

# *The* **Connector**

A weekly publication of Harris County Department of Education  
for the HCDE Board of Trustees

*From the office of* **JAMES COLBERT, JR. | SUPERINTENDENT**



## *Of Note...*

Wow, it was an exciting week at HCDE! It's not everyday that we have the opportunity to witness cars in excellent condition gifted to deserving families. The Bates' Annual Car Giveaways exemplified the spirit of the season and are helping to pave the road to success for Head Start families. I applaud Bates' Custom and Collision for their continued generosity toward chosen families within our Head Start population. That is what paying it forward within the community is all about.

In addition to being an exciting week, it was a productive one for me. I met with Superintendents from Spring and Galena Park independent school districts, as well as with State Senator Rodney Ellis, State Representative Sylvester Turner, and County Judge Ed Emmett. Those encounters were mutually well-received and I look forward to continuing to establish my roots in Harris County on behalf of HCDE.

On that note, I am happy to announce that, as of Monday, my family and I will be official Harris County residents! Needless to say, I am delighted to bring our relocation process to an official close just in time for the holidays!

In closing, I again thank our outgoing trustees for their years of dedicated service. I also wish all of you, and your families, the very best the season has to offer, and a Happy New Year! Stay safe and please enjoy this issue of **The Connector**.

### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

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# PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

## Gifts for a Brighter Future: Two Moms Gain Cars

Two **HCDE Head Start** parents gained rehabbed cars through the responsible parenting award from Bates Collision Centers. April Fulghum, Head Start Compton Center, received her keys December 17 at the Bates Channelview location. Mom Neila Gaona, Head Start Tidwell Center, gained her keys December 18 at the Bates Baytown location. Both mothers attend school and are working to support their families. Co-owner Leila Bates says the employees work to rehab the cars and community assists with presents for families, including insurance, tires and paint. The cars are gifts for a brighter future and get the families on their way to independence. News coverage of the two events included a photo in the Chronicle, a feature on Channel 39 and newspapers stories in Houston Style Magazine, the Baytown Sun and the Highlands-Crosby Star Courier.



Head Start mom April Fulghum: "Words cannot express my gratitude."



# CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

## Santa makes his debut at ABC-West

Former Houston Oiler wide receiver Patrick Coleman can't count the times he's played Santa at his school. The education aide's role as jolly St. Nicholas is a crowd pleaser as he rings in the holiday. Students and staff celebrated their semester accomplishments as the holiday break began. Neighboring media partner KIAH-TV 39 dropped by to capture the excitement, and the story airs at 5 and 9 p.m. December 19.



## ADVANCING TEACHING AND LEARNING by training the trainer

### Trainings hosted at HCDE this week

**12.16** | Recruitment for HCDE Alternative Certification Program for Teachers Information Meeting

**12.16** | Student Misconceptions in Grades K-4 Science

### Trainings hosted in Harris County School Districts this week

**12.15** | Sheltered Instruction for Bilingual Teachers, Session 3

## Santa visits Deer Park Head Start

Jesus Amezcua, featured as Santa Claus, along with members of Business Services, Administration, and other HCDE representatives pay a visit to Deer Park Head Start and make a special delivery.





# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

## Adult Education featured on Telemundo 47 and Univision 45

News anchor Osvaldo Corral showcased the National **Adult Education** Honor Society program through a poignant interview with students and teacher. Both the HCDE website and Adult Education phone number were included for student recruitment this winter. Telemundo 47 ran a two-minute interview with Dr. Eduardo Honold and students on its weekend broadcast. A story is forthcoming from the African-American News.



## CASE Kids' Day at Frost Bank No. 2 Held in Pasadena

Back by popular demand, **CASE for Kids** hosted its second Kids' Day at Frost Bank this month on December 15 in Pasadena ISD. Approximately 200 afterschool students participated with goods ranging from jewelry to holiday ornaments to blankets and scarves. Frost Bank officials helped with banking needs in the marketplace.



## CASE for Kids AmeriCorps members bring science experiments to Head Start Center

**CASE for Kids** AmeriCorps members brought pre-k science to the Channelview Head Start Center this month as kids helped mix and study "space goo." The members also read to the 4-year-olds. The education visits are counted as service hours for the members.



## HCDE Specialist Avery Elected to Serve on Local Fundraising Board

Dr. Vida L. Avery, Resource Development Specialist for the **Center for Grants Development**, was elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Association of Fundraising Professionals-Greater Houston Chapter (AFP-GHC). She will also serve as the Chair for Outreach and Diversity. AFP-GHC has a growing membership of approximately 647 professional members and reaches out to more than 4,000 Houstonians and organizations involved in the philanthropic process. AFP International represents more than 30,000 members in over 230 chapters throughout the world, working to advance philanthropy through advocacy, research, education and certification programs.

## Head Start family benefits from Apartment Angels

The Brown family of **HCDE's Sheffield Head Start** center is one of 77 local Head Start families to receive gift donations from the Houston Apartment Association's Apartment Angels program. The association worked with Head Start to identify a family from each center most

in need this holiday season. The Brown family received



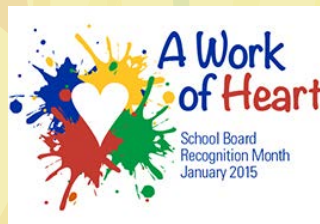
*Caption?*

gift cards, clothes, shoes, games, and other items from the family's wish list. In addition, they were given a membership to the YMCA and new beds for each of eight family members.



# BOARD SPOTLIGHT

All members of the **HCDE Board of Trustees** are encouraged to submit your highlights and tidbits to [boardhighlights@hcde-texas.org](mailto:boardhighlights@hcde-texas.org). Let's get to know each other even better!



## January is School Board Recognition Month

**Theme:** A Work of Heart!

We honor you **Thursday, January 22** at noon, Conference Center

## TRUSTEES ON THE MOVE!

SCENES FROM APPRECIATION RECEPTION FOR TRUSTEES KERNER AND JEFFERSON



Thank you, Trustee Debra Kerner and Trustee Howard Jefferson, for your support for HCDE programs, students and staff over the years. You are crusaders for public education, and you will be missed!

## BOARD SPOTLIGHT

TRUSTEE CARTER HONORED BY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



**TRUSTEE ERICA LEE CARTER** was honored by the Houston-Harris County Retired Teachers Association at its 63rd annual Scholarship Luncheon December 13. The award honored “people who make a difference in our community.” Honorees were selected based on their vision, professionalism and passion for children, teaching and learning in the greater Houston-area.

## HCDE BOARD

### BOARD PRESIDENT

POSITION 2, PRECINCT 4

**Angie Chesnut**

### BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT

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**Erica Lee Carter**

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*Position 7, At Large*

**Debra Kerner**

*Position 5, At Large*

**Marvin W. Morris**

*Position 1, Precinct 2*

**Kay Smith**

*Position 4, Precinct 3*

## Upcoming Board Events:

### Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

Thursday, January 22, 2015

1 p.m.

4th Floor

(Board Appreciation reception begins at noon, Conference Center)

**Welcome Don Sumners and Michael Wolfe, incoming trustees!**