



WEEK OF FEBRUARY 25, 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

3 *HCDE Communicators
Earn Multiple Prestigious
Texas School Public
Relations Association
Awards*

4 *CASE Debates
Holds Final Qualifier
Tournament, Gears Up
for Finals March 2*

5 *HCDE Teaching and
Learning Center
Supports 650 teens at
Youth Symposium*

Of Note...

Great things continue to happen at HCDE! Just this week alone, HCDE hosted a plethora of workshops, our Communications and Client Engagement groups received multiple awards at TSPRA, and the Teaching and Learning Center supported 650 students at a Youth Symposium. HCDE continues to serve as a leader in advancing education, on varied fronts, in the greater Harris County community.

I began this week meeting with a client school district superintendent. The meeting was productive, and I am excited to report (yet again) that another district is quite pleased with the services we continue to provide.

I am spending the remainder of the week meeting with staff and other representatives in the public education sector. I will spend Friday, as previously indicated in other issues of **The Connector**, at the North Post Oak location.

This week, HCDE hosted or facilitated the following workshops and training sessions: Outer Edges- Having Fun with Google; Making Science Learning Visible; Deep Dive in the New ELAR/SLAR TEKS (3-5); Make and Take for Grade 2 Science; Addressing Student Misconceptions in Science, 4-8; Harris County Social Studies Leadership Team; Leadership Institute for Social & Emotional Learning (E-Colors & Personal Intervention); Great Explorations in Math and Science (GEMS): Eggs. Eggs. Everywhere/Ladybugs (6 hours G/T update); lead4ward Leaders-Rocking Review: Volume II; HCDE Principal Certification Academy Information Seminar; Advancing Academic Language and Literacy; ITLG- Instructional Technology Leadership Group; and Studying and Creating Multi-Genre Text Sets for Middle School ELAR. We are committed to enhancing the trajectory of public education across the county, state, and beyond.

Looking ahead into next week, I will begin with a meeting of the ELT, followed by the regularly scheduled IMPACT Meeting. I will also be attending HISD's Public Education Matters Benefit Dinner at the Hilton Americas, followed by a meeting with Northwest Area Ministries (NAM) related to workforce development. Later in the week, I will be attending a Good Reason Houston inaugural event that will garner significant visibility for the Department. I will end the week with my regularly scheduled meetings with staff at HCDE's North Post Oak location.

Please be reminded that Spring Break week is March 11-15; thus, there is no March Board Meeting. The Department will resume normal operations Monday, March 18.

In closing, and as always, thank you for your ongoing support and service to HCDE. I appreciate the time you devote to public education in Harris County. I hope you enjoy this issue of **The Connector**. I trust you will have a relaxing weekend!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

HCDE Board Meeting—Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

FEMA and HCDE Hosting 2019 Safety Series: A Pound of Cure for Bomb Prevention Awareness



School bomb threats cause anxiety and disrupt learning within the school-community, especially since they are reoccurring more often.

Harris County Department of Education's Center for Safe and Secure Schools (CSSS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are hosting a free series

of trainings, 2019 Safety Series: A Pound of Cure presented by Transportation Security Administration Explosives Specialist Bill Shockley, dealing with the awareness, prevention and planning of potential campus threats.

Immediately following Columbine, schools across the nation experienced a spike in bomb threats and related incidents.

A 2015 national study of more than 800 violent school bomb threats and shooting threats took research to a higher level by collecting original data and dissecting critical trends and patterns. It revealed that more than 70 percent of the threats involved shooting and/or bomb threats. Thirty percent of these schools evacuated, and 10 percent closed, oftentimes unnecessarily doing so, which revealed a need for school threat assessment training.

This training will provide an overview of bombing prevention measures, improvised explosive device (IED) identification, protective measures and suspicious behaviors and items. Each training provides the participants with an overview of identifying risk and the development of appropriate protective measures for different facility characteristics. Trainings culminate in an experiential learning activity where learners revise a bomb threat management plan using the findings of the individual module learning activities and the knowledge gained throughout the course.

The first training, Bombing Prevention Awareness, is scheduled for Thursday, March 28, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 6005 Westview, Houston, TX 77055.

Other trainings include Protective Measures Course (April 11), Bomb Threat Management Planning (June 25) and IED Search Procedures Course (July 23).

For more information about registration, contact school safety and security specialist Janice Owolabi at jowolabi@hcde-texas.org.

ADVANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING BY TRAINING THE TRAINER

FEBRUARY 25, 2019

Outer Edges - Having Fun with Google

Making Science Learning Visible

FEBRUARY 26, 2019

Deep Dive in the New ELAR/SLAR TEKS (3-5)

Make and Take for Grade 2 Science

FEBRUARY 27, 2019

Addressing Student Misconceptions in Science, 4-8

Harris County Social Studies Leadership Team

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

FEBRUARY 28, 2019

Great Explorations in Math and Science (GEMS): Eggs. Eggs. Everywhere/Ladybugs (6 hours G/T update)

lead4ward Leaders - Rockin' Review: Volume II

HCDE Principal Certification Academy Information Seminar

MARCH 2019

Advancing Academic Language and Literacy

ITLG - Instructional Technology Leadership Group

Studying and Creating Multi-Genre Text Sets for Middle School ELAR

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

HCDE Communicators Earn Multiple Prestigious Texas School Public Relations Association Awards



Members of the Harris County Department of Education's Communications and Creative Services and Client Engagement attend the 2019 Texas School Public Relations Association Conference where the team earned 16 awards for work which benefits Harris County students and educators.

Harris County Department of Education communicators earned 16 awards for outstanding education communications from the Texas School Public Relations Association. Communications and Creative Services staff received the awards at the 57th Annual Texas School Public Relations Association Conference in Cedar Creek, Texas on Feb. 20.

This year, over 1,700 entries were judged through categories including photography, writing, video, advertisements, social media, brochures and posters. Categories of entries are divided based on merit, including Bronze Star, Silver Star, and Gold Star. Judges reviewed highest-scoring Gold Star winners and selected Best of Category awards. The Crystal Commendation category consisted of a multifaceted promotional program or campaign employing a variety of media, occurring over a period of time and encompassing well-defined goals, strategies or activities. One Crystal Commendation award was given per category.

A top-category Crystal Commendation award was awarded for photography portfolio to Dave Einsel.

In addition, the communications staff gained six Gold Star awards for the following entries:

A top-category Crystal Commendation award was awarded for photography portfolio to Dave Einsel.

In addition, the communications staff gained six Gold Star awards for the following entries:

- Harris County School District Calendars, Schools division, calendar/planner, Angela Hider, Lindsey Sanders and Carol Vaughn
- HCDE- Holiday Card, Communications division, holiday/commemorative, Angela Hider
- Free, Skilled Medical Classes at HCDE Supply Building-Block Approach to Medical Careers, Adult Education

division, published news releases, edited, Carol Vaughn
• HCDE Pocket Folder, Communications division, advertisement-other, Angela Hider
• 10th Annual All-Earth Ecobot Challenge, Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment (CASE) for Kids division, video-general event, Daniel Villarreal
• The Hub, Communications division, e-newsletter internal, Carol Vaughn, Lindsey Sanders, Daniel Villarreal, Juan Lopez, Angela Hider, Dave Einsel and Tammy Lanier

Six Silver Stars and three Bronze Star were awarded:

- Head Start Annual Report 2016-17, Head Start division, annual report, Angela Hider and Lindsey Sanders
- Emotional Harvey Narrative Earns Kinkaid Student HCDE Regional Best-in-Class Award, Scholastic Art & Writing, Writing, Carol Vaughn
- Moving Forward: A Bicycle and Determination Propel ESL Student to GED, Adult Education division, published news or feature, Carol Vaughn
- Storybooks Come to Life through HCDE Occupational Therapist Assistant, Girl Scout, School-Based Therapy Services division, published news or feature, Carol Vaughn
- Team Building, Teaching and Learning Center division, photo-other subjects, Dave Einsel
- Go Public: Why you should support public schools, Client Engagement division, video-promotional, Dave Einsel and Daniel Villarreal
- First Day Friends, Schools division, photo-other subjects (Bronze Star), Dave Einsel
- HCDE's Tax Rate!, Administration division, video-marketing (Bronze Star), Dave Einsel, Lindsey Sanders and Daniel Villarreal
- Making Afterschool Real: 3 Community Projects, CASE for Kids division, video-marketing (Bronze Star), Dave Einsel, Lindsey Sanders and Daniel Villareal

The Texas School Public Relations Association is a nonprofit, professional organization dedicated to promoting public schools through effective communications. With more than 900 members, TSPRA is comprised primarily of public information and communications professionals who serve public school districts and education organizations of Texas. Membership also includes superintendents, administrators, principals, web/technology/electronic media and graphic professionals, education foundation executive directors and their boards, association executive directors, school consultants, vendors, and others who support public education in the state. TSPRA is a chapter of the National School Public Relations Association.

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

CASE Debates Holds Final Qualifier Tournament, Gears Up for Finals March 2



CASE for Kids held its fourth tournament for 116 students from six school districts and three charter schools. The CASE Debates tournament held at Northbrook High School in Spring Branch ISD earlier this month

was a qualifier for the Houston Urban Debate League Championship Debates Tournament set for March 2 at the Bob Casey Federal Courthouse in downtown Houston.

Volunteers from HUDL assisted, with Spring Branch ISD school personnel also helping run the tournament.

School districts and charters participating in the final qualifier event included Alief, Galena Park, Harmony Public, KIPP Texas Public, Pasadena, Sheldon, Spring Branch, Spring and YES Prep Public.

"Students that attended the tournament and competed at the varsity level were competing for an opportunity

to attend the Houston Urban Debate League City Championships," said Toni Candis, CASE Debates project coordinator. "At the HUDL City Championship, the top two debate teams in each division earn college scholarship funds."



Teams qualifying for the HUDL City Championships are the following:

Policy Debate: Harmony Public Schools; Kerr High School (2 teams) and Taylor High School, Alief ISD; YES Prep North Central; and Galena Park High School, Galena Park ISD

World Debate: Elsik High School (2 teams) and Kerr High School (3 teams), Alief ISD; Spring Early College Academy (2 teams), Spring ISD; Harmony School of Advancement; and YES Prep Public Schools

HCDE Teaching and Learning Center Supports 650 teens at Youth Symposium



Texas Art Supply hosted an art reception for teen art and writing awardees for the Harris County Department of Education Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Over 100 guests, including students, teachers and parents attended the event. HCDE is the regional affiliate for the Awards.

Students in grades 7-8 who earned Gold and Silver Key

Awards from public and private schools participated in the event. The exhibit of art and writing will be on display until March 17 at 2001 Montrose Blvd. during store hours.



<https://hcdetexas.photoshelter.com/gallery/20190221-Scholastic/G0000GksNzmhK7zg/C00003GcE1ZKg0mg>

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

HCDE Teaching and Learning Center Supports 650 teens at Youth Symposium



The Teaching and Learning Center supported the Youth Symposium on Feb. 22 as more than 650 teens

The TLC division's primary mission is providing support for educators, but Hester stressed the need to also support local students by letting them hear about career options outside the school day.

"It's a great opportunity to learn something new," said Galveston Independent School District senior Barb Goodeaux, 18, an aspiring youth counselor.

Goodeaux will be a first-generation college student and admits she didn't have the best childhood, but she's using those experiences to begin her path to help others.

HCDE Assistant Superintendent for Education and Enrichment Kimberly McLeod, who also served as board president for TABSE this year, said the turnout for the symposium was the largest in history, with students attending from Houston, Aldine, Galveston and Manor school districts as well as Provision Academy Charter School. TABSE provided two, \$5,000 student scholarships to needy students in the foster care system.

"We wanted to provide access for the students to meet people who can teach and guide them and give them hope for the future by providing support resources," McLeod said.



and their parents attended the career exploration day at Moody Gardens in Galveston. The day is sponsored annually in collaboration with the Texas Association of Black School Educators Conference.

Colleges provided information booths and career professionals supplied breakout sessions in areas ranging from medicine to the

military. Several motivational speakers opened the symposium. Parents were supported through a parent roundtable discussion which focused on the rigors and routines of college and offered mentorships.

"We're concerned about engaging with our local students and informing them of their options," said Frances Watson-Hester, senior director for TLC. "Also, our data supports that some kids that make it to college don't know how to navigate once they get there. When parents haven't attended, they often don't know either."



Systemic Achievement

...with purposeful intent

Professional Growth and Development

Community Relations

Personnel Management

In an effort to meet the Board's expectations of me to achieve the elements of performance related to these goals to:

- Stay abreast of developments in educational leadership and administration;
- 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;
- Work with other governmental entities and community organizations to meet the needs of students and the community in a coordinated way; and
- Encourage participation in staff recognition activities.

Last week, members of the Communications and Client Engagement staff attended the 57th Annual Texas School Public Relations Association. Over 1,700 entries were judged through categories including photography, writing, video, advertisements, social media, brochures and posters.

Our delegation earned 16 awards for outstanding education communications from the awarding entity. While this is nothing new, it demonstrates HCDE's ongoing commitment to increasing HCDE's visibility through various collateral. It also showcases the expertise within these divisions.



By HCDE receiving these awards, we are ensuring that I am striving to meet the Board's goal of exposing staff to quality professional development, but I am also ensuring visibility for HCDE on a grand scale. Moreover, I am encouraging recognition of staff.

To that end, I am meeting your goal to communicate the needs and accomplishments of HCDE through a variety of formats including public meetings. HCDE is represented by attendance at such events and ensuring that staff members are making professional presentations to all audiences in all areas of the community. This includes listening and considering differing viewpoints of various constituencies and using good judgment to discern the best decisions and action for the Department. Further, it demonstrates the Department's expertise in this area.

HCDE BOARD

Board President

Josh Flynn

Vice President

George Moore

Richard Cantu

Eric Dick

Danny Norris

Don Sumners

Michael Wolfe

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

