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FROM THE OFFICE OF JAMES COLBERT, JR.—SUPERINTENDENT

Of Note...

It's been a productive week at HCDE and an interesting one for me. First off, as usual, I began the week with my routine Executive Leadership Team Meeting, followed by the Leadership Team Meeting this past Tuesday. Immediately after, I left for San Antonio to attend the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH) Conference in San Antonio. PATH is a non-profit organization that promotes the benefits of therapeutic horseback riding and other equine-assisted activities and therapies for people with physical, emotional, and learning disabilities. Its mission is to promote safety and optimal outcomes in equine-assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs.

The conference has been both interesting and informative and will serve as a navigating force as we develop the equine therapy curriculum facet for Fortis Academy. I am very impressed with all that this form of therapy has to offer.

This weekend, the CASE for Kids Out-of-School Time Conference is being held at the HESS Club, located at 5430 Westheimer. This conference is tailored for leaders and staff within the afterschool community. We expect this event to be well-attended by afterschool professionals from numerous entities across Harris County and beyond. We are excited about CASE's continued visibility in the afterschool arena.

This week, in the area of teaching and learning, HCDE hosted the following innovative workshops and training sessions: Online Instructor's Training, Part II; lead4ward: Studying the Parts that Make Up the Whole of Fractions (2-5) learning mash-up; National Incident Management System (NIMS) ICS 300;

Workstation Make and Take for Grade 6; Workstation Make and Take for Grade 4; Make them THINK! Successful Readers and Writers in Secondary ELA; Workstation Make and Take for Grade 5; Grant Writing Basics and Its Process; Charter School Roundtable; CASE for Kids OST Conference for OST Leaders; School Finance Council; What Do You Mean? Building Better Questioning Strategies into Instruction; and Workstation Make and Take for Algebra I.

I am pleased to report that HCDE was notified earlier this week that The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) awarded our Business Services division with the Meritorious Budget Award for the ninth consecutive year! This award reflects our commitment to sound fiscal management and budgetary policies. We are excited about this continued momentum in the success realm on behalf of our Business Services division.

Looking ahead, I will be returning to Houston upon completion of the PATH Conference later today, and will return to the office Monday. Also, please be reminded that this month's Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, November 29, 2017, following the week of Thanksgiving.

In closing, I hope you enjoy this 60th issue of Volume 3 of **The Connector**. As always, thanks for your service to HCDE. Have a relaxing weekend.

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

- Board Meeting

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Adult Education Community Collaborations Planned



Employees at TD Industries are gaining workforce math skills through HCDE's Adult Education division. The company provides commercial and industrial services such as air conditioning, electrical, and plumbing systems. The integrated math classes take place in the company's location in northwest Houston through an HCDE math teacher. More classes will be set for January 2018.

Managers Bill Medina and Angela Johnson, along with Dr. Eduardo Honold, recently met with Deer Park ISD representatives to talk about expansion of its integrated education and training services for adults in the district. The initial plan is to use Deer Park ISD vocational training facilities for classes leading to construction and pipefitting certifications for adults pursuing a GED or seeking ESL classes. The classes may begin as early as January 2018.



In addition, the division met with Harris County Public Library System to provide classes in South Houston.

ADVANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING BY TRAINING THE TRAINER

NOVEMBER 6, 2017

Online Instructor's Training - Part II

lead4ward: Studying the Parts that Make Up the Whole of Fractions (2-5) learning mash-up

NOVEMBER 7, 2017

National Incident Management System (NIMS) ICS 300

Workstation Make and Take for Grade 6

NOVEMBER 8, 2017

Workstation Make and Take for Grade 4

Make them THINK! Successful Readers and Writers in Secondary ELA

Workstation Make and Take for Grade 5

NOVEMBER 9, 2017

Grant Writing Basics and Its Process

Charter Roundtable

NOVEMBER 10, 2017

CASE for Kids OST Conference-OST Leaders- Friday, November 10

School Finance Council

What Do You Mean? Building Better Questioning Strategies into Instruction

Workstation Make and Take for Algebra I

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

24-Year Education Leader Arteaga to Lead Special Populations Post at Harris County Department of Education

FIRST INITIATIVE INCLUDES EDUCATION IN EQUITY SUMMIT ON FEB. 9



Longtime education leader Brenda Arteaga is the new curriculum director for special populations in the Teaching and Learning Center, a division of Harris County Department of Education.

Arteaga is a 24-year veteran educator who most recently served as superintendent of schools and assistant superintendent for academics and operations at Southwest Schools in Houston. Before leading the state charter schools, she worked in the Houston Independent School District for 18 years where she was principal, assistant principal, dual language/Title III coordinator, and middle school, elementary, and early childhood teacher.

The Harris County resident earned her undergraduate degree from University of Houston Central with specialties in interdisciplinary studies and an emphasis in reading and Spanish. She also holds certifications in bilingual/ESL and self-contained classrooms. She gained her master's degree from St. Thomas University and a doctorate in professional leadership from University of Houston.

Special populations in education are groups of people with needs that require special consideration and attention

in an educational setting. Special populations may refer to students with disabilities, or students who come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. A few other examples of the term's application include students who are limited English proficient, gifted and talented, pregnant, homeless, or dyslexic.

Arteaga's goals at her new post at HCDE include providing high-quality, special populations professional learning opportunities for area educators. In addition, she is driven to establish a framework for professional development learning to impact special populations learners which will focus on equity, opportunity, transformation, and innovation in the educational environment.

"One way we are embarking on this journey is through hosting our Equity in Education Summit on Feb. 9," said Arteaga.

The summit will feature presenter Roger Cleveland, a national presenter at over 45 conferences which have promoted diversity, equity and inclusion. Register for the summit at www.hcde-texas.org/register (workshop number 11635).

HCDE Employees Celebrate Astros' Historic Win



HCDE employees celebrated the Houston Astros' historic World Series win on Friday, Nov. 3 by wearing their favorite Astros gear! Human Resources also sponsored a hotdog lunch to celebrate.

View photos from the celebration here:

<https://hcdetx.smugmug.com/HumanResources/Astros-Day/>

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Teachers Create and Explore Math Workstations with Teaching and Learning Center



HCDE's Teaching and Learning Center Math Curriculum Director Nicole Shanahan held multiple hands-on workshops this week focused on grades 4-6 and algebra I. Teachers from across Harris County attended the workshops to create and experience workstations that enable independent practice, so students can master important math skills.

Service

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

2018 Early Childhood Winter Conference Features Renowned Keynote Speakers



The 2018 Early Childhood Winter Conference on Jan. 27, 2017 will feature renowned keynote speakers Dr. Becky Bailey and Dr. Gilberto Soto.

Bailey, an internationally renowned expert in childhood education, creates positive environments for children, families, schools, and businesses. As founder of Loving Guidance, Inc., she developed Conscious Discipline, a whole-school solution for social-emotional learning and self-regulation.

Soto is a music educator and accomplished guitarist who is a professor at Texas A&M International University. His

session, "Music and Movement to Enhance Learning in the Early Childhood Classroom," will have attendees moving, singing, and dancing from beginning to end.

The conference will also feature 80 breakout sessions presented by area educators, including the Teaching and Learning Center's Lisa Felske.



The conference is expected to attract 1,000-plus attendees throughout greater Houston. Find more information at www.hcde-texas.org/ECWC.

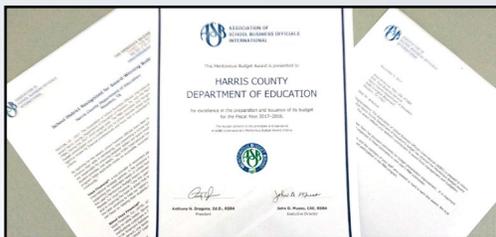
Systemic Achievement

...with purposeful intent

Management of Administrative, Fiscal, and Facilities Function

In keeping 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 expenditures of budgeted funds and provides for clear and timely budget reports;**
- **Ensure the Department investment strategies, risk management activities, and purchasing practices are sound, cost-efficient, and consistent with policy and law; and**
- **Monitor effectiveness of operations against appropriate benchmarks.**



This week, The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) awarded our Business Services division with the Meritorious Budget Award for the ninth consecutive year!

This award reflects our commitment to sound fiscal management and budgetary policies. The MBA promotes and recognizes excellence in school budget presentation and is conferred only to school districts whose budgets have undergone a rigorous review by financial professionals and have met or exceeded the program's stringent criteria.

By applying for this award, school business officials learn best budget presentation practices and enhance their skills in developing, and presenting a school system budget. We are excited about this continued momentum in the success realm on behalf of our Business Services division.

Through HCDE's receipt of this award, I am working towards meeting the Board's goals of me to serve as a conservative financial leader; look for ways to improve programs and services without greater expenditures and with concern for cutting expenses and costs to public schools for service without sacrifice to high quality services; and finally, recommend an annual budget to maximize resources and manage the budget while exercising prudent judgment.

HCDE BOARD

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

- Board Meeting

