

June 3, 2009

SAISD Foundation for Excellence in Education funds nearly \$120,000 in grants for fall 2009



The best and brightest brainstorms thought up by 36 teams of District educators will become realities next school year.

Recipients of the latest Excellence in Education Program grants were

announced during a May 26 news conference at Highlands HS.

Funding for academic innovations to be implemented next school year is being provided by the SAISD Foundation for Excellence in Education, formed to finance innovative instructional activities to benefit the largest number of students possible. Amounts provided range from approximately \$1,000 to \$5,000 for the categories of classroom; grade level; campus or groups of campuses; subject area; and new teachers.

Recipients by project leader, projects and amount received are:

Academies

- * **Austin**, Paula Jarvis – “Setting the Stage for Success,” \$1,600.
- * **Barkley-Ruiz**, Sandra Casanova Medina – “U.S. History for the Visual/Kinesthetic Learner,” \$1,069.
- * **J.T. Brackenridge**, Kathleen McLaughlin-Velasquez – “Science Laboratory Setup,” \$5,000, and “Young Engineers Robotics Club,” \$3,999.
- * **M.L. King**, Jannara Johnson “Panther Beat News,” \$3,120.
- * **Pickett Academy**, Emily Blasé – “Enhancing Science Learning,” \$3,000.
- * **Whittier**, Shannon Thomas “Promoting Student Exploration and Creativity Through Time Lapse Photography,” \$2,500.

Elementaries

- * **Beacon Hill**, Lois Anders – “SMILE:

Science Method Integrated Learning Experiments,” \$4,925, and Dee Ann Schwan – “...And then there were six-Character Counts!” \$1,994.45.

- * **Brewer**, Susanne Larsen – “Executing Student Success at the Kindergarten Level,” \$2,660.55.
- * **Cotton**, Gilda Duffy – “Castle Resources for Knights and Ladies!” \$2,703.14
- * **Forbes**, Jilian Lipp – “FIRSTS - Forbes Initiative for Reaching Students Through Science,” \$1,917.95.
- * **Gates**, Charles Mullaney – “Keeping FIT Alive,” \$1,990.83 and Cledea Johnson Taylor – “Supermarket Science,” \$2,566.30.
- * **Herff**, Claudine Robinson – “Smart Start University - Year 2,” \$1,075.
- * **Highland Hills**, Marissa Marchan – “The Reading Railroad,” \$1,992.82.”
- * **Japhet**, Lisa Janaky – “Take-Home Literature Bags,” \$4,721.36.”
- * **Knox**, Patricia Johnson – “Insect Investigations,” \$5,000.”
- * **Margil**, Jannis Kopeck – “Project Xylo,” \$2,500.”
- * **Miller**, Tondra Williams – “Readers Forever,” \$1,502.70.
- * **Pershing**, Valerie De La Rosa – “Texas Bluebonnet Award Reading Incentive Program,” \$2,374.22, and Rebecca Palomo – “Birds, Butterflies, Barometers, and Beds-Oh My,” \$2,400.
- * **Smith**, Celeste Cadena – “Enriching Instruction Using Podcasts!” \$4,991.76, and Sarah Ford – “L.E.S.S. (Lab for Experiences in Social Solutions) = More Project,” \$3,287.14.

Middle schools

- * **Connell**, Troy Wilson – “Wilson’s Writers,” \$2,500.



Grant recipients representing elementary, middle and high school-level (center) with Superintendent Robert J. Durón and foundation board members John T. Montford and Carrie Baker Wells.

- * **Rhodes**, Caroline Gonzales – “CSI: San Antonio Science Discovery Fair Project,” \$2,643.69

High schools

- * **Brackenridge**, Stephanie Alleyn – “I CAN make ART,” \$1,981.02, and Sara Gonzalez – “Understanding Atomic Structure,” \$3,000.
- * **Edison**, Rhonda Fudge – “E-MC2: Engagement Means Creative Classrooms,” \$2,000 and Dawn Palmquist – “Go Green Campaign,” \$4,992.57.
- * **Highlands**, Mark Bindseil – “Vegetable Gardening for Humanity,” \$3,983.
- * **Jefferson**, Alma Mendoza – “Baby Think It Over,” \$3,916.55, and Billy Odam – “Enzymatic Degradation of Cellulose to Produce Cellulosic Ethanol,” \$2,700.
- * **Lanier**, Sadie Emery – “Human Body Systems Project,” \$4,678.20 and Edelia Lira – “West Side Story: Oral histories of San Antonio,” \$4,400.

Also

- * **The Bexar County Juvenile Detention Center**, Angelita Martinez – “Explore Fitness,” \$1,273.81.

SAISD welcomes three new Trustees; voters also return one incumbent to School Board

Residents of Trustee Districts 1, 4 and 7 have new representatives to serve them for the next four years, while supporters of **Carlos Villarreal** re-elected the District 3 incumbent to another term.



In District 1 **Rubén Cuero** replaces Angie Ruiz, who was appointed to the School Board in 2008 to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Julian Treviño upon his retirement. Cuero is a native of Colombia who immigrated to the United States in his youth. The independent small business consultant is the father of two daughters, the eldest of which attends Bonham Academy.



While new to the School Board, District 4 Trustee **Adela Segovia** is well-known throughout SAISD. The Fox Tech HS graduate is a community volunteer who has served on the District’s Parent Advisory Council, as president of the SAISD Council of PTAs, and as Area 7 vice president for the Texas PTA. She was one of four challengers for the place held by School Board Assistant Secretary Doug Sellers since 2004.

District 7’s new representative **Ed Garza** is a former San Antonio mayor and city councilmember. The Jefferson HS alumni



was one of two candidates for this district vacated by Eliseo Cadena who did not seek election. Cadena - a retired SAISD principal - was appointed in 2007 to fill the unexpired term of Justin Rodriguez upon his appointment to the San Antonio City Council.

The new members were sworn into office on May 14. During this special-called School Board meeting Trustees also approved retaining the current office holders, with District 6 representative **Olga Hernandez** elected to serve the vacant assistant secretary position.

In recognition of our 'Rising Stars'



A trio of new teachers is so outstanding they already are earning accolades in just their first year in the classroom. Comprising SAISD's inaugural assembly of "Rising Stars," their subjects and/or grades taught and schools are (shown from right)

Tausha Nickleberry, 4th, **Smith ES**; Ellen Barshop, 6th-grade science, **Connell MS**; and Edward Kinear, integrated physics and

chemistry, **Jefferson HS**.

They were among 47 nominees Districtwide who were honored during a May 28 ceremony at Jefferson HS.

Intended to be an annual event, "Rising Stars" was instituted by Superintendent Robert J. Durón to recognize exceptional new teachers for their dedication, initiative, and positive influence in SAISD schools and on students.

Nominees were selected by their principals based upon ability to demonstrate an exceptional understanding and implementation of best instructional practices, classroom management techniques, and professional collaboration. Recipients



were then rated on these accomplishments by a committee composed of campus principals and representatives from the professional learning and human resources departments. The top nominees from each school level were then selected by the superintendent for the highest honors. Each received an award and a voucher to purchase school supplies.

Awards and Honors



Lanier HS teacher Tamara Ford has been selected by the National Civic League as a 2009 MetLife Foundation Ambassadors in Education award winner.

The former police officer (shown with MetLife representative Michael Gonzalez) now heads the school's criminal justice vocational education program, and also organized their Police Explorer's troop through which more than 60 students lead safety seminars at area elementaries and conduct community service projects.

Ford was one of 25 recipients nationwide. In addition to the honor, she also received a \$5,000 grant for her school during a

May 20 ceremony.

The MetLife award was designed to recognize educators who also are outstanding citizens.

Jamie Ledford of **Green ES** has received the 2009 CREST award from the Texas

School Counselor Association. The award, which stands for Counselors Reinforcing Excellence for Students in Texas, recognizes outstanding counseling programs in 10

areas including major achievements, student results and community partnerships.



Autographing her very own first book "Deep in the Heart of High School" is



Franklin ES 4th-grade teacher Veronica Goldbach. The coming-of-age story follows three high school freshmen whose friendship helps them through this watershed time in their

lives. Awaiting her copy is Annie Noblen. The Arnold ES 5th-grader was among those attending book signing events at Barnes & Nobel and the Twig bookstores.

Centennial celebration



With a century of service to the community now behind, **Beacon Hill ES** already is looking forward to its next 50 years. During May 22 festivities marking the school's 100-year anniversary Principal Trace Mahbubani shows off a plaque for a time capsule scheduled for opening in 2059. Originally Roberts-Beacon Hill - named jointly for its neighborhood and former Texas Gov. O.M. Roberts - the school opened in 1908-09.

We are the champions!



The **Sam Houston HS** 2005 boys basketball team, coaches and family members celebrate the hoopsters' recently-declared state championship during May 22 festivities at the Alamo Convocation Center. The University Interscholastic League proclaimed the 2005 Hurricanes retroactive victors of the class 4A state championship game played that year against South Oak Cliff after forfeiting the Dallas school's entire season.



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