

Your Link To The News Within SAISD

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Superintendent's profile and application deadline set

The SAISD community now has a description of the type of person desired to next lead the District.

Trustees approved the profile for SAISD's 18th superintendent earlier this month based upon characteristics provided at public forums held throughout the fall.

Nationwide recruiting, conducted by PROACT Search, a group of more than 100 consultants with experience as educators, is now under way.

Desired qualifications include at least seven years of successful administrative experience, preferably as superintendent of a diverse pre-kinder-to-12 urban school district

Superintendent's profile highlights

The successful candidate will be expected to work cooperatively with Trustees and embrace the District's new mission statement:

"To transform SAISD into a national model urban school district where every child graduates and is educated so that he or she is prepared to be a contributing member of society."

Some other desired characteristics include the candidate being a:

• Strong instructional leader who puts children first,

holds high expectations for all students, parents, teachers, staff, and administrators, has a proven track record of increasing academic achievement, and promotes joy in teaching and learning.

- Strong communicator and relationship-builder who is confident, approachable, and humble, and who is highly visible on school campuses, in district departments, and in the community.
- Dynamic leader who can create a community view of SAISD as the most innovative, caring and high achieving district of choice for students and parents, and the employer of choice for the best and most competent educators.
- Transparent leader who inspires trust, listens to stakeholders, demonstrates honesty and fairness, and is clearly guided by a moral compass of observable core beliefs.

The successful candidate must also have:

- A clear, far-reaching vision for the leadership role of SAISD in moving the entire city of San Antonio forward and can develop a more highly-skilled workforce, partnering with others.
- Experience in helping district schools compete effectively with charter schools through more competitive curriculum and activity offerings, effective marketing, timely application/enrollment

procedures, flexibility and innovation.

- Success in getting parents more involved in their children's education, and success in making parents feel more welcome in schools and district
- Demonstrated success in the involvement of teachers in all levels of the decision-making

He or she must also:

- Clearly respect and embrace diversity and demonstrate the ability to interact effectively with diverse populations and community groups.
- Be politically aware and possess a proven track record of working effectively with elected officials at the city, state, and national levels.
- Possess excellent management skills, especially in budgeting, finance, and capital improvements.
- Hold self and others accountable for effectiveness and efficiency.

Qualified candidates are encouraged to apply by the deadline of Monday, Dec. 10.

For the complete profile and more information visit the Superintendent Search page at: www.saisd.net

YWLA celebrates opening of new computer lab

Students at San Antonio's only all-girls public school now are better equipped for college and the high-tech careers many will some day pursue.

Thanks to a new computer lab funded through a more than \$58,400 Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation grant, they are on the fast track to learning on state-of-the-art equipment.



YWLA students and principal Delia McLerran thank philanthropist Harvey E. Najim for his foundation's generosity.

The Young Women's Leadership Academy applied for a grant, which was awarded through the SAISD Foundation, at the suggestion of Harvey E. Najim.

His invitation was extended because he was so impressed with the school upon a visit there last year, said principal Delia McLerran, adding:

"The technology upgrades are just doing wonders for our young ladies, and we are very thrilled and grateful to Mr. Najim for this donation."

The Oct. 24 grand opening for the lab also offered an opportunity for the students to personally thank Najim.

The lab's 29 Dell computers and hardware and software will provide them with the most up-todate equipment upon which to produce a variety of projects and also will enhance their abilities to create more advanced work.

The new Adobe Creative Suite and Photoshop software programs installed in their new Dells will be a particular help in the production value of projects, and especially would have come in handy last school year when two students produced a short documentary about the historic Texas pecan sheller's strike of 1938.

Despite being recorded on their mobile phones and edited on home equipment, the documentary was good enough to qualify for a national competition this past summer.

Joining Najim, who is the executive chairman of Sirius Computer Solutions Inc., for the grand opening were some of the company's female executive leadership team members, who provided students with the benefit of their insights and

SAISD Foundation fall funding provides for school supplies

More than 100 new teachers representing 33 schools across all grade levels Districtwide and their nearly 7,000 students are able to become even more well-supplied for learning.

They were each the recipients of \$200 New Teacher Supply Grants from the SAISD Foundation presented during an Oct. 18 ceremony at Travis Early College HS.

Teachers requested funds to support everything from books to build classroom libraries (to support SAISD's Balanced Literacy

> Initiative) to supplies for science experiments.

To date the SAISD Foundation has funded 548 new teacher grants.



Joining the teacher recipients at the awards ceremony are SAISD Foundation Executive Director Judy Geelhoed (holding check, left) and (I to r, also holding check) Javier Leal and Jesse Hernandez, board members.

Herff ES library benefits from more than \$26,000 in grants

It's been a bountiful new school year for young book lovers at a near-downtown elementary.

They and their school library and classrooms are beneficiaries of four different grants, totaling more than \$26,000. In addition to enjoying the new books at school, students are given some of their very own at Herff's monthly Saturday Reading Program for grades pre-kinder to 2nd.

This active pursuit of literacy grants is part of principal Dr. Traci Smith's goal to instill a lifelong love of reading in her students at as early of an age as possible. A key component includes providing parents with the knowledge and skills needed to support this goal at home through training they receive during the Saturday sessions.

For this upcoming program on Oct. 27, Smith will read the humorous tale of "Amelia Bedelia" by Peggy Parish to 2nd-graders and lead them in some fun learning activities while their parents work with teachers on strategies.

"After learning the strategies, parents will practice them on their own child under teacher supervision so that teachers can observe and provide feedback to the parents.

"We know that application of skills leads to better learning. This is no different with adults, and we want to equip our parents with the best skills



Librarian Alma Mendiola (left) and principal Dr. Traci Smith hold some of the types of books that have been ordered through multiple grants.

possible to assist their children," Smith said.

Every Saturday program concludes with each child getting a copy of the featured book.

The grants are expected to fund at least 4,000 books this year: They and their amounts are: Snapdragon \$10,180.15; SAISD Foundation, \$10,000; Dollar General, \$4,000; and Target, \$2,000.

"With the \$10,000 from Snapdragon, the librarian purchased titles of all sorts to replenish our deteriorating collection in the library. With the others, I am purchasing books to use as themed literature studies on the Saturday events," Smith said.

"I looked for something fun that I could incorporate some lessons into, along with some fun activities, and also for books that were available in English and Spanish, preferably hardback."

Last spring the Herff library also benefited from a \$1,000 Beth Ann Rogers Literacy Initiative Grant.

Trio of social studies teachers earn Globey awards

Three outstanding educators have been recognized by the District for excellence in their field.

Recipients of 2012 Globey awards as the SAISD Social Studies Teachers of the Year are Carlos DeLeon, Burbank HS; Teresa Hulshof, Mavericks ES; and Elizabeth Noriega, Longfellow MS.

Their selections were announced at the 12th-annual SAISD Social Studies Conference held on Oct. 20.

Recipients are chosen based upon innovative teaching, campus special event coordination, workshop presentations, student participation in academic contests and professional organization membership.



Globey recipient Carlos
De Leon with Burbank HS
principal Ysenia Cordova.



Globey recipient Teresa Hulshof with Maverick ES principal Linda Nance.



Globey recipient Elizabeth Noriega with Longfellow MS principal Liz Solis.

College-prep opportunities abound



Time for higher education-bound SAISD students and their parents to mark their calenders for upcoming events specially-designed to help them make their dreams of college come true, and to help them explore and set goals for their future.

These include the District's College Night, presented in affiliation with the Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, and the CORE4 STEM Expo, sponsored by the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in partnership

with SAISD and other area school districts and entities

More than 500 District 7th- and 8th-graders interested in pursuing the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math and their parents are invited to explore higher education opportunities at this special three-day event.

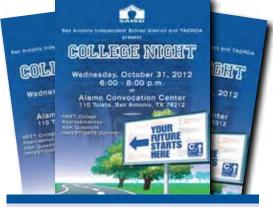
The first day will feature successful women in STEM careers who will share inspiring messages for female participants. Day two will provide boys opportunities to meet successful men in STEM careers with activities designed to help them visualize themselves in these fields. CORE4 will conclude Saturday with a college fair and STEM workshops.

Participating SAISD students will represent Davis, Irving, Rogers, Tafolla and Twain, the first of 11 middle schools to receive new SmartLab Learning Environments. Also, Page, whose students were selected based upon their participation in STEAM (science, technology, art and mathematics) in affiliation with Brackenridge HS.

Education rocks!

Burbank HS counselor Dr. Lawrence Scott motivates SAISD 8th-graders to be the miracle in their own lives. His remarks came during the Rock Your Future rally, during which he also performed the original rap song "I Can Be." In affiliation with GenTX San Antonio and others, the high-energy rally is among events promoting higher education designed for the District's class of 2017 through participation in the GEAR UP college-prep program.





SAISD College Night

Oct. 31 (Wed) - 6 to 8 to p.m. Alamo Convocation Center 110 Tuleta Drive

CORE4 STEM Expo

Nov. 8-9 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center
200 E. Market St.

Nov. 8 (Thurs) - Latina Day Keynote speakers Siobhain Anders Selena Garza WOAI-TV meteorologists

Nov. 9 (Fri) - Latino Day Keynote speaker Dr. Victor Saenz UT-Austin assistant professor

Nov. 10 (Sat) - College & Parent Day UTSA main campus One UTSA Circle Keynote speaker Jose Hernandez, astronaut



in the Spotlight



Make it \$7,525 and counting

That's the total thus far of money raised for WINGS, a local non-profit that provides health care treatment for those diagnosed with breast cancer. Lanier's was one of nine SAISD high school volleyball teams showing their support for this cause at the District's annual Dig for the Cure.



Happy haunting

Who you gonna call to help create your very own custom-built haunted house? Jefferson HS architect students, of course! Overseen by Architecture & Environmental Studies Magnet Coordinator David Garcia, 9th-graders Malerie Ruiz and Juan Tijerina put the final touches on a sample in preparation of this Saturday's free family workshop at the Pearl, where they and their classmates will help children make their own houses fit for ghosts and ghouls. The frightfully fun event will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the San Antonio Architecture Foundation.



OLLU bound?

Although they are still in high school, Young Women's Leadership Academy students (I to r) Tina Valdez, Kourtnee Baker and Asiah Puente already have earned \$5,000 scholarships to Our Lady of the Lake University. This amount automatically will be applied to



their financial aid package should they select this school. The scholarships were awarded during YWLA's recent trip to the OLLU-sponsored College Extravaganza. With them (second from left) is their proud college-bound adviser Rebecca Salazar.



Partners you can bank on

Showing their support for Highlands HS football (center) are Frost Bank representatives Jacob Cavazos and Donna Normandin. Again this year Frost is hosting tailgate parties prior to game kickoff for high schools participating in their bank academy program. Also cheering on the Owls (I to r) were drum major Phoenix Alfaro, principal Lorna Klokkenga and District 3 Trustee Debra Guerrero. The Sam Houston HS Hurricanes will be treated to a tailgate party on Nov. 8.



'Demonstrating' excellence in education

Longfellow MS and Jefferson HS recently were in the limelight when educators interested in Advancement Via Individual Determination visited their schools to learn more about the college-readiness program. Longfellow (photo left) hosted guests from Education Service Center Region 20-area schools including Highlands HS math teacher Debra Bernal, shown watching a student presentation.

At Jefferson (photo right), principal Joanne Cockrell welcomes educators from Florida, Minnesota, New Mexico, Washington and Washington, D.C. Last spring, the schools were named national demonstration sites in recognition of their successful use of AVID in preparing students for higher education.



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