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## Tate a 2009 Trinity Prize nominee

A teacher described by her principal as exemplifying SAISD's purpose to "improve lives through a quality education" was selected to represent the District in the quest for one of Bexar County's most prestigious honors.

**Madison ES** 5th-grade science instructor **Maritha Tate** is the District's 2009 "Teacher of the Year." By virtue of this honor she was nominee for the "Trinity Prize for Excellence in Teaching Award."

While her students consistently score 80 percent or better on state assessments, "test scores are not what drive Mrs. Tate to excellence," principal **Barbara Black** wrote in her nomination letter. "She genuinely wants her students to succeed in life. She provides the kinds of experiences that will prepare them to be successful in high school and beyond."

Hands on learning, field trips and extracurricular activities are among the ways Tate makes science fun.

"Mrs. Tate has the commitment to all students, but takes extra time to ensure that those with the most challenges have opportunity to shine," Black wrote.

In addition to teaching, Tate has been a

representative for the Campus Leadership Team and PTA. She also has served as a 5th-grade academic coordinating teacher and as a mentor to teachers new to the field or grade level.

"Maritha Tate is a truly exceptional teacher," **William Vinal**, SAISD senior science coordinator, wrote in his nomination letter. "Her commitment to the education of San Antonio children is without equal and is exemplified by her strong dedication, work ethic, and constant striving for improvement in her skills."

For Tate, teaching is a calling.

"My greatest desire is to reach young minds and open them to all the possibility and opportunities that lie before them," she wrote. "To help children learn and grow is one of the most exciting adventures anyone can have."

A native of Hattiesburg, MS, Tate is a 1974 Lee High School (North East ISD) graduate who earned her bachelor's and

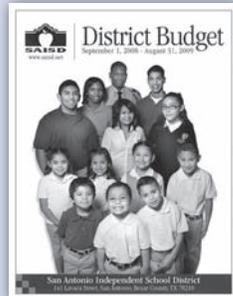
master's degrees from Austin College.

The 20-year veteran educator has taught at Madison since 1994.

"Teaching a child to be confident, independent, self reliant and excited about learning of the world around and how all the parts work together to make a whole is the greatest achievement to which anyone can aspire."



## District's 2008-09 budget book earns multiple awards



SAISD once again has been recognized for its quality of budgeting.

Honors recently received are the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award by the Government Finance

Officers Association of the United States and Canada, and the Meritorious Budget Award, bestowed by the Association of School Business Officials International.

The District is a four-time recipient of the GFOA award. Selection "reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the

highest principles of governmental budgeting," according to the association's criteria.

To be chosen, entities must satisfy nationally-recognized guidelines designed to assess how well their budget serves as a policy document, financial plan, guide for operations and communications device. GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving 17,500 government finance professionals.

This is the third time SAISD has received ASBO's Meritorious Budget Award for excellence in the preparation and issuance of a school system annual budget. To be considered for the award, candidates need to have met or exceeded ABSO's program criteria,

# Academies to help educators fuel their students' interest in science



While students are enjoying a leisurely summer vacation, some of their teachers will be in school, finding out new ways to make science lessons more exciting.

As participants in two different all-expenses-paid professional development programs courtesy of ExxonMobil, elementary-level educators - joined by science department teacher specialists - will

learn innovative hands-on projects designed to engage students in science at an early age.

Back at their home campuses, academy attendees also will serve as peer teachers, sharing what they have learned with their colleagues.

For the third year in a row, three teams of SAISD educators will participate in the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teacher's Academy. This program at the Woodland Resort and Conference Center in Houston will immerse teachers in inquiry-based instruction for both math

and science.

Participants selected for the June 21-26 Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy are:

**J.T. Brackenridge Academy** - Melody Cerna; Daisy Dockery; and Suzanne Mata.

**Cameron ES** - Natasha Jones; Patricia House; and Robert Mitchell.

**Smith ES** - Laura Martinez; Tausha Nickleberry; and Edyta Ellison.

Team leader is science teacher specialist **Kathy Torralva-Villa**.

This is the first year SAISD educators also will take part in the Sally Ride Teacher's Academy in San Diego, CA, which will focus on science careers and role models in those fields. The District was eligible to send two teams of teachers there based upon SAISD's participation in the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teacher's Academy for the past two years.

Participants for the July 27-30 Sally Ride Teachers Academy are:

**Cotton ES** - Sharon Martinez; Tamiko Matthews; Luz Perez, and CIC Rosa Acosta.

**Schenck ES** - Lisa Morales; Mayela Gonzalez; and Virginia Kelsey.

Team leader is science teacher specialist **Ann Hammonds**.



## Burns at Brackenridge

KLRN-TV's "Conversations" host Ron Sepulveda (left) interviews the Emmy award-winning Ken Burns. The program about the documentary filmmaker's latest project "The National Parks: America's Best Idea" was shot at **Brackenridge HS** and aired April 30 on the local PBS affiliate. During his visit, Burns also engaged Media Productions Magnet Program students in a Q&A session, and treated them to a screening. "The National Parks: America's Best Idea" is scheduled for airing on PBS this fall.



## Regal reward

High-fiving King Antonio LXXXVII in appreciation of his gift to her school is teacher **Diane Sosa**. The \$1,000 check and visit by his royal highness was in honor of **Hawthorne Academy** 5th-grader Olivia Vargas (right) winning grand prize in the annual Texas Cavalier's art contest. Her colorful depiction of mariachis on a bridge overlooking the River Parade was selected to adorn Fiesta program covers.



**Financial Forum**

**Answering the critics of school district administration**

This issue's column is based upon a report addressing common misconceptions regarding the number of administrators school systems require to operate efficiently.

The 2008 Education Research Service report titled "Answering the Critics of School Administration: What are the Facts?" found that data does not support contentions that school administrations are too large.

We took a look at some of the questions the report reviewed, and answered with current SAISD information.

**Are there too many administrators?**

SAISD's ratio of employees to executives is 20 to 1. This compares to the 15.2 to 1 national average for K-12 school systems, according to Bureau of Labor statistics.

As a further comparison, the national average for the private sector ranges from a high of 11.7 to 1 to a low of 3.6 to 1.

As the statistics show, SAISD is not

top-heavy.

**Are school administrators paid too much?**

General concession is that teacher salaries are too low compared to other professions requiring similar training. But do school administrator salaries contribute to this discrepancy?

One way to address this question is to compare salaries paid to supervisors with those they supervise.

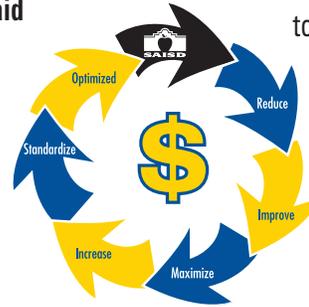
In SAISD the ratio of administrative salaries to teachers is significantly less than similar comparisons in both education and other fields.

**Are increasing amounts of school budget going to administration?**

Over the past five years the percentage

allocated and spent in general administration has decreased from 2.7 to 2.4 percent of the overall school district budget.

During this time spending for instructional and school leadership and student support services have increased.



**Is a lot of money going to administration that could be better spent for other purposes?**

The District's general administration represents 2.4 percent - just over \$11 million of the overall budget.

While SAISD continues to cut this and other expenses, all of the general administration functions are essential to operations and/or mandated by the Texas Education Agency.

**A dozen candidates vie for four School Board seats**



Voters in SAISD Trustee Districts 1, 3, 4 and 7 are going to the polls to select their representative for the next four years. Candidates

and occupations listed on their candidacy forms are:

**District 1**

Incumbent **Angie Ruiz** is a retired federal civil service employee who was appointed to the School Board in 2008 to fill the unexpired term of **Dr. Julian Treviño** upon his retirement.

**Ruben Cuero** is a management consultant.

**District 3**

Incumbent and School Board Vice President **Carlos Villarreal** is a retired SAISD employee who was elected in 2004.

**Rachel Cywinski** is an educator.

**Roger Perales Sr.** is retired.

**District 4**

Incumbent and School Board Assistant Secretary **Doug Sellers** works in sales, and was elected in 2004.

**Jesse Acosta** is a teacher.

**Alejandrina Garcia** is retired.

**Andro Herrera-Mendoza** is a faculty/instructor.

**Adela Segovia** is a community volunteer.

**District 7**

**Edward Garza** is a principal of AECOM, a global planning, design, and management firm.

**Michael Soto** is a college professor.

School Board District 7 incumbent **Eliseo Cadena** is not seeking election. He was appointed in 2007 to fill the unexpired term of **Justin Rodriguez** upon his appointment to the San Antonio City Council.

**Election Day May 9**

For voting information visit: <http://apps.bexar.org/cfdocs/electionspublic/wherelvotefcfm>.

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**Award -winning District budget book**

which is focused on skills in developing, analyzing and presenting a budget.

The District's 2008-09 budget book was prepared under the guidance of **Steve Bassett**, associate superintendent of

finance, with the assistance of **Julie Novak**, planning & budget director and her staff.

The 450-page volume contains not only the official budget but also background and summary materials, presented through

narratives, and colorful charts and graphs to increase comprehension. It is available online at: [www.saisd.net/ADMIN/budget/index.shtm](http://www.saisd.net/ADMIN/budget/index.shtm).



## Contributing to the 'Cure'

With nearly 800 members strong, Team SAISD gathers outside the Alamodome in preparation of the annual Komen Race for the Cure. For the second consecutive year the District comprised the city's largest contingent of participants. The SAISD employees were among an estimated 30,000 walkers and runners contributing to the cause for breast cancer research. In recognition of the District's momentous commitment, Superintendent **Dr. Robert J. Durón** (center) was invited to address participants during the pre-race program.

## For Your Benefit

# Have a healthy pregnancy, healthy baby through Humana Beginnings program



While anticipating the arrival of that bundle of joy can be a very special and exciting time, it also can bring about uncertainties for expectant parents seeking support services and the most reliable information.

That's why we are pleased to offer Humana Beginnings, a free program dedicated to helping members achieve their goal of a healthy baby.

### What does the program offer?

- Phone calls from a Humana Beginnings prenatal registered nurse to guide members through key points

during pregnancy.

- Humana Beginnings registered nurses available by phone whenever members have questions or need support.
- Three newsletters detailing each stage of pregnancy, along with a reputable pregnancy and parenting book and DVDs.

### What is the program's focus?

Offered as an additional resource to prenatal care from your doctor or midwife, the program:

- Helps women evaluate their health behaviors, especially related to their pregnancies
- Supports their efforts to prevent

complications

- Maintains healthy behaviors during pregnancy
- Manages unexpected events or difficulties.

### How do I enroll or obtain more information?

- Call toll free **1-888-847-9960** Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Or, visit [www.humana.com](http://www.humana.com).
- Log on to myHumana
- Select Health resources (tab on top navigation bar)
- Choose "Health Programs"
- Select "Pregnancy"



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