed by a meeting with one of my mentees, and other standing meetings with staff within the Department. Tuesday, I will conduct a meeting of the Leadership Team and I will attend the Board's subcommittee meeting related to the RFP for legal services.

I look forward to the first Focal Point session of this academic year with superintendents from our client school districts. Thursday, I will participate in this year's SuperMENTor Meet and Greet at the Humble Head Start Center, followed by agenda review, in preparation for the regularly-scheduled October Board Meeting. (Please be reminded that the October Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 17, 2018.)

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**October Board Meeting—Wednesday, October 17, 2018**



WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

## IN THIS ISSUE

**3** Policy Council Holds First School Year Meeting Sept. 25

**4** 100 Questions: 2 Mothers Become U.S. Citizens with Help from HCDE Adult Education

**5** Teaching and Learning Center Hosts Online Science Workshops

# Opportunity

## PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

### HCDE Head Start Now Hiring



Have an interest in working with infants to 5-year-olds?

Harris County Department of Education Head Start and Early Head Start programs are looking for energetic and nurturing professionals to join their staff.

Qualifications for Head Start teaching assistant, Early Head Start teacher and Head Start teacher include experience working with young children and an interest in early childhood education. Those who hold Child Development Associate (CDA) degrees are strongly encouraged to apply.

HCDE employees have advantages with a competitive salary, great benefits, work schedules matching school districts, all major holidays, free professional development, and teacher retirement and social security.

HCDE Head Start provides family services to communities including Barrett Station, Baytown, Channelview, Compton, Coolwood, Dogan, Fifth Ward, Fonwood, Humble, J.D. Walker, La Porte, Pugh, San Jacinto, Sheffield and Tidwell. Head Start ensures future success for students both academically and socially and provides comprehensive health, education, nutrition and financial services to the families.

For more information on available positions and qualifications or to apply, visit [www.hcde-texas.org](http://www.hcde-texas.org). Make sure to upload resume, transcripts and/or degree or certifications, along with application. Upon receipt of all information, HCDE will contact individuals to schedule an interview.

### ADVANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING BY TRAINING THE TRAINER

#### SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

Outer Edges Online - Analyzing with Google

#### SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

Improve Problem Solving in Operations and Algebraic Reasoning Gr. 3-5

Quest for Grants Training Series Corporate Sponsorship 101

#### SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

Quest for Grants Training Series: Diversify Your Funding Through Government Grants!

Model Drawing for Grades 3-5

Model Drawing for Grades 6-8

#### SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

Digging Deeper: Applying Webb's Depth of Knowledge to the Science Classroom

#### SEPTEMBER 28, 2018

Equity in Education: Leveraging Differences for Student Growth

# Opportunity

## PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

### Policy Council Holds First School Year Meeting Sept. 25



Head Start held its first Policy Council meeting Sept. 25 at Irvington and highlighted the services provided within Head Start through table displays.

which was used for networking.

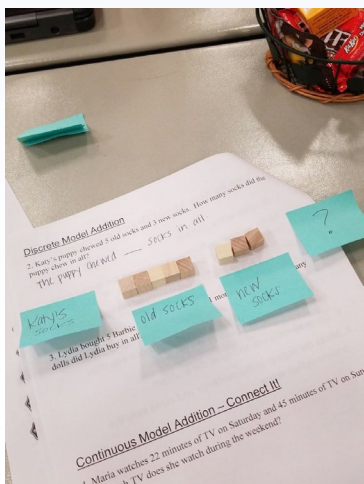
Some of the areas represented at tables included nutrition services, where menus and recipes were displayed from various centers. In addition, health services, community partnerships and family providers gave visual displays of services.



HCDE Trustee Don Summers participated in the meeting as a Policy Council representative and met numerous employees and parents through a mingling exercise



### Model Drawing Math Workshop for Students Grade 3-5 Helps Students Visualize Work



“Model Drawing Math Workshop for Students Grades 3-5” is helping elementary teachers break down word problems and model them pictorially so their students can understand multi-step strategies to solve them.

“The bar models will help my students re-read the word problems so they

solve them part-by-part by chunking the information,” said Freida Possu, a fourth-grade teacher from Houston ISD Northline Elementary.

The Model Drawing Math workshop series is led by the Teaching and Learning Center Director Nicole Shanahan and consultant Kristen Allen.



# Opportunity

## PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

### 100 Questions: 2 Mothers Become U.S. Citizens with Help from HCDE Adult Education

Constitution Day honors the U.S. Constitution each September and recognizes those who have become U.S. citizens by age or naturalization. To test your knowledge of questions in the U.S. naturalization test, take the practice test: <https://my.uscis.gov/prep/test/civics>.



When English language learners Maricela Barajas and Rosario Rodriguez recently took the naturalization test to become U.S. citizens, their minds were filled with notes about American democracy, citizen rights and responsibilities, U.S. history and geography. The 100 questions on the test are a challenge for even natural-born citizens.

Harris County Department of Education English language civics teacher Claudia Estrada worked with her two students from Mexico. The seasoned, five-year civics teacher affirms the difficulties of the process, but she always keeps the faith. Her students must learn basic English conversation, plus reading and writing skills while also studying the U.S. Constitution and history.

“Just do your best,” she said, urging the women to orally answer the questions and write the dictation.

The free, English language civics classes fill up quickly. To enroll, students must have a social security card and resident alien status.

Even though Estrada is bilingual, she will give limited instructions in Spanish. The half-hour oral practice time carved out during class is critical for mastery.

“You must take time to study,” she said, waving her hand to punctuate the importance of preparation. “You will have to answer the immigration officer.”

Adult learner Barajas, 30, lived in America for eight years before taking the citizenship challenge. She paid \$725

for her citizenship application in 2017 and signed up for the class offered in Baytown through one of the 32 HCDE adult learning community sites. From January to May she worked through the curriculum. She continued in classes from September through December and passed the test.

On May 16, 2018, she was finally sworn in as a citizen through U.S. District Court.

The young mother of two says the best thing she learned was to read and write in English. She feels empowered to move forward and plans to attend cosmetology school.

Better than that, she inspired her 70-year-old mother to study and take the naturalization test.

“If I can do it, then she can do it,” Barajas said.

Rodriguez, 40, waited 22 years to become a citizen. She and her husband crossed over the Tijuana border in 1996.

Crime at the border terrified the young woman, but her biggest fear was being deported. Soon after entering the United States, the young couple obtained legal resident status.

With her new English skills, her citizenship and a new sense of self-confidence, Rodriguez’s next step is to investigate signing up for HCDE workforce classes to become a certified nursing assistant.



For information about free HCDE Adult Education classes in English language civics, English as a second language, GED or workforce training, go to [www.hcde-texas.org/adulteducation](http://www.hcde-texas.org/adulteducation) or call 713-692-6216.

# Opportunity

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

### Teaching and Learning Center Hosts Online Science Workshops



Lisa Felske, science curriculum director with the Teaching and Learning Center, is hosting an online science workshop series for teachers in pre-k through second grade called “Science Fiction” for educators who want professional development without

leaving their classroom. The Science Fiction workshops are self-paced, video-based workshops teachers can access on their desktops, tablets or phones. The two courses currently available are *Teaching Chemistry with Children’s Literature* and *Teaching Physics with Children’s Literature*.

View the workshop flyer: [http://www.hcde-texas.org/media/5481/sci-fi-flyer-cmyk\\_092518.pdf](http://www.hcde-texas.org/media/5481/sci-fi-flyer-cmyk_092518.pdf)



leaving their classroom. The Science Fiction workshops are self-paced, video-based workshops teachers

**SAVE**  
the **DATE**  
**Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018**

**Rise Against Human Trafficking Summit**  
presented by  
**children at Risk**  
&  
The Center for Safe and Secure Schools at  
6300 Irvington Blvd.  
Call 713-696-0771 for more information.

The Center for Safe and Secure Schools  
Harris County Department of Education

Harris County Department of Education

### Rise Against Human Trafficking Summit Nov. 13

Save the date for the Rise Against Human Trafficking Summit on Nov. 13 at 6300 Irvington. The summit will examine Houston as a major port and access point for human trafficking and provide information about how educators can identify students being subjected to being exploited. Steps for action will be shared along with educational materials. Stay tuned to more details about the summit agenda. The event is a collaboration between the Center for Safe and Secure Schools and Children at Risk.

# Systemic Achievement

*...with purposeful intent*

## Professional Growth and Development

In an effort to meet the Board's expectations of me to achieve the element of performance related to this goal to:

- **Stay abreast of developments in educational leadership and administration**

This week, I engaged in both leadership and professional development and growth activities through my service on the UIL Board and by attending the TASA/TASB Convention.



I serve as a member of the UIL State Board. The UIL exists to provide educational extracurricular activities related to academics, athletics, and music, and as part of its governing body, I help ensure that UIL activities, decisions, disciplinary measures, and other related functions are carried out in balanced and equitable fashion.

TASA/TASB collaborate each year to produce a transformative experience for school board

members, superintendents, and other school leaders that improves governance and leadership in



Texas public schools and enhances statewide support for public education. These conventions are informative, provide a platform for networking with my colleagues from all parts of the state, and serve as an exceptional professional development opportunity on various levels.

As a result of these experiences, I am able to apply relevant facets to better ensure the efficiency and efficacy of HCDE.

**Having participated in relevant meetings, sessions, and workshops, and having engaged in interactions with my colleagues from all parts of Texas, throughout this week, I am better able to assess development tools available, and apply the various leadership tools in my daily leadership of HCDE.**

## HCDE BOARD

### *Board President*

Louis Evans, III

*Position 4, Precinct 3*

### *Vice President*

Eric Dick

*Position 2, Precinct 4*

Erica Lee Carter

*Position 6, Precinct 1*

George Moore

*Position 1, Precinct 2*

Don Summers

*Position 7, At Large*

Diane Trautman

*Position 3, At Large*

Michael Wolfe

*Position 5, At Large*

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### October Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

