



Of Note...

It's been a great week at HCDE. I began the week with a meeting of my Executive Leadership Team (ELT), as usual. It was, yet, another productive meeting of the minds as we work to advance the Department's goals.

Following the ELT meeting, HCDE hosted the first IMPACT meeting of this academic year. As you are aware, the IMPACT group is comprised of board members and superintendents from school districts in Harris County. This week's IMPACT session had impressive attendance with officials representing Pasadena, Deer Park, Cy-Fair, Spring, and Alief independent school districts, just to name a few. This convening of education leaders in Harris County continues to garner great visibility for HCDE, as well as serve as an ideal platform for networking with our client school districts.

I am committed to taking advantage of every opportunity I have to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our client districts, especially gaining insight from the executives' perspectives. Such events allow me the chance to serve as the Department's primary ambassador and help further our partnerships and alliances.

This past Saturday, I presented to the Educator Certification and Advancement division's cohort of aspiring administrators. My keynote message was centered around the following topic: How New Leaders Can Conquer New Challenges and Structure School Teams. I am always eager to impart my knowledge, wisdom, and experiences to those who have chosen the path to educational leadership.

Also, this week, I attended the annual State of the County luncheon, hosted by the Greater Houston Partnership. I was joined by Board President Louis Evans, Trustee Dr. Diane Trautman, and members of the ELT. As always, this county-wide event was informative and provided an excellent vantage point of the progress being made in Harris County government, with County Judge Ed Emmett at the helm. Again, this served as another networking opportunity on various levels.

Today, I will attend an AROSC (also referred to as the Recovery Oriented System of Care) meeting at Fortis Academy. The mission of this entity is part of Houston Recovery Initiative's efforts to work toward a recovery-oriented system of care for those who are affected by alcoholism and addiction. They create opportunities to collaborate with agencies across Houston, working together to aid those in recovery. This meeting is an organic collaboration between its parent organization and Fortis Academy.

This week in the area of teaching and learning, HCDE hosted the following workshops and training sessions: Outer Edges Online-Analyzing with Google; Learning Forward Coaches Academy; Basics and Outer Edges-Analyzing with Google; lead4ward: Accountability 2018; CFO Summit; Alternative Certification Program for Teachers Information Session; Active Shooter Response Training; Building Community; and The Eight Essentials of Intentional Leadership and Social and Emotional Development: Self and Team Awareness. HCDE continues to serve as a powerhouse of professional development and continued learning for educators in the greater Houston area, and beyond.

Please be reminded that the next regularly-scheduled Board of Trustees meeting will be held Wednesday, September 19.

In closing, I hope you enjoy this issue of **The Connector**, and I hope you have a relaxing weekend.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September Board Meeting—Wednesday, September 19, 2018



WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2018

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Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

'School Threat Assessment Training' Galvanizes Campuses Through Safety Strategies on Sept. 27



Demands for threat management trainings increased in the aftermath of the active shooter tragedy in Santa Fe, Texas. On Sept. 27 from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Target Restoration Services and Harris County Department of Education's Center for Safe and Secure Schools present "School Threat Assessment Training: Creating a Safe Environment for Students." Sigma Threat Management Associates—a company providing experts in behavioral threat assessment, threat

management and violence prevention—leads the training.

The workshop held at 6300 Irvington Blvd. has limited seating and will begin with lessons learned from Santa Fe High School via a panel of first responders from Texas City Emergency Management and Texas City Independent School District leaders.

"Districts need tools to work through threat scenarios," said Center for Safe and Secure Schools Director Ecomet Burley. "This workshop provides practice by working through threat scenarios. Educators walk away with the know-how to develop a case management plan for their district/campus through an expert whose threat assessment best practices are depended on by national security agencies and major media outlets."

Sigma consultants train clients to build and operate threat assessment teams and programs, helping them develop their own ability to assess and manage threatening situations in accordance with best practices. SIGMA experts have assessed and managed thousands of threats in their careers in federal, state, and local law enforcement, education, criminal justice, mental health, and the law. The company's threat assessment work is referenced in U.S. national standards and federal guides and has helped define best practices in behavioral threat assessment violence prevention.

During the presentation, Sigma experts discuss how to identify and investigate potential campus threats and demonstrate how to build an effective threat assessment management program.

Cost for the training is \$35 and includes breakfast and snacks courtesy of Sprouts and lunch provided by Target Restoration Services. To register, go to www.hcde-texas.org and enter workshop number 12201 or date. Parking is free. The workshop is conveniently located in a central area of Houston. Texas Commission on Law Enforcement credits are available for attendees.

ADVANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING BY TRAINING THE TRAINER

SEPTEMBER 10, 2018

Outer Edges Online - Analyzing with Google

SEPTEMBER 11, 2018

Learning Forward Coaches Academy

Basics and Outer Edges - Analyzing with Google

SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

lead4ward: Accountability 2018

SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

CFO Summit

Alternative Certification Program for Teachers - Information Session

Active Shooter Response Training

SEPTEMBER 14, 2018

Building Community

The 8 Essentials of Intentional Leadership and Social & Emotional Development: Self & Team Awareness

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Education Certification Division Renamed/Rebranded: Educator Certification and Advancement (ECA)



Educator Certification and Professional Advancement (ECPA) has been renamed and rebranded as Education Certification and Advancement (ECA). Along with the new name, the division is sporting a new logo.

alternative teacher preparation program and the principal preparation program.

“We also offer leadership workshops and test-prep workshops to prepare educator professionals for a variety of certifications.”

The Superintendent Certification Institute is projected to launch sometime during the fall/winter semester.

The new ECA logo is being used beginning this school year. The logo will be used on all the division’s deliverables and featured on the ECA’s website page.

“Our name has been shortened and along with our official new name, we’re proud to reveal our new logo,” said Lidia Zatopek, director. “This is an opportune time to make the change as we are working on adding a new Superintendent Certification Institute to complement our

CASE Debates Provides Training for 80 Students with TSU Debate Team



Eighty-seven students from four districts and two charter schools in the Houston area learned about the nuts-and-bolts of debate by attending the CASE Debates training on Saturday, Sept.

8 at Texas Southern University. The training provided instruction in World Schools Debate and Policy Debate so that students might explore format options.

Legendary TSU debate coach Thomas Freeman made an appearance. The retired debate professor Freeman trained Denzel Washington and Barbara Jordan.

CASE Debates is funded through Harris County Department of Education and provided through the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids, or CASE for Kids, and provides debate services and seminars for students in high schools in greater Harris County. For information, call 713-696-1331.



Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Teen Artists, Writers in Harris County Urged to Enter Scholastic Art & Writing Awards 2019



Students in grades 7-12 in Harris County may submit their art and writing entries through their teachers and schools beginning Sept. 12-Dec. 3. Seventeen art categories range from painting to video game design, and 11 writing

genres vary from poetry to short stories.

Harris County Department of Education is one of approximately 100 regional affiliates in the country for the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. HCDE supports the Awards through judging, ceremonies, receptions and sponsorships. Notable Awards winners of the past include alumni Stephen King, Zac Posen, Lena Dunham, John Updike, Truman Capote and many more.

“Last year we received 6,225 Harris County student entries from 531 teachers in public and private schools during a time when our students and teachers were recovering from Hurricane Harvey,” said Andrea Segraves, HCDE Scholastic

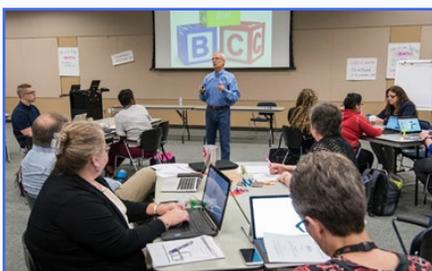
Art & Writing Awards coordinator. “Enthusiasm and support for the program continue to grow.”

Segraves believes this year will be a record-breaking year for entries, anticipating the need for extra volunteer judges who are art and writing professionals. Scholastic Art & Writing Regional Affiliate Harris County Department of Education also relies heavily on sponsors to support Houston receptions and travel scholarships for students to attend national ceremonies in New York City in June. To volunteer for judging or to sponsor, email asegraves@hcde-texas.org with contact information.

Awardees are announced in late December for art and early January for writing. Art and writing regional awardees’ work will be showcased through gallery venues at Texas Art Supply and Spring Street Studios in February. Ceremonies are planned at the Ballroom at Bayou Center on March 27.

Details about entering, including art and writing categories and rules, may be found through the national Scholastic Art & Writing Awards website: <https://www.artandwriting.org/affiliate/TX001A/>.

Texas Educators Learn About New 2018 Accountability System



Lead4ward assisted 40 educators from around Texas with explaining the data measures and indicators that the Texas Education Agency uses in the new 2018 Accountability System. John Fessenden presented ways to help connect the concepts and performance measures included in accountability with sound, professional-development practices and strong instructional systems that support learning for all students. The TLC sponsored training was held Sept. 12.

Local School Administrators Gain Tips for Building Relationships with Teachers through TLC



School leaders received tips on building coaching relationships with teachers through the Learning Forward Coaches Academy on Sept. 12. One tip they received from consultant Sharron Helmke was about creating trusting, reliable and knowledgeable instructional coaching relations. For upcoming workshops with the Teaching and Learning Center, visit www.hcde-texas.org/register.

Systemic Achievement

...with purposeful intent

Community Relations

In an effort to meet the elements associated with this expectation of performance for me to

- **Establish and maintain a program of public relations to keep the public well-informed of the activities of the Department, affecting a wholesome and cooperative working relationship between the Department and the community**

Yesterday, HCDE partnered with the Harris County Appraisal District as they hosted the CFO Summit. The



event drew a large crowd of finance professionals from municipalities and school districts, alike, and offered 6.25 hours of continuing education units. The robust agenda was chock full of pertinent information related to property appraisals, county projections, trends, challenges, and a plethora of other items of interest to this group of professionals.

Presenters included the following experts throughout the day's panel discussions:

- **Roland Atlinger**, Chief Appraiser- Harris County Appraisal District
- **Patrick Jankowski**, Sr. Vice President of Research- Greater Houston Partnership



- **Pete Pape**, Board President- Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District
- **Mike Seale**, Chief Financial Officer- Humble Independent School District
- **Austin Bles**, City Manager- Jersey Village
- **Karen Wilson**, Associate Superintendent for Finance- Spring Branch Independent School District
- **Ross Ramsey**, Exective Editor and Co-Founder- The Texas Tribune
- **Lacey Loftin**, Customer Liaison and Marketing Services- United States Census Bureau

By HCDE continuing to participate in this endeavor, I am working to achieve the Board's goal to present a positive, professional image of HCDE; maintain visibility in the community; be open to the ideas and needs of the community; and communicate the needs and accomplishments of the Department, as appropriate.

HCDE BOARD

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

September Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

