



WEEK OF FEBRUARY 11, 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

2 *Felske to Serve on National Panel*

3 *Artistic Talent of Harris County Teens Demonstrated through Local Exhibits, Receptions for Scholastic Art & Writing Awards*

3 *Fortis Academy Culinary Program Featured in Houston Chronicle*

Of Note...

My week began with a meeting of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), followed by our annual budget meetings—hosted by the Business Services division—where I welcomed staff. The primary purpose of these meetings is to provide pertinent updates to budget managers as it relates to our financial processes and procedures, ensuring compliance with HCDE policy. These meetings are part of our systemic processes related to our commitment to financial transparency.

Additionally, I spent time with one of my mentees. Such opportunities to mentor aspiring executive level administrators are beneficial to both the mentor and mentee and also assist me with my professional development, to some extent. I believe it is important to advance the teaching and learning process through various ways, and mentoring is certainly a viable pathway to that end.

I attended my ongoing SuperMENTor reading session this week through our Area I Head Start program. I encourage every Board Member to become part of this invaluable program. It can truly change the life of a child—instilling a love for reading, while also exposing them to men who are committed to making a difference within the community.

Yesterday, I conducted Agenda Review, along with other internal meetings, and today, I am out of the office on personal leave.

This week in the area of teaching and learning, HCDE hosted the following workshops and training sessions: Harris County ELAR; Leadership Team; Attendance Officer's Share Session; School Finance Council; and Addressing Student Misconceptions in Science for grades k-3. Additionally, the Center for Safe and Secure Schools hosted an Incident Command System training (applicable to ISDs/schools), part of the National Incident Management System which came about after the September 11, 2001 tragedy. It was developed by Homeland Security under the George W. Bush administration. The training was comprised of representatives from numerous school districts, in addition to HCDE staff ranging from Head Start Centers, HCDE schools, and divisions within the Department.

Looking ahead into next week, I will conduct ELT Monday morning, followed by a meeting with another mentee. I have other meetings scheduled with superintendents from our client school districts as I continue to keep my finger on the pulse of services we provide. These meetings are informative and help us become even more attuned to the evolving needs of our client districts. I will also attend next week's PFC Meeting.

The TABSE Conference is being held next week and I will serve as keynote speaker for the Distinguished Gentlemen's Dinner and I will also be presenting at the Superintendent's Pipeline event. I will present **Leadership Juno: Samurai to Shogun**.

As always, thank you for your service to HCDE. I look forward to seeing you at Tuesday's PFC Meeting, and please be reminded that the February meeting of the Board will be held Wednesday, February 27. There is no March Board Meeting.

I hope you enjoy this issue of **The Connector**. Have an enjoyable weekend.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

HCDE Board Meeting—Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Counselors Recognized During National School Counseling Week



Gloria Beckham



Michelle Calhoun



Tayyaba Ali

Throughout our campuses, HCDE recognized our school counselors last week during National School Counseling Week. Pictured are three dedicated counselors from Academic and Behavior Center West who received flowers from their campus leaders: Gloria Beckham, Michelle Calhoun, Tayyaba Ali and Michelle Calhoun.



Felske to Serve on National Panel



Harris County Department of Education Curriculum Director for Science Lisa Felske will serve a three-year term on a panel for the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA). As part of the Outstanding Science Trade Books Panel, she will review as many as 3,000 books to identify the best children's science book of the year. Her reviews will appear in print in each of the NSTA's K-12 journals.

ADVANCED TEACHING AND LEARNING BY TRAINING THE TRAINER

FEBRUARY 12, 2019

Harris County ELAR Leadership Team

FEBRUARY 14, 2019

Attendance Officer's Share Session

School Finance Council

FEBRUARY 15, 2019

Addressing Student Misconceptions in Science, K-3



Opportunity

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

Artistic Talent of Harris County Teens Demonstrated through Local Exhibits, Receptions for Scholastic Art & Writing Awards



Giselle Rubio, Grade 11, Drawing and Illustration, Nimitz High School, Aldine ISD

Art and writing created by Harris County teens in grades 7-12 is showcased from Feb. 18 through March 17 at Spring Street Studios and Texas Art Supply. Harris County Department of Education supports The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards as

the regional affiliate and celebrates the talents of awardees through two artists exhibits and receptions.

Spring Street Studios, 1824 Spring St., Houston, Texas, 77007, opens its doors to the public with several hundred student works on view from Gold Key and Silver Key recipients in grades 9-12 from public and private high schools. A reception is planned from 4:30-6 p.m. on Feb. 28. For studio hours, go to www.springstreetstudios.info.

Texas Art Supply, 2001 Montrose Blvd., Houston, Texas 77006, hosts art from students in grades 7-8 from public and private schools and provides a reception Feb. 21 from 4:30-6 p.m. Go to www.texasart.com for store hours to view the exhibit.



Since 1923, Scholastic Art & Writing has showcased the artistic vision, ingenuity and talent of youth and includes notable alumni like Andy Warhol and Joyce Carol Oates. Students this year submitted nearly 350,000 original works in 29 different categories of art and writing. HCDE, the regional affiliate, judged over 7,000 entries in 2019.

View the invite for the 2019 receptions and exhibits: <https://bit.ly/2SE4fVx>. For more information about The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, go to <https://hcde-texas.org/scholastic-awards/awardees/>.

Fortis Academy Culinary Program Featured in Houston Chronicle



Fortis Academy was in the news this week as the Houston Chronicle published a story about the culinary class at the recovery school. The article focuses on a student named Omar who enrolled in Fortis from Aldine Independent School District. His father is very grateful for the opportunity for his son.

<https://www.chron.com/neighborhood/spring/schools/article/Culinary-class-keeps-students-focused-on-their-13602307.php>

Systemic Achievement

...with purposeful intent

Professional Growth and Development

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

- **Stay abreast of developments in educational leadership and administration**
- **Ensure that appropriate staff development is available and monitor staff development for effectiveness; and**
- **Stay abreast of developments in educational leadership and administration**

HCDE's Lisa Felske, Curriculum Director for Science, will serve a three-year term on a panel for the National Science



Teachers Association (NSTA). As part of the Outstanding Science Trade Books Panel, Felske will review as many as 3,000 books to identify the best children's science book of the year. Her reviews will

appear in print in each of the NSTA's K-12 journals.

This is a distinguished honor for both Felske and HCDE. We applaud her exceptional work in the area of science and we know she will continue to make us proud.

As a result of other entities elevating our staff, and as a result of outstanding work and subject area leadership, I am ensuring that we, as a whole, systemically strive to meet the Board's goal of not only exposing staff to quality professional development, but also impacting students across the nation through the expertise that exists within HCDE. In doing so, I am also

- **Ensuring that staff development opportunities are communicated to and available to employees; and**
- **Assessing any new and effective development tools available and determining its applicability to HCDE staff.**

HCDE BOARD

Board President

Josh Flynn

Vice President

George Moore

Richard Cantu

Eric Dick

Danny Norris

Don Sumners

Michael Wolfe

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

