

News Release

SAISD Foundation provides funding for nearly \$44,000 in grants for fall 2010 educational projects

SAN ANTONIO, Aug. 31 – The best and brightest educational innovations proposed by 17 individuals and teams of SAISD educators will become realities this fall, thanks to Excellence in Education Program grants. Recipients of a total of \$43,602 in grants were announced during an Aug. 31 news conference at Harris Middle School, 325 Pruitt Ave. Following the announcement, recipients learned of their selection from Foundation Trustees, alumni and local supporters during surprise visits to their classrooms.

"The awards represent the continuing commitment from the community to invest in SAISD students and teachers," said Carri Baker Wells, SAISD Foundation for Excellence in Education board chairman and chief operations officer for the San Antonio office of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP. "We fund these awards to help teachers engage students in learning so they'll continue to aspire for academic success."

Grants for the two SAISD District 6 schools will be given in honor of former Trustees who represented that area and who also served as Foundation board members. The Edison High School grant is in memory of State District Judge the Honorable Andy Mireles who passed away last December. Mireles resigned from the School Board in 1988 upon his election as judge of the Bexar County 73rd District Court. He was School Board secretary at the time of his resignation, and had served since 1984.

The Wilson Elementary grant honors his wife Margaret Mireles, who was scheduled to attend the news conference and to be part of the surprise patrol for both schools. The former School Board president who served 1994-98 also will be recognized for her tenure on the foundation board where she was an officer from its inception.

Since the fall of 2007 the SAISD Foundation has awarded \$389,990 for innovative grants and new teacher grants benefiting 35,671 students from 73 SAISD schools and departments.

Amounts provided to the award winners range from approximately \$1,000 to \$5,000 for the categories of classroom; grade level; and campus or groups of campuses. Recipients by project leader, school, projects and amount received are:

Academy

• M.L. King, Jacquelyn E. Ali — "Clicking for Success," \$1,435

Elementaries

- Bowden, Jessica Bellows "Solar System Unit," \$2,343.
- **Briscoe**, Renaii Ortiz "Exploring Math, Science and Reading Through Literacy Bags," \$1,250.
- Franklin, Matthew Treviño "Hear and Be Heard," \$1,500
- Gates, Jenna Ondrusek "Musical Styles and Keyboard Skills," \$948
- Miller, Jenna Ondrusek "Music History, Rhythm and Culture." \$749
- Riverside Park, Victoria Casillas "Virtual in Science Leaping Forward," \$1,915
- Stewart, Adrianna Segura "Tech Savvy Owls," \$382
- **Wilson,** Mary Margaret Acevedo "Life Cycles, Structures, and Processes throughout the Curriculum," \$2,818.
- Wilson, Yvette M. Cantu "Integrating Math and Science with Reading," \$2,537.
- Woodlawn, Melissa del Torre "Rising to the Top," \$2,363.

Middle schools

- Harris, Javier De Hoyos "Environmental Science: From Field to Lab for Life!" \$4,895
- Page, Jason Siptak "Vegetable to Market Entrepreneur Project," \$5,000

High schools

- Brackenridge, Ruben M. Pardo "Study of Human Systems Using Fetal Pigs," \$4,460
- Edison, Kathryn King "Bacteria Wars," \$4,339; and "Discovering DNA," \$3,428.
- Navarro, Terika Baker "CSI Project: Communicating Science Investigations," \$3,240