

May 8, 2014

SAISD and UTSA recognized for leadership collaborative

The District's partnership with the University of Texas at San Antonio to prepare transformational leaders was celebrated during a special May 5 reception.

Highlighting the ceremony was a formal presentation of the 2013 Exemplary Educational Leadership Preparation Award that UTSA's Urban School Leaders Collaborative received from the University Council for Educational Administration.

The collaborative was formed in the spring of 2003 exclusively for SAISD as a preparation program for aspiring principals and school leaders, through which participants pursue a master's degree with a strong focus on diversity and social justice leadership. Approximately

85 SAISD employees have participated.

"SAISD is proud to partner with the UTSA Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in what has proven to be a unique and exemplary model for preparing the next generation of school leaders," said the District's Associate Superintendent for Human Resources Toni Thompson.

UTSA was one of two academic institutions nationwide to earn this inaugural honor which was established to recognize exemplary programs and encourage their development.

UCEA is a consortium of higher education institutions committed to advancing the preparation and practice of educational leaders for the benefit of schools and children.



Honored as a founding collaborative member (second from right) is Dr. Rubén D. Olivárez, a retired SAISD superintendent. Congratulating him (l to r) are Superintendent Dr. Sylvester Perez, UCEA Executive Director Dr. Michelle Young and UTSA's Dean of the College of Education and Human Development Dr. Betty Merchant.

Hawthorne and Lamar up to the Green Schools Challenge

Projects designed to make their campuses more ecologically friendly have earned SAISD schools two of the three top local awards in the Central Texas Green Schools Challenge.

Hawthorne Academy placed first for research resulting in a garden to attract birds, bees and butterflies, increasing both plant and wildlife diversity at their school.

Placing second was Lamar ES for research resulting in reduced energy consumption and increased recycling.

Hawthorne's project, starting with a biodiversity audit, was inspired by the repercussions of construction work underway through SAISD Bond 2010, said librarian Bonnye Cavazos, who sponsors the school's 25-member Green Club, comprising 4th- and 5th-graders.

"There is concrete and machinery everywhere we look. We wanted to increase the diversity of plant and animal life by planting native plants that attract butterflies and birds," she said.

"We painted bird feeders and did a little planting in the one spot not being torn up, but are still in progress."

The club's efforts were supported by mentors from Lake Flato Architects and through donations from Home Depot and Lowe's stores and a community member.

Lamar's project used a carbon calculator to illustrate the impact their energy consumption-reducing actions could have on the school and was conducted by their Green Club, made up of 14 4th-graders.

"Lamar reduced energy consumption by recycling more, utilizing boxes created by

the Green Club, and only turning on one light switch in the class instead of two," said principal Brian Sparks.

Efforts will be expanded campuswide next school year.

Project sponsor was architect Hozefa Haidery and his associates from the Overland Partners Architecture firm.

The Green Schools Challenge is a partnership of the U. S. Green Building Council Central Texas Chapter and the National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA Program

It was launched this school year with grant support from the Edouard Foundation and Google.

Monetary awards to continue or expand on the winning projects are slated to be presented later this month.



Displaying their Go Green banners are the winning clubs. With the students (left photo, far left and right) are Hawthorne Academy principal Guadalupe "Pita" Rodriguez and librarian and club sponsor Bonnye Cavazos. Shown adjacent photo (far left and right) are Lamar ES 4th-grade teacher and club sponsor Adrianna Ernst and principal Brian Sparks.

Daktronics digital video scoreboard to light up Alamo Stadium

Game days will be even more fun for fans when play resumes at San Antonio's favorite legendary sporting venue.

Making its debut in time for the high school fall football season will be the Alamo Stadium's new Daktronics digital video scoreboard.

This dynamo, which recently was installed as part of SAISD Bond 2010, will enhance

the entire spectator experience through video replay of on-field action, as well as live shots of the sidelines, plus everything capturing the excitement of high school sports such as fans in the stands, cheerleaders, spirit groups, the bands and school mascots.

The camera work will be provided by SAISD media students who will roam the field and

stands in search of crowd-pleasing shots.

At approximately 44 feet wide by 24 feet tall, the video display is the largest in any San Antonio-area high school stadium and its size is comparable to that of many Division I universities.

For more on SAISD Bond 2010 visit: www.saisd.net.



Workers ensure a module is secure prior to its being hoisted by crane to the video display panel.



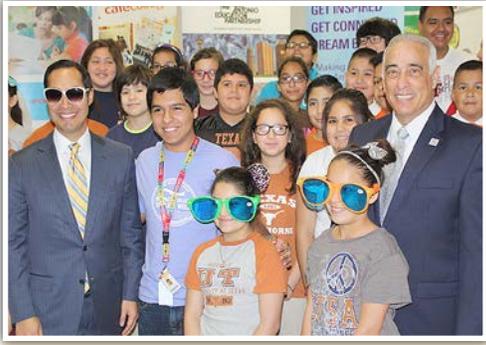
The crane then flies the module into place for the next stage of the installation process.



Upon arrival to its final destination, workers guide the module into the video display panel.

SAISD joins citywide Destination College Week celebrations

Students of all ages proclaimed their intentions of pursuing higher education through participating in a variety of activities designed to bring awareness to this important



Kicking off the day-one theme of "My Future's So Bright" are Briscoe ES students. Their school hosted Mayor Julián Castro (left) and SAISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvester Perez.

aspiration.

Each day during Destination College Week featured a different theme, starting with a call to wear sunglasses to express a bright future.

Hosting the week's kickoff was Briscoe ES. Later in the week SAISD's Sam Houston HS was in the spotlight as the site of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. There, education leaders and elected officials spoke at a panel discussion on strategies to improve educational outcomes for Latino students and the importance of college completion in today's economy.

Concluding activities included the annual Mayor's Signing Ceremony featuring first lady Michelle Obama, where SAISD seniors joined others from Bexar County at the University of Texas at San Antonio in publicly proclaiming



Dr. Sylvester Perez speaks at the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics

their college plans, while freshmen, sophomores and juniors attended workshops on leadership, applying for higher education and financial literacy during College Summit activities at San Antonio College.

Class of 2014 members look forward to exciting futures

As the end of another school year approaches, many SAISD graduating seniors have major cause to celebrate their accomplishments.

These include two from Highlands and Travis Early College high schools who have earned

full college funding through the Ph.D. level as Gates Millennium Scholars.

They are among 1,000 students nationwide to receive this funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

In another scholarship highlight, the

Highlands student, along with those from Edison, Jefferson and the Young Women's Leadership Academy, were awarded \$20,000 each through the Dell Foundation Scholars Program. Funding is provided by the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation.



Highlands HS Gates Scholar and Dell Foundation Scholar recipient Juan Urquilla plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin and major in biology in preparation of a career in gastroenterology. Shown with him (l to r) are principal Lorna Klockenga and counselor Berta Sanchez.



Travis Early College HS Gates Scholar Selena Portillo is considering either the University of Rochester or Texas A&M University and plans to major in neuroscience in preparation of a medical career. Shown with her (l to r) are counselor Rachel Bazan, assistant principal Melissa Leger, her nominating teacher Joseph Ostrowski and principal Miguel Elizondo.



Edison HS Dell Scholar Brandy Bazan plans to attend San Antonio College for her first two years and transfer to the University of Texas at San Antonio where she will major in psychology in preparation for a career in this field. Shown with her is principal Charles Muñoz.



Jefferson HS Dell Scholar Lesly Valdes plans to attend the University of Texas at San Antonio and major in biology in preparation for a career as a pediatric dentist. Shown with her (l to r) are lead counselor Nora Potthast and principal Orlando Vera.



YWLA Dell Scholar Thristian Lewis plans to attend the University of North Texas and major in accounting in preparation of first becoming an accountant and ultimately a chief financial officer. Shown with her is principal Delia McLerran.

UTHSC summer program provides SAISD students a jump start on medical careers

Again this summer SAISD freshmen will gain valuable learning experiences and financial rewards as Voelcker Scholars.

Six will be among 20 teens citywide participating in an intensive three-year program at the University of Texas Health Science Center's Voelcker Biomedical Research Academy.

The program is free and participants will receive an annual monetary award ranging in amount by year.

They and their schools are: Bryon Martinez, Edison; Andrew Kamali, Florencio Ontiveros

and Desiree Sharpe, Fox Tech and Alyssa Alonzo and Lea Morin, Young Women's Leadership Academy.

The students were selected after a rigorous application process that began last fall.

For the next three summers, they will work with research faculty at UTHSC using state-of-the-art technology and experimental design while learning about professional health careers in science and medicine.



Tune us in!

Find out more about some of SAISD's outstanding programs and offerings by catching videos airing on the public access education channel Saturdays at 2 p.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m.

Tune in through:

- AT&T U-verse Cable – Channel 99
- Grande Cable – Channel 21
- Time Warner Cable – Channel 98 (with cable box)

See these and others at our video library: www.saisd.net.



in the Spotlight

Mejor mariachis...

Taking high honors at the 15th-annual Texas State University Feria del Mariachi are Brackenridge HS senior Armando Herrera (adjacent photo, right) and the Irving MS mariachis. Armando placed first in violin overall for the event's inaugural All-State Mariachi. With him is renowned Mexico guitarist Rigoberto Alfaro, who served as a clinician. Irving placed second, as well best trumpets, in their competition category. Shown with them (far right photo, l to r) are director Cirilo Campos and principal Michael Jordan.



Courtesy photo



...and all that jazz!

Celebrating their first-place finishes among middle schools at both the St. Mary's University Fiesta Jazz Festival and the Palo Alto College Jazz Festival are members of the Irving jazz band. Shown with them (l to r, back row) are principal Michael Jordan, associate director Angel Flores, director of bands Gilbert Sanchez and jazz ensemble director Louis Romero.



This is only a test

Despite this scene's realistic appearance, Edison HS-area residents and passersby had no cause for alarm. Instead, the campus was the site of the Health Professions and Public Safety Magnet's second-annual mock mass casualty exercise during which students work with city first responders to test the skills they are learning in class. Joining them this year were students from Fox Tech's Law Professions Magnet, who held a mock hearing, and Brackenridge's Media Productions Magnet, who videotaped the exercise and will produce a video presentation. Student actors played mock victims. The drill was in partnership with the city of San Antonio's Fire and Police departments, Office of Emergency Management, EMS and San Antonio AirLIFE.

Nationally acclaimed Russian essayists

Proudly displaying medals and certificates earned for their performance on the National Russian Essay Contest are just some of the 40 award-winners from the Brackenridge HS World Languages Magnet program. In all, the Eagles took home one gold, six silver, 16 bronze and 17 honorable mentions. Contest sponsor is the American Council of Teachers of Russia. Shown with the students (l to r, far right, bottom row) are Jeanette Vasquez, interim principal, and Mary Bordes, magnet coordinator. Russian is one of six languages taught at Brackenridge through this program.



A certifiably satisfying farewell

Retiring Bonham Academy 3rd-grade teacher Marsha Samsel shows off her certificate as a 2014 semi-finalist for the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards. She also received one in 2010. Nominees are selected by H-E-B customers. The veteran teacher has served SAISD for 17 of her 21 years as an educator, 14 of which at Bonham. Offering their congratulations and best wishes on her retirement are her students and principal Will Webber.



Courtesy photo

Top Texas fundraisers

Joining representatives of organizations recently recognized at the Texas Education Foundation Network's annual conference (far left) is SAISD Foundation Executive Director Judy Geelhoed. There, she accepted TEFN's Outstanding Fundraising Program Award in recognition of the SAISD community's role in making the INSPIRE Awards a success. The SAISD Foundation was among four education foundations honored in a variety of categories for outstanding performance and received \$1,000 award.


San Antonio Independent School District
141 Lavaca St.
San Antonio, TX 78210
phone: 554-2250
fax: 299-5790
www.saisd.net

Board of Trustees
Ed Garza, President
Olga M. Hernandez, Vice President
Arthur V. Valdez, Secretary
James Howard, Assistant Secretary
Debra Guerrero, Trustee
Steve Lecholph, Trustee
Patti Radle, Trustee

Dr. Sylvester Perez, Superintendent

insider is produced by the **Communications Department**.
Leslie Price, Executive Director
René Lynn, Newsletter Coordinator
John Lawler, Photographer
Central Office Printing Services, Design and Layout

insider is the intellectual property of the San Antonio Independent School District. Content may be reproduced upon permission and with appropriate attribution.

The San Antonio Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law.

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de San Antonio no discrimina por motivos de raza, religión, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, o por cualquier otro motivo prohibido por la ley.