

September 25, 2009

## Outstanding students and alumni highlight 'History in the Making' campaign

Chief among the District's many points of pride during our more than a century of service to the Alamo City is our students. Both past and present, students have made - and are making - positive changes in the world and in their communities.

Ask most of them what was their first source of inspiration and what prepared them for success and they will point to their schools.

This correlation between what happens in SAISD's classrooms and the current and

future accomplishments of our students is the inspiration behind "History in the Making," the District's marketing campaign debuting this week.

"It's all part of our effort to create positive awareness of SAISD's rich history and promising future, in addition to the variety of programs and offerings that provide students with a breadth of choices for their education," said SAISD's Executive Director for Communications Leslie Price.

The first of several facets to debut are posters and advertisements featuring outstanding alumni paired with exceptional students who are seeking similar career goals.

In addition to being shown here, the ads will appear in community newspapers. Also, "History in the Making" posters will be ponied to schools next week for display at each campus.

Other ads and posters currently in the works will feature alumni including University of Texas at San Antonio President Dr. Ricardo

Romo and District 26 State Senator Leticia Van De Putte.

### Join us on Facebook!

As part of "History in the Making," SAISD now has its own Facebook page.

The new site offers students a place to post their own stories about preparing for college, careers and making a difference in their communities.

The site also is open to everyone who wants to be a part of this ground-breaking time in SAISD.

Page elements include:

- Photo albums of our campaign pieces and major Districtwide events.
- A link to our Web site for easy access to useful information on SAISD programs, superintendent's messages, a calendar of upcoming activities, and public engagement vehicles such as discussion boards.

Since Facebook is not available through District computers employees and students must access it from their PCs on their own time.

## HISTORY IN THE MAKING



**Mayor Julián Castro**  
Graduate of Jefferson High School  
Accomplished Community Leader



**Isaak Rose**  
Attending American Heritage Magnet at Poe MS  
Aspirations for Community Leadership

- Serving as San Antonio's mayor
- Founded his own law firm
- Became one of the youngest City Council members in history
- Completed Law Degree from Harvard University
- Graduated with honors from Stanford University
- Graduated from Jefferson High School



- Completed over 100 hours of community service in his 6th grade year through the Young Heroes program
- Campus leader and peer mediator
- Attended West Texas University Band Camp
- Loves music and writing
- Favorite subject is math
- Wants to serve the community in his professional life

How does the future look for your student?  
Looking at SAISD's prestigious graduates, we'd have to say "very promising."  
Today's SAISD traditional and specialized programs are designed to mold a student's potential into readiness for college, careers and beyond. In fact, SAISD has created this cycle of success for more than 100 years. That's why we like to say that what happens in SAISD classrooms is really History in the Making.

[www.saisd.net](http://www.saisd.net) • 210.554.2200

## HISTORY IN THE MAKING



**Bernard Harris**  
Graduate of Sam Houston High School  
Accomplished Scientist and Astronaut



**Solomon Wilson**  
Graduate of Technology Magnet at Rhodes MS  
Attending Science, Engineering & Technology Magnet at Highlands HS  
Aspirations for Career in Engineering or Science

- First African American to walk in space
- Became a clinical scientist for NASA
- Conducted science experiments in space
- Started programs that help people pursue their dreams
- Completed residency at Mayo Clinic
- Earned a Doctorate in Medicine degree from Texas Tech
- Graduated from Sam Houston High School



- In middle school, earned a spot on the student council and national honor society
- Involved in Peer Assistance Leadership and SAISD's "Eat Healthy" program
- Loves playing saxophone and piano and singing
- Favorite subject is math
- Wants to become a scientist or engineer

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## Grant to provide Upward Bound students a million reasons to succeed

Starting this fall 50 to 60 teens from Edison HS will get added assistance in their quest to be college-ready when they graduate.

As beneficiaries of a \$1 million grant San Antonio College received from the U.S. Department of Education, students participating in a four-year Upward Bound math and science project will be provided tutoring, mentoring and other assistance in helping them to achieve their dreams of higher education.

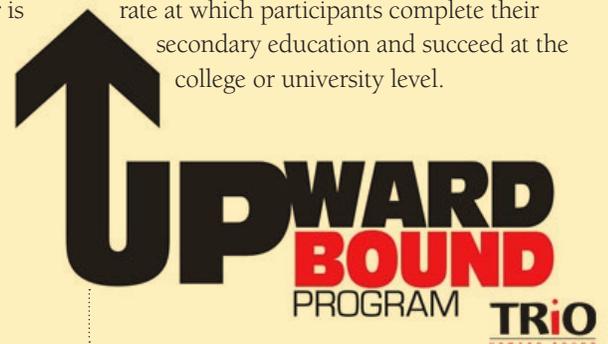
"We are very excited about this grant," said

Charles Muñoz, Edison HS principal.

"This will enhance what we have been doing at Edison. Our challenge this year is to counsel our students toward college readiness and this grant will assist us in this endeavor."

Aimed at boosting the academic skills of low-income, minority students, the funds also will be used to encourage and prepare them to seek careers in engineering, math, science, and technology.

Upward Bound is a Department of Education program designed to increase the rate at which participants complete their secondary education and succeed at the college or university level.

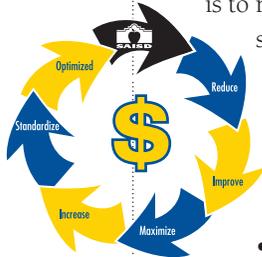


## Financial Forum

# Proposals on containing expenditures Districtwide

As we have discussed in previous columns, SAISD constantly is seeking ways to reduce spending in order to use resources and taxpayer dollars as efficiently as possible. In this the first "Financial Forum" for the 2009-10 school year, Steven J. Bassett, associate superintendent of financial services & business operations, provides a list of cost containment proposals based upon an Aug. 24 presentation he made to Trustees during the budget review process.

• **In-house printing.** SAISD pays a lot of money each year to outside vendors on projects for which we have the capacity to



print in house.

• **Office supplies.** The goal of this proposal is to reduce the millions of dollars spent, particularly on the variety of the same items purchased. For example, how many different types of calculators do we need? Consolidating these purchases can save thousands.

• **No more idling school buses.** Idling at extended stops not only burns up thousands of dollars in gas but harms the environment.

• **Energy managers.** Hiring managers to work with campuses and departments to cut and reduce energy also would be both cost

efficient and friendly on the environment. Utilities are our largest non-payroll expense.

• **Further cut department budgets.** In addition to a 10 percent cut made a few years ago, non-campus department budgets were reduced by more than \$1 million when compared to last year.

• **Improve ADA.** SAISD's average daily attendance percentage needs to increase for the mutual benefit of student learning and the District's bottom line!

• **Review facility rental rates.** A price increase may be in order because it's been a long time since rates were reviewed to ensure SAISD's cost for utilities, supplies, etc., are being covered.

## Schenck ES teacher earns National 'Y' Coaching License in soccer

While many of his students were enjoying a carefree summer vacation, Dennis Chavarria was spending some of his break learning news ways to make their PE time more fun and effective.

During his six days of participation in a rigorous program sponsored by the U.S. Soccer Federation, Chavarria underwent both classroom and field training in a curriculum specially designed for ages 4 to 12. Participants learned a holistic approach to PE instruction, ranging from classroom activities, discipline, games, and warm ups and cool downs for before and after physical activity. And as part of their professional development, the coaches were videotaped while working with youngsters and were provided pointers during later review with the program's instructors.

"I believe that professional development is very important to any program because the game of soccer, or any physical education class

is always changing," Chavarria said.

"Whenever I attend a conference I take back many new games or ideas to put in to place at my school."

Successful completion of the course also resulted in Chavarria being among a select few to earn a National "Y" (Youth) Coaching License in soccer, a popular past-time for his Schenck ES students, where he has taught all 18 years of his career in education.

Activities like soccer play an important role in a child's overall development, said his principal, Donna Finch.

"Rigorous exercise, and learning how to work with others in a team setting enhances cooperation, teaches effective communication, and fosters the development of leadership skills; all of which can be applied in the classroom setting," she explained.

"This course was a great experience because we learned so many games and strategies to

use with the elementary child," Chavarria said.



Rainy days this week may have forced their play indoors but failed to dampen the enthusiasm these Schenck ES soccer fans feel for their favorite sport. Tips coach Dennis Chavarria learned at a summer training session are helping to improve their game.



### 'Planning for Life'

Command Sgt. Major for the U.S. Army Reserves Michelle S. Jones (left) encourages Sam Houston HS students to set and achieve high goals for themselves, while one her colleagues (above) spots Brackenridge HS freshman Carlos Hernandez in doing set ups. Motivational speech and physical exercise are among the elements of the U.S. Army's "Planning for Life" training designed to prepare students academically, physically, emotionally and financially to further their education. Sessions also were held this week at Fox Tech and Highlands high schools.



### i Viva Nuestra Cultura!

And ¡Viva Zapata! as well, Julián Castro might agree. San Antonio's mayor and this leading figure in the Mexican Revolution (aka Twain MS 8th-grader Marcelo Castro, at right) were among celebrants at the school's National Hispanic Heritage Month festivities on Sept. 22. In addition to special guests Gen. Emiliano Zapata and the Alamo City *alcalde*, the program featured student performances by the advanced mariachi (above), advanced choir, band, the Latin Bearcats dancers and a reading from author Sandra Cisneros' coming-of-age novella "House on Mango Street." Providing the grand finale was the Edison HS mariachi, whose members include Twain alumni. Each year Twain hosts *i Viva Nuestra Cultura!* to honor the contributions of local Hispanic leaders.



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