

The Connector

A weekly publication of Harris County Department of Education
for the HCDE Board of Trustees

From the office of **JAMES COLBERT, JR. | SUPERINTENDENT**



Of Note...

This week has been both fast and furious, and a lot has taken place since the last issue of **The Connector**. On this past Saturday, we graduated 34 Adult Education students. I served as the keynote speaker for our GED recipients who were the first HCDE has had to complete the recently-revised, rigorous GED curriculum. They are to be commended for their accomplishments, and we are very proud of them. The graduation was a rewarding experience for both the participants and the attendees.

On Tuesday, I visited Highpoint North. The administration, faculty, and students were all hard at work, on task with the day's routine. I will continue visiting our campuses and other locations to further ensure that we are delivering excellence in service to our client school districts.

Also, this week, I began the process of interviewing candidates for the Assistant Superintendent position. As I mentioned last week, we received applications from over 50 interested candidates, and I look forward to presenting a finalist to you at the regularly scheduled Board Meeting on next Tuesday, May 19, 2015.

On Wednesday, I served as the moderator for the Houston East End Chamber of Commerce's 3rd Annual Education Symposium. I moderated a group of panelists who spoke on the topic, "The skills your future employees need to best equip them for success". The event was very well-attended and HCDE was also well-represented. This was an excellent opportunity for HCDE to be visible in the community in which it resides, and we certainly seized the moment. Being able to partner with the Houston East End Chamber of Commerce gives us an opportunity to call upon them should we ever need to leverage their support for HCDE in the future.

In closing, please be reminded of the following. The Board Budget Workshop will take place on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 11:00 a.m., before the regularly scheduled May Board Meeting. This annual forum provides us an opportunity to present the proposed budget to you as we move towards the end of the budget-planning cycle. It will be held in Room 410, the Small Board Conference Room. After that meeting, the members of the Governmental Relations Committee will meet from 12:00-12:30 p.m., also in the Small Board Conference Room. Any Board Member wishing to attend this meeting is invited; however, it will be facilitated by the members assigned to the Governmental Relations Committee.

Thanks for your service to HCDE and I hope you enjoy this issue of the **The Connector**. I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday. Have a great weekend.

IN THIS ISSUE:

2 Program Connections

2-3 Community Connections

4 Board Connections

PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

35 Graduates Participate in Adult Education GED Graduation 2015

Valedictorian Yadira Campos was one of 35 graduates crossing the stage to get her GED diploma May 9 at HCDE. She not only conquered the new, more rigorous GED test this year but also gained a command of English as a native Spanish speaker. Speaking with confidence, Yadira urged her fellow classmates to follow their dreams. Yadira now attends college and is studying to be a preschool teacher. Salutatorian Marcus Segura plans to join the Navy and study nursing.



Superintendent Colbert was the commencement speaker and told a story about how his own sister went back to get her GED years after she dropped out of school. Colbert shook hands with each of the graduates along with Assistant Superintendent Celes Harris, Adult Education Director Dr. Eduardo Honold, and Adult Education Counselor Dr. Audrey Noble.

(Graduation was covered through KHOU TV, Telemundo 47 TV, Houston Style Magazine and Houston Community Newspapers.)

HCDE Head Start Sets Information Session May 28 to Hire Teaching Assistants for Expansion of Services

HCDE Head Start is hiring teaching assistants for its 16 northeast Head Start centers. Several dozen teaching assistants are needed. An information meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 28 from 6-7 p.m. at HCDE.



Hiring opportunities are due, in part, to an expansion of services in March to support Early Head Start in Baytown, Texas. HCDE received \$2.8 million in March to provide services to children ages birth to 5 at the Baytown Head Start Center. Five Early Head Start classrooms will be added to serve 40 infants and toddlers.

25 HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Aldine

Alief

Channelview

Clear Creek

Crosby

Cy-Fair

Dayton

Deer Park

Galena Park

Goose Creek

Houston

Huffman

Humble

Katy

Klein

La Porte

New Caney

Pasadena

Pearland

Sheldon

Spring

Spring Branch

Stafford

Tomball

Waller

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Houston East End Chamber of Commerce Education Symposium

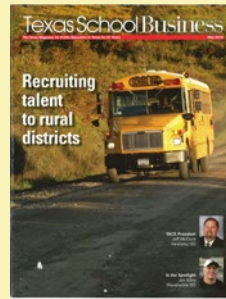
In 2013, the Houston East End Chamber of Commerce started a great dialogue at the very first Education Symposium to help create a bridge between industry and education, in order to create a workforce that meets the needs of industry. Speakers and panels included educators such as President Dr. Renu Khator of the University of Houston and industry professionals such as Director of Corporate Communications Sara Cronin of TPC Group. Our own HCDE Superintendent James Colbert served as a moderator at this year's Education Symposium. He facilitated a panel around the topic: "The skills your future employees need to best equip them for success."



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Center Director Burley, Technology Videographer Perez Featured in Texas School Business

Center for Safe and Secure Schools Director Ecomet Burley receives a welcome through a bio article in the “Who’s Who” section of Texas School Business. Technology videographer Joe Perez is showcased through a photo at the Texas School Public Relations Association conference. Both features may be found through the following link in the May issue: http://tools.hcde-texas.org/users/0221/docs/Connector/TexasSchoolBusiness_051215.pdf



Shearn Elementary Awarded Over \$11,000 in Afterschool Funding from City Connections Grant from City of Houston, CASE for Kids

Donald Perkins, Chief of Staff for Council Member Larry Green, and CASE for Kids Director Lisa Thompson-Caruthers present a check for \$11,204 to Shearn Elementary School. Shearn Elementary was awarded the grant in afterschool funding from the City Connections initiative with the City of Houston and CASE for Kids. Shearn is one of 25 organizations awarded afterschool funding for the month of April 2015.



HCDE Head Start Honors Local Teens with Outstanding Community Partner Award

See video: <https://youtu.be/LvJzEm0EovM>
READ (Read, Engage and Donate) for Houston was honored with the Outstanding Community Partner award during HCDE Head Start’s biennial community partners luncheon.



READ for Houston is an initiative headed by 8th grader Jeffrey Collins that aims to connect those who want to give books to those who need books in an effort to boost literacy and promote a joy of reading. The program was founded by Collins’ older brother Sam, as a way to give back to the community.



Last month, students at HCDE’s Fifth Ward Head Start Center received two books each to add to their home library as READ for Houston visited for story time reading. To date, READ for Houston has donated over 20,000 books to HCDE Head Start.

Signage Installed at HCDE NPO Building

Facilities has installed a new sign at the HCDE North Post Oak building. The sign is located on the Westview side at the main entrance.



ADVANCING TEACHING AND LEARNING by training the trainer

Trainings hosted at HCDE this week

- 05.12 | ELA Leadership Group Meeting
- 05.12 | It Takes Planning to Save the World! Workshop
- 05.13 | Houston Science Educators’ Leadership Association
- 05.14 | Science Fiction: Teaching Weather with Children’s Literature
- 05.14 | Public Funds Investment Act Day 1
- 05.14 | Kick It Up A Notch: Programming
- 05.15 | Public Funds Investment Act Day 2
- 05.15 | HCDE Principal Certification Academy Information Meeting
- 05.15 | Test Prep Series for TExES Generalist EC-6 Exam (#191) - SCIENCE Sessions ONLY

HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT HIGHLIGHT



La Porte ISD holds registration for incoming kindergarten students May 4- 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at all of its elementary campuses. Parents or legal guardians may enroll students at their zoned schools. Select registration nights will be held. Children age 5 on or before Sept. 1 may attend kindergarten in 2015-2016. Learn more: <http://www.lpsd.org/apps/news/article/459279>

BOARD SPOTLIGHT

MOTTO

HCDE...Always Educating

MISSION STATEMENT

Harris County Department of Education supports Harris County by enriching educational opportunities and providing value through services.

GOALS

GOAL 1:

Impact education by responding to the evolving needs of Harris County

GOAL 2:

Deliver value to Harris County by utilizing resources in an ethical, transparent, and fiscally responsible manner

GOAL 3:

Advocate for all learners by using innovative methods to maximize students' potential.

GOAL 4:

Provide cost-savings to school districts by leveraging tax dollars

GOAL 5:

Recruit and maintain a high-quality professional staff

Adopted by the HCDE Board of Trustees at its April 21, 2015 meeting.

HCDE BOARD

BOARD PRESIDENT
POSITION 2, PRECINCT 4
Angie Chesnut

BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT
POSITION 4, PRECINCT 3
Kay Smith

Erica Lee Carter
Position 6, Precinct 1

Marvin W. Morris
Position 1, Precinct 2

Don Summers
Position 7, At Large

Diane Trautman
Position 3, At Large

Michael Wolfe
Position 5, At Large

Upcoming Board Events:

**Tuesday,
May 19, 2015
May Board Meeting**

