

May 30, 2013

Trustees name interim superintendent lone finalist



Dr. Sylvester Perez
Interim Superintendent

Dr. Sylvester Perez, who has served as SAISD's interim superintendent since March 2012, has been chosen as the lone finalist for the job.

Trustees approved his selection at the May 20 School Board meeting. State law requires a 21-day waiting period after the finalist is chosen before a superintendent is

appointed and a contract executed.

"The Board has been very pleased with Dr. Perez's performance as interim superintendent and we believe he is the right person to continue leading this District forward and to help us progress to the next level," said School Board President Ed Garza.

Perez is an award-winning educator who

has held a variety of positions throughout his 40-year career.

"After more than a year of getting to know the larger SAISD community, including members within our District family and those outside, I can sincerely say it's a great honor to be selected as a finalist for the permanent superintendent," Perez said.

Campuses earn top rankings for high performance

SAISD schools are being recognized as among the nation's, state's and area's best.

Nine campuses earned accolades on two recently released lists, with two SAISD high schools being ranked on both. These include:

America's top high schools

On the national level, Burbank and Edison made Newsweek magazine's top 2,000.

They were among 16 in Bexar County included in the annual America's Top High Schools list which recognizes campuses proven to be the most effective in turning out college-ready graduates.

Click logo for the complete list:



Texas top middle school

San Antonio's only all-girls public school earned highest honors from a non-partisan research and advocacy organization.

The Houston-based Children at Risk has

named the Young Women's Leadership Academy Texas' best middle school.

YWLA placed first place in the state and for the greater San Antonio area of approximately 500 schools.

Greater San Antonio area top 10

Other District middle schools making the greater San Antonio area's top 10 include some perennially high performers. They are: Austin Academy, #5; Bonham Academy, #6; and Hawthorne Academy, #10.

In the elementary school category, SAISD's Lamar ranked #8.

Special honors

District high schools also placed high in new categories designed for campuses that serve a high concentration of economically disadvantaged students.

Ranked among the Shell Gold Ribbon High Schools for Math and Science are: Burbank, #2; and Edison, #3.

Placing among the Urban Comprehensive High Schools top 10 are: Burbank, #3; Brackenridge, #4; Edison, #5; and Jefferson, #7.

The rankings were announced May 20 at a news conference hosted by YWLA. For the complete list of area schools visit:

www.childrenatrisk.org



Celebrating some of SAISD's top schools are (l to r) Alexandro Flores, Austin Academy principal; Olga M. Hernandez, School Board secretary; Charles Muñoz, Edison HS principal; Ysenia Cordova, Burbank HS principal; Dr. Sylvester Perez, interim superintendent; Delia McLerran, YWLA principal; Ed Garza, School Board president; and Patti Radle, Trustee District 5.

Trinity fellowship program accepts six District teachers

A half dozen SAISD educators have been specially selected for a program designed to develop transformational leaders to serve East Side Promise Neighborhood schools and communities.

As participants in a 14-month fellowship with Trinity University, they have an opportunity to earn their master's of education in school leadership degree and certification as a Texas public school principal at a fraction of the regular cost.

They pay only \$12,000 of Trinity's

\$48,500 tuition. A Ewing Halsell Foundation fellowship contributes \$25,000 with Trinity providing an \$11,500 scholarship.

Participants will support their campuses by working with students 50 percent of the day with the remainder spent supporting their principals with data analysis, professional development for teachers and model teaching in classrooms.

Upon completion, they must serve an EPN campus or another SAISD school for four years or their scholarships will default to a

loan according to Trinity's guidelines.

Employment is funded through United Way and a Department of Education grant.

Participants and their current and 2013-14 assignments (respectively) are: Kamara Benavides, Wheatley MS - Tynan ECEC; Laura Christenberry, Brewer ES - Washington ES; Jennifer Emerson, Pershing ES - Pershing ES; Jayne Hoover, Hawthorne Academy - Bowden ES; Christa Maldonado, Burbank HS - Sam Houston HS; and Fabiola Valdez, Wheatley MS - Wheatley MS.

SAISD returns two Trustees and welcomes two new to Board

Incumbents Ed Garza and Debra Guerrero will continue serving their Districts 7 and 3, respectively, for another four years while Districts 1 and 4 now have new representatives through 2017.

Steve Lecholop, who was unopposed, replaces District 1 Trustee Rubén D. Cuero. The incumbent, first elected in 2009, chose not to run for re-election.

In the District 4 race, voters selected Arthur V.

Valdez. He was among four candidates for the seat including incumbent Adela R. Segovia, who also had served since 2009.



Incumbents Ed Garza and Debra Guerrero take the oath of office from Carmen Vázquez-González, executive director of Governmental & Community Relations.



New School Board members Arthur V. Valdez and Steve Lecholop assume their places at the Trustee table for the first time on May 20.



Outgoing Trustees Rubén D. Cuero and Adela R. Segovia receive plaques in honor of their service.

SAISD Foundation funds one of the largest amounts ever for Innovative Grants

The creative ideas of educators Districtwide will become realities next school year, thanks to funding for 39 projects from the SAISD Foundation.

Details were announced during a May 21 news conference at Briscoe ES, followed by surprise visits to the winners throughout the week.

The more than \$109,000 in funding was one of the largest amounts ever since the Excellence in Education grant program's inception nearly six years ago.

Grant recipients and their projects are:

Academies

- **Austin**, Melinda Barrera - "Language Arts and Fine Arts Integration."
- **Bonham**, Blanca Gebhart - "Kindergarten goes Digital."
- **Young Women's Leadership**, Regina Arzamendi - "Interior Design Club."

Early Childhood Education Center

- **Carvajal** (in partnership with Rhodes MS), Erica Hernandez - "Cruising in Education."

Elementaries

- **Ball**, Diana Peña - "Girls on the Run Club."
- **Ball**, Kimberly Salazar - "iClick."
- **Baskin**, Amber Austerman - "Oh Appy Writing."



- **Baskin**, Dale Mize - "Talking Drums."
- **Beacon Hill**, Katherine Sickle - "Math Mentoring - By the Kids, For the Kids."
- **Brewer**, Fatema Basrai - "Math and Literacy Engagement Project."
- **Briscoe**, Sarah Powell - "Let's Sketch Out the Future."
- **Douglass**, Derrick Brown - "Time Traveling through TEKS."
- **Douglass/Storm**, Brenda Duncan - "Musical Memories to Last a Lifetime!"
- **Herff**, Erica Flores - "TEKS Based Literacy Readers."
- **Hillcrest**, Julia Renner - "Bullying Prevention Project."
- **Hirsch**, Veronica Akar - "Firing Up Readers."
- **Hirsch**, Dona Casso - "Positive Behaviors = Positive Schools."
- **Hirsch**, Danielle Elizondo - "What's in a Word?"
- **Margil**, Lydia Devia - "Planting Science One Seed at a Time."
- **Maverick**, Susan Correa - "Learning with iPads."
- **Maverick**, Mary Ellen Ramon - "iPad Station: Inspire, Promote and Diversify Reading in the Library."
- **Riverside Park**, Victoria Casillas - "Building Physical, Social & Problem Solving Skills on 3 Wheels."
- **Riverside Park**, JoAnn Herrington - "Local News Sports, Health & Cuisine."
- **Rodriguez**, Katherine Marulanda - "CletoVision."

- **Rodriguez**, Logan Theodore - "CletoVision."
- **Storm**, Yvonne Vela - "Hands on Learning in Math."

Middle schools

- **Longfellow**, Pedro Rodriguez - "The Ultimate Response."
- **Rogers**, Jennifer Zinn - "Spellebrate with Scrabble."

High schools

- **Brackenridge**, Jacob Alonso - "United Nations."
- **Brackenridge**, Kenneth Davis - "Proficiency."
- **Burbank**, Christa Maldonado - "The AVID Advantage."
- **Burbank**, Dr. Lawrence Scott - "Studio Club (After School Initiative)."
- **Highlands**, Tracy Guadarrama - "Student Leadership Course."
- **Sam Houston**, Ernest Guerrero - "Photographic History."
- **Sam Houston**, Monique Whitfield - "Tap Dance Unit."
- **Jefferson**, David Garcia - "Making Magnificent Machines Fun with Math, Science and Engineering."
- **Jefferson**, Shelby Parker - "Landscape Design Start Up."
- **Lanier**, Ruth Penniston - "Checkmate to Victory!"
- **Travis ECHS**, Dawn Palmquist - "Do You See What I See? Because It's a Small, Small World!"



With the ceremonial check are (l to r) Dr. Sylvester Perez, interim superintendent, Carri Baker Wells and Bob Rivard, foundation board members, Carmen Vázquez-González, executive director of Governmental & Community Relations, Olga M. Hernandez, School Board secretary and Lanore Cantu, Briscoe ES principal. Shown back row are Javier Leal and Brandon Logan, foundation board members.

New District appointments and assignments announced *

Emilio Castro, teaching and learning deputy superintendent
Formerly: Lewisville ISD professional learning & leadership development director

High schools

Annette Castillo, Fox Tech HS principal
Formerly: GEAR UP2 project facilitator

Orlando Vera, Jefferson HS principal
Formerly: Travis ECHS principal

Middle school

Patricia Ortiz, Page MS principal
Formerly: Bonham Academy principal

Elementaries

Nicki Foley Demby, Miller ES principal
Formerly: Demby's Educational Consulting Firm (M.L. King Academy principal, 2008-12)

Darlene McAllister, Stewart ES principal
Formerly: Arnold ES assist. principal

Brian Sparks, Lamar ES principal
Formerly: Olmos ES (NEISD) assist. principal

Early childhood education centers

Lisa Frost Garcia, KNOX ECEC director
Formerly: Brewer ES assist. principal

Gregorio Velazquez Jr., Tynan ECEC director
Formerly: Bowden ES administrative assist.

* More appointments and assignments will be made throughout the summer.

Quality of budgeting earns encore honor

For the fourth year in a row, superior online financial transparency has garnered SAISD a gold award - the Texas Comptroller Leadership Circle's highest rating.

The District's Department of Finance qualified by scoring 19 out of 20 possible points for making the District's budget and other financial documents - as well as contact information - available online for easy accessibility to the public.

The Leadership Circle program was initiated in 2009 by the Comptroller of Public Accounts to recognize governments and entities such as SAISD for displaying a high level of online financial transparency.

Larry Garza is CFO of SAISD's business operations and food services.



Comptroller
Leadership
Circle Member



Mark your calendars!

Take note of this very important date and occasion and please don't miss the:

SAISD Convocation

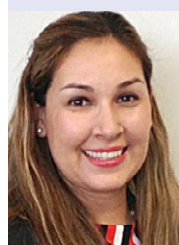
The morning of Aug. 23

AT&T Center, 1 AT&T Parkway

Details coming this summer

For Your Benefit

Meet Humana's new on-site account advisor



While new to her latest assignment, Tina Arrambide is far from a stranger to the District.

The new Humana on-site account advisor is a proud product of SAISD.

Prior to graduating from Brackenridge HS, Arrambide attended Davis MS and Hirsch ES. Her bachelor's degree in business administration/

human resource management was earned at the University of Texas at San Antonio. She also brings more than 10 years of experience in human resources including a strong professional background in employee benefits, where she led several employee wellness initiatives, events and trainings.

She can be reached at 554-8674 or at saisd@humana.com, the new Humana mailbox for SAISD inquiries.



Good bye for 2012-13!

This is the final regular edition of insider for the school year. The Communications Department appreciates everyone who has taken the time to share their news and photos with us.

Summer issues of insider will be published on an as-needed basis. In the meantime, we invite you to stay informed by following us on Facebook, Twitter and at www.saisd.net

Have a safe and happy summer!

HR kicks up 'Chicken Dance' recruitment drive

SAISD is hoping an innovative campaign combining the irresistible charm of children with a catchy classic will provide a leg up on the statewide competition for school bus drivers.

Coming soon to the airwaves are radio ads inspired by the Swiss-originated and now South Texas party-staple "Chicken Dance."

A handful of Hawthorne Academy students sing re-written lyrics to the beat of the oompah song for the 30-second spots. Providing accompaniment are the Irving MS mariachi and Twain MS mariachi teacher Frank Garcia, who plays the instrumental beat of the "Chicken Dance" on accordion.

The drive is led by Darlene Volz, the District's

administrative and classified officer for the department of human resources.

"I wanted to create a form of advertising that would draw attention to our critical need for bus drivers in a unique way and let the community know how rewarding and fun it is to be a school bus driver," Volz said.

The radio ads will play between June 3 and July 19 on two of San Antonio's most popular stations, KAJA-FM (country) and KXXM-FM (pop). They will also air on iHeartRadio.

To help promote the ad, the District's Department of Communications has produced a video ad that will air on SAISD's website, and on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.



Hawthorne Academy and Irving MS students take the mic at Clear Channel Studios for the production phase of the "Chicken Dance"-inspired recruitment spot for bus drivers. Accompanying on accordion is Twain MS mariachi teacher Frank Garcia.

Conexión's 20 under 20

Four outstanding SAISD teens are among 20 young adults citywide honored for excelling academically while making their schools, neighborhoods and San Antonio a better place to live.

All were selected for Conexión magazine's list of 20 under 20, which recognizes Latinos all younger than 20 who already have achieved impressive results.

They and their highlights include:

- **Brackenridge HS**, Michael Ytuarte – Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas junior advisory board member and a Minnie Stevens Piper Scholarship recipient. He plans to attend Texas A&M University in the fall and major in electrical engineering.
- **Burbank HS**, James Garza – A Boys and Girls Club volunteer and participant in the city's graffiti wipeout program. He plans to



Michael Ytuarte,
Brackenridge HS



James Garza,
Burbank HS



Guillermo Martinez,
Edison HS



Amanda Cantu,
Highlands HS

attend Kettering University and hopes to co-op with Toyota, which would mean travel between San Antonio and Flint, Mich.

• **Edison HS**, Guillermo Martinez – A Golden Boy on the Honey Bears spirit club uses dance to cheer others and volunteers at the city zoo and Methodist Hospital. He hopes to study dance and biology at

New York University or UT-Austin.

• **Highlands HS**, Amanda Cantu – Participates in community outreach through Inspiration 4 Life and her school's recycling efforts. She plans to major in biology at Trinity University and someday open her own medical practice on the South Side.



Second Eagle to 'JET' to Japan

Wishing Brackenridge HS junior Aaron Ramirez (holding his letter of acceptance) well on his trip to Japan are (l to r) mom Monica R. Ramirez, teacher Lisa Li, Mary Bordes, World Languages Magnet coordinator and Moises Ortiz, principal. The World Languages Magnet student's Japanese skills qualified him to spend part of July in that country through the JET Memorial Invitation Program. He was selected following a rigorous process that included his high performance on the National Japanese Exam, an essay on how he can be a bridge between America and Japan and an online video interview conducted in English and Japanese. Aaron's mom is a Harris MS secretary. His dad is Marco Ramirez. Last year Brackenridge class of 2012 grad Andrew Juarez also qualified for JET.



Sam Houston's future Ph.D.s

Gathering for their last meeting of 2012-13 with Talented Tenth Scholars San Antonio members are these young men from Sam Houston HS. They are participants in the Doctors Producing Doctors mentoring program, through which holders of doctoral degrees encourage the teens to earn their own Ph.D. by committing to follow them from freshmen in high school to graduate school. Among the topics discussed during their sessions include preparing for 21st century leadership, academic excellence and the importance of taking advanced courses. Many of the 18 TTSA members hold doctorates in education, including SAISD employees Dr. Mateen Diop (back row, far left), director of instructional technology and learning services and Dr. Lawrence Scott (front row, second from right), a Burbank HS counselor. Not shown is member Dr. Langston Williams, Davis MS part-time administrative assistant.