

Of Note...

It's been a productive week here at HCDE. We're off to a great start and look forward to another year of academic successes. Our campus and center staff have prepared all summer—focusing on professional development, honing in on innovative strategies in teaching and learning, and ensuring that our campuses and classroom environments are engaging. Campus administrators and center managers continuously work to ensure nurturing climates for all learners.

I visited Fortis Academy last Friday and facilitated a professional development session with the faculty and staff who will be working with some of our most vulnerable students, as they continue down the pathway to addiction recovery. My brother (along with his wife), offered insight into the needs of this very unique population. You may recall that I provided an update on my brother's struggles with addiction during last year's convocation, and I invited him to attend this year's event after learning from so many employees the extent to which my brother's story inspired them. Friday's discussion was a frank one that is sure to help our staff better customize the needs of our students.

This week, I began with a meeting of the Executive Leadership Team. They are in the throes of ensuring that tweaked systems are executed and that the bar of expectation is set high. Also on Monday, I had an opportunity to meet with one of my mentees, and conduct other regularly standing meetings.

This past Tuesday, I met with our Adult Education team. This division delivers exceptional life-changing services to our most mature students. They are a powerhouse of innovative initiatives—increasing the confidence of some of the most vulnerable students within the county's citizenry. From helping students obtain their GEDs to teaching older adults to speak English and to helping women in our society increase their earning power exponentially by training them in non-traditional careers in industry, the Adult Education division delivers.

I also had the opportunity to lunch with Dr. Juan Munoz with the University of Houston-Downtown (UHD). As always, I look forward to brain-sharing with other education executives, and this meeting offered the ideal platform. I anticipate connecting with Dr. Munoz in the future to explore opportunities that may exist for partnership between the Department and UHD.

With this being the first week of school, I've kept my finger on the pulse of our campuses, centers, and programs—meeting with various members of the ELT, as necessary.

Today, we will celebrate the service that Ginger Thomas has rendered to the Department, at a reception held in her honor. As mentioned in the last issue of **The Connector**, for over 20 years, Ginger has, reliably, been one of the first faces greeting HCDE visitors upon their entrance to the Administration Building. She has managed logistics for the largest and smallest of nearly every event held at HCDE. We will miss her greatly and wish her the best as she enters this new phase of life called retirement.

Looking ahead into next week, please note that the Department will be closed Monday for Labor Day. The Department will resume normal business hours Tuesday, September 4, 2018.

I will conduct Leadership Team Meeting Tuesday morning, followed by Wednesday's Special Board Meeting regarding the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Thursday, I will conduct Agenda Review in preparation for the regularly-scheduled September Board Meeting. I will end the week with regular standing meetings with staff.

In closing, I hope you enjoy this issue of **The Connector**. Thanks for your service to HCDE, and I look forward to seeing you at next week's Board Budget Workshop. Have a relaxing weekend!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September Board Meeting—Wednesday, September 18, 2018



IN THIS ISSUE

2 *Plantgistix Donates to Head Start for Second Year*

3 *HCDE Launches Scholastic Art & Writing Awards by Hosting 40 Harris County Program Supervisors*

4 *CASE for Kids Izaguirre Talks about Afterschool for Univision Back-to-School News*

Opportunity

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

First Day of School 2018: Faces at the Schools



Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

HCDE Business Services Awarded Excellence in Financial Reporting

The Harris County Department of Education Business Services Division was recently awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ended 2017 from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO).



This award represents a significant achievement and reflects the commitment to transparency and high-quality financial reporting.

ASBO is a nonprofit organization that, through its members and affiliates, represents approximately 30,000 school business professionals worldwide. Its members support student achievement through effective resource management in various areas ranging from finance and operations to food services and transportation. Learn more at www.asbointl.org.

Plantgistix Donates to Head Start for Second Year



Center classrooms will have some extra money at their disposal thanks to the \$7,200 donation from Houston-based company Plantgistix. Every classroom will receive \$100 to buy supplies or to go towards activities such as the annual art show, the Parent Child Food Science Fair or the Harvest Festival.

It is the second year for the Houston-based company to make a donation to the HCDE Head Start program in its commitment to support young children in the community.

ADVANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING BY TRAINING THE TRAINER

AUGUST 28, 2018

Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Third Annual District Affiliate Leadership Conference

AUGUST 30, 2018

Attendance Officer's Share Session

Public Funds Investment Training

AUGUST 31, 2018

Public Funds Investment Training



Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS



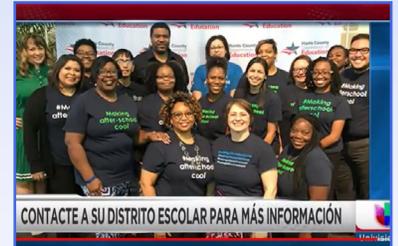
CASE for Kids City Connections Funding Featured through Two Councilmember Newsletters

CASE for Kids City Connections is featured in two councilmembers' newsletters: Councilmember Mike Laster, District J and Councilmember Karla Cisneros, District H. The newsletters featured a story announcing funding for CASE for Kids City Connections for constituents in the councilmembers' districts.

CASE for Kids Izaguirre Talks about Afterschool for Univision Back-to-School News



CASE for Kids coordinator Adrian Izaguirre appeared on Univision 45 Prime Edition News Aug. 24 to talk about the merits of afterschool. Izaguirre's interview aired in four major Texas markets: Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and Austin. Morning Anchor Rodolfo Sanchez asked Izaguirre questions about the cost of afterschool, the benefits and how parents can get their kids enrolled in programs in Texas. View the video: <https://youtu.be/3F1loKJiuZ0>



HCDE Launches Scholastic Art & Writing Awards by Hosting 40 Harris County Program Supervisors



Over 40 Harris County art and writing district supervisors attended the 3rd Annual Scholastic Art & Writing District Leadership Conference held Aug. 28 at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Supervisors heard about new updates and initiatives from Scholastic, headquartered in New York City. Director of the Teaching and Learning Center Andrea Segraves coordinates Scholastic Art & Writing on a regional level for HCDE. She is looking forward to more participation and support from the local districts as interest in the program continues to grow.

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Adult Education Offers Inaugural ESL Class for Foreign Professionals in Katy



Eighteen adults with college degrees and professional work experience in their native country, supported by 40 community organizations, attended an English as a Second Language (ESL) for Foreign Professionals class in Katy ISD.

The attendees, who have worked as teachers, business administrators and industrial engineers, learned employment skills

such as selling yourself, building self-confidence, effective job applications, successful interviews, conversation, etc. The goal is to help foreign professionals overcome English language barriers while transitioning to a professional career in the United States.

Cy-Fair ISD teacher and former engineer in Mexico, Francisco Toba-Garza served as the adult education teacher.

Workforce Development Pipefitting Students Graduate with Advanced Credentials



After seven months of hard work and dedication, level 2 pipefitting students are prepared to enter the craft trades industry.

Students enrolled in the workforce development classes earned three credentials from the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), the core curriculum, pipefitting level 1 and 2. Most students will work in the oil and gas industry at refineries while others will work for pipe fabricators supporting the construction industries.

Students received a transcript and identification card from NCCER documenting their national and portable credentials. Adult Education is supported in this effort by their NCCER sponsors, Marek Brothers Company.

Systemic Achievement

...with purposeful intent

Instructional Management

To meet the Board's expectations of me as it relates to this element of performance to

- **Establish effective mechanisms for communication to and from staff in instructional evaluation, planning, and decision making**



Last Friday, I conducted a professional development session at Fortis Academy. The purpose of the training was to offer additional educational strategies to the faculty and staff, and also to empower them with the first-hand experiences of individuals who have successfully recovered from addictions. Through this session, our Fortis administrators and faculty were left with an opportunity to self-reflect and build upon information in which they are already equipped to help this population succeed academically.



Andre and Gwen Chapelle (my brother and sister-in-law) shared their experiences with Fortis staff. It was eye-opening and informative. I believe it was productive for all in attendance, and will help us excel as we educate this group of young people. Our goal is to assist them in realizing their full potential.

Through this professional development session, I am working to achieve the Board's goal for me to identify the learning needs of the students and develop a process that ensures that each student's learning goals are met or exceeded. I am also investigating best practices for student achievement and utilizing effective practices that maximize achievement of student potential within HCDE schools.

HCDE BOARD

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

September Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

