

Of Note...

Great things are happening at HCDE! This week alone, HCDE served school districts, educators, and students by hosting a dozen workshops and training sessions—improving pedagogical strategies for educators so they can weave innovative methods into their existing teaching and learning models. We empower public education in Harris County and across the state of Texas. In partnership with our client school districts, support starts here!

We celebrate our principals this month in observation of Principal Appreciation Month. While they are formally recognized during the month of October each year, I applaud their hard work each and every day! Hats off to our exceptional campus leaders.

I returned to the office this week after attending UIL meetings and the TASA/TASB Convention in Austin last week. As mentioned in the last issue of **The Connector**, I spent the first part of last week fulfilling my responsibilities as a member of the UIL Board, and I ended the week taking full advantage of professional development opportunities and networking with education leaders across the state of Texas at the annual TASA/TASB Convention. Both experiences were productive and increased HCDE's visibility on the public education platform.

I began this week with a meeting of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), followed by a meeting with one of my mentees. On Tuesday, I led Leadership Team (LT) and attended a Board subcommittee meeting related to the legal services RFP.

I am pleased to report that the first Focal Point meeting of this academic year was a success, with representation from nearly 10 client school districts. This initiative illustrates a cohesive approach to advancing education through partnership.

Yesterday, I attended a SuperMENTor Meet and Greet event for our Area I Head Start division. As always, I encourage Board Members and employees, alike, to volunteer with this worthwhile program. Capturing the attention of young children through reading to them is one of the most rewarding experiences I have enjoyed. It also increases literacy skills and enhances a lifelong love for reading. Hats off to the recently-hired Humble Head Start Center Manager for hosting yesterday's engaging event which included Donuts with Dad, resulting in over 40 fathers in attendance supporting their children. We extended an appeal to the group of fathers to continue their participation throughout the remainder of the year.

Today, Assistant Superintendent Jonathan Parker and I are visiting SIRE—an entity dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with special needs through therapeutic horsemanship activities, therapies, and educational research. We look forward to this visit as we explore implementing creative programs for our unique student populations. We will keep you posted on our findings.

Looking ahead into next week, please be reminded of the next Board subcommittee meeting related to the legal services RFP to be held next Wednesday. I will spend most of next week visiting our campuses in recognition of our principals as well as attending to other standing meetings within the Department.

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 OCTOBER 1, 2018

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Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

HCDE Recognizes Cybersecurity Safety Month with Student Data Safety Tips



October is designated as Cybersecurity Awareness Month. Harris County Department of Education Digital Education's David McGeary provides four tips to help keep students and their data safe when working online.

1. Be aware of who has access to your devices or who may be able to see your screen when you are online.

There is a saying amongst hackers: "If I can get physical access to your device, then I can own it." Whether you're watching a video on YouTube or logging in to a laptop while waiting for the bus, try to stay aware of the access that others may have to your devices or the content on your screens.

2. Treat your data like you would treat your most prized possession.

You would never leave your phone or gaming system out on your porch overnight, so don't do the same with your personal data. Before you use a new online service (whether at home or at school), be sure to read the "terms of service" or the "privacy policies," and share them with your parents. This information can usually be found at the bottom of a site's main page (or the settings of a phone app) and spells out what data is being used by the app and how it is handled.

3. Use strong and unique passwords for all the services that you use. Where possible, have more than one way to authenticate your accounts.

We've all done it. We create a simple, easy-to-remember password for Instagram or Gmail. Then we use that password for a lot of different things. Before too long, we're using the same password to access Steam library as we do to access our grades. The best policy for passwords: Make them random. Include numbers, letters and special characters. Use a unique password for every major account you have.

4. If you see something, say something.

If a person or online app is suspicious, it never hurts to report the observation. If you receive a message from a stranger on social media, don't respond. Screenshot the message and submit to appropriate authorities. Don't ever give away access to your personal information or personal photos.

For more information: <https://www.dhs.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month>

ADVANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING BY TRAINING THE TRAINER

OCTOBER 1, 2018

Leaders as Evaluators: Effective Leadership Profile

Online Instructor's Training - Part III

OCTOBER 3, 2018

STAAR Academy Grade 5 Science: A Closer Look at STAAR Reporting Categories

Basics and Outer Edges - Responding with Google

ELLs in Texas: What Administrators Need to Know

Quest for Grants Training Series "It Takes Planning to Save the World"

lead4ward: Problem Solving in the Math Classroom (K-12)

OCTOBER 4, 2018

Leadership Institute for Social & Emotional Learning (E-Colors & Personal Intervention)

STAAR Academy Building Literacy in Social Studies-Part 1 Vocabulary Strategies

Improve Problem Solving in Operations and Algebraic Reasoning for Grade 2 Computation without the Algorithm and Model Drawing

CASE for Kids-OST Learning Community

OCTOBER 5, 2018

Let's Talk About Bullying

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

8 Houston Journalists Honored through Media Honor Roll 2018 from Harris County Department of Education



Eight Houston journalists are being honored by Harris County Department of Education for their fair and balanced reporting about public schools. As 2018 Media Honor Roll awardees, the journalists are specifically

nominated for supporting education service programs within HCDE.

Media Honor Roll inductees for 2018 (and their support acknowledgements):



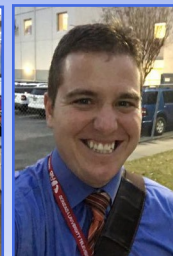
Houston Style Magazine managing editor Jo-Carolyn Goode (preschool services through Head Start); River Oaks Examiner reporter



Rebecca Hazen (GED classes through Adult Education); Telemundo 47 KTMD reporter Antonio Hernandez (preschool services through Head Start and English classes

through Adult Education); Channel 13 KTRK reporter Samica Knight (afterschool through CASE for Kids); African American News publisher Roy Douglas Malonson (afterschool through CASE for Kids and preschool programs via Head Start); Channel 11 KHOU assistant news director Wiley Post (teacher professional development through Teaching and Learning

Center); Channel 39 KIAH reporter Mike Rosenhouse (afterschool programs through CASE for Kids); and Channel 2 KPRC special projects producer Debbie Strauss (for supporting at-risk student services through Schools division).



The program is sponsored by the Texas Association of School Boards, a nonprofit which serves local Texas school districts and represents 5.3 million public school students. Honorees receive a framed certificate, and their names appear in the TASB website at www.tasb.org.



“As we provide education support services to school districts and taxpayers in Harris County, these journalists help us spread the word about programs that help at-risk students, adult learners, afterschool programs, professional development for teachers and other support services,” said James Colbert Jr., county school superintendent.

“We appreciate their professionalism as they gather and share education news and their dedication to presenting news in a fair, accurate and balanced manner.”

View photos of presentations to Media Honor Roll 2018 journalists (as they are delivered) through SmugMug: <https://hcdetx.smugmug.com/Communication/Media-Honor-Roll-2018/>.

Foundation Day Institute: The Science of How We Learn



Foundation Day Institute
The Science of How We Learn

November 15-16, 2018
Houston, TX



Teaching and Learning Center is partnering with Corwin to host Visible Learning's Foundation Day Institute on Nov. 15-16, 2018 at Irvington. Moving beyond test performance, the institute links essential principles to the everyday instructional decisions that teachers make in the classroom. Teachers get an in-depth look at how to make learning visible to every student in the classroom. Filled with action, the institute builds an understanding of the relationship

between contributors to student learning like teacher clarity and the science of how we learn.

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

HCDE to Celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and Harris County Department of Education wants its employees to show support

by participating in dress-up themed Fridays during the month.

On Oct. 5, employees will “Give Cancer the Boot!” by wearing boots. Lets “Team up against Cancer” by supporting your favorite sports team with a

jersey, shirt, hat and tennis shoes on Oct. 12. Come dressed up in all pink on Oct. 19 for “Pink Out!” And finally, with the spirit of Halloween dress up as your favorite superhero to “Fight like a Superhero and Zap out Cancer.”

Take photos of your division on these days and send them to communications@hcde-texas.org for an entry into a drawing for prizes. A SmugMug photo album will have all photos for viewing.

District Math Teachers Learn about Problem Solving



Over 100 math educators from around the state attended the lead4ward: Problem Solving in the Math Classroom Oct. 3 at Harris County Department of Education. The session, led by Nancy Crouch, focused on the effective planning of the process standards to support students with “Tools to Know” to initiate the problem-solving process and “Ways to Show” their understanding of the content.

Opportunity

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Rally for Afterschool on Oct. 25 at City Hall!

Rally for afterschool and support CASE for Kids! Attend the Lights On Afterschool! Rally at City Hall on Oct. 25. This is a nationwide initiative to support afterschool programs. View the invite.

Opportunity

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Students, Nutrition Directors Activate their Taste-Buds for HCDE Choice Partners Annual Child Nutrition and Product Expo Oct. 11



Students and school nutrition staff activate their taste-buds in preparation for the Child Nutrition and Product

Expo on Oct. 11 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. through Harris County Department of Education's Choice Partners Cooperative. The "Lights! Camera! Nutrition!" retro, Hollywood-themed event features 140 food and product vendors at the Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Parkway in Humble, Texas.

About 60 nutrition directors from school districts, charters and community colleges participate in the expo. Many bring their students along to taste-test their products which may eventually make their way into the Choice Partners purchasing cooperative. Students and directors grade the vendors' offerings.

Foods trending this year include the following:

- Hand-held, food-truck type items and culturally-influenced foods with distinctive spices for flavoring. MCI Los Cabos introduces three flavors of a handmade, one-fisted, foil-wrapped, taqueria-style burrito for authentic look and taste. Rich Products provides a new whole-grain flatbread for making banh mi street tacos or gyro sandwiches.

- Clean-label items with no artificial colors or flavors, free of nitrites/nitrates, gluten, MSG, hormones or steroids and void of the top eight allergens.
- Jennie-O Turkey Store delivers an all-natural line which includes a turkey burger and turkey coins, pre-sliced and fully cooked.

"As the school nutrition directors evaluate nutritional value and their students' opinions, Choice Partners gathers information needed to plan for future food contract purchases for school districts," said Trisha Jensen, assistant director of Choice Partners.

Food is purchased annually by school districts in the Harris County area for

more than 85 million student lunches through contracts available through HCDE Choice Partners cooperative.

Choice Partners purchasing cooperative offers quality, legal procurement and contract solutions to meet government purchasing requirements. For more information about Choice Partners and the buying power through the co-op, go to www.hcde-texas.org.



Systemic Achievement

...with purposeful intent

Professional Growth and Development and Community Relations

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

- **Ensure that appropriate staff development is available and monitor staff development for effectiveness;**
- **Stay abreast of developments in educational leadership and administration;**
- **Establish and maintain a program of public relations to keep the public well-informed of the activities of the Department, ensuring a wholesome and cooperative working relationship between the Department and the community; and to**
- **Work with other governmental entities and community organizations to meet the needs of students and the community in a coordinated way.**

Yesterday, I hosted the first Focal Point meeting of this academic

year. As you know, Focal Point I Executive Leadership in Action, is comprised of Harris County superintendents who come together to discuss forwarding public education in Texas. We strive to serve as a local think tank, in an effort to improve education at all levels. Our first meeting of the year yielded nearly ten superintendents and was a great success.

The purpose of this executive leadership experience is to agitate traditional educational leadership theory; explore

different education perspectives; and impact public education across the state of Texas.

We are entering our third year since its inception, and it continues to serve as an ideal opportunity for fellow superintendents to convene and discuss pertinent issues within their districts and on their campuses. Likewise, it serves as an opportunity for HCDE to even better ascertain the needs of our clients so that we may continue to evolve to meet those areas of development.

By HCDE establishing and maintaining the Focal Point group, I am striving to meet the Board's goal of ensuring that not only are employees exposed to quality professional development, but I am also ensuring the same for myself—along with my colleagues in education within Harris County. In doing so, HCDE is making a tremendous impact by serving our client district at all levels of public education.

Further, I am meeting your goal of me to communicate the needs and accomplishments of HCDE through a variety of formats: written reports, communication with school districts, political arenas, and public meetings. I am representing HCDE by attendance at events and speaking professionally. I am continuing to make professional presentation to all audiences in all areas of the community—listening and taking into account differing viewpoints of various constituencies and using good judgment to discern the best decision and action for the Department.

HCDE BOARD

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Position 5, At Large

UPCOMING EVENTS:

October Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 17, 2018

