

January 28, 2011

Grants guarantee that students are well supplied for learning

New SAISD teachers representing 55 schools across all grade levels and their students are starting off the second semester of the 2010-11 school year with cause for celebration.

During a Jan. 24 ceremony at Fox Tech HS, 157 each received \$200 in grants to purchase school supplies.

The funding is courtesy of the SAISD Foundation. Since 2007 this organization has awarded \$410,390 through the Excellence in Education Innovative Grants Program



Congratulating grant recipients are Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Durón, and SAISD Foundation Board Chairman Carrie Baker Wells.

and the New Teacher Supply Grants benefiting 42,491 students.

This round was given to honor John T. Montford who initiated the New Teacher Supply Grant Program, and to recognize his work as past foundation chairman and for his advocacy for education.



'Teach Me SAISD' premiere worthy an Oscar gala event

For the third consecutive year tomorrow's stars came out to shine when videos created by student directors, producers, artists, and actors made their public debut in a true Hollywood-style venue.

Following their Jan. 21 premiere to a live audience including parents and District leaders, the 30-, 45- and 60-second "Teach Me SAISD" videos will be shown on social networking sites to recruit prospective teachers worldwide.

"The products not only provide SAISD

with a valuable tool for recruiting new teachers, but students gain real-life experiences and skills they can use when they go to college and pursue their future filmmaker, producer, director, editor, and media careers," said Suzanne Norton, department of human resources administrative officer.

"These students began the project in September of this year and have been working hard to meet the deadlines demanded of the project."

The marketing pieces were produced by

media technology II students from Brackenridge, Sam Houston and Jefferson high schools.

"We wanted to recognize their talent, hard work and creativity by providing them with a film festival premiere in which to showcase their productions.

"And we wanted to make it as much like a Hollywood red-carpet ceremony as possible," Norton said.



Brackenridge HS
Teacher Jorge Hernandez



Jefferson HS
Teacher Adam Rocha



Sam Houston HS
Teacher Michael Melvin (not shown)

Courtesy photos

Sam Houston HS to host South Texas' first New Tech program

This fall approximately 250 students Districtwide will have the distinction of piloting a cutting-edge educational venture designed to prepare them for high-tech careers.

In partnership with the New Technology Network, Sam Houston HS will be the first South Texas campus to offer the nationally-recognized New Tech program.

"This is an exciting opportunity to develop technology-savvy students while preparing them well for higher education and the workforce in the 21st century," said Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Durón.

"We are excited to bring this innovative program to San Antonio."

Trustees approved a two-year contract with the New Technology Network at the Jan. 18 School Board meeting.

The New Tech program will operate at Sam Houston as a school-within-a-school, and will be open to all students across the District. Internal charter status also is being considered so that it could be open to students throughout Bexar County.



Teacher Tyler Nichols assists Manufacturing, Technology and Engineering students at Sam Houston HS. This fall the New Tech program joins the MET there as among SAISD's many instructional innovations offering parents true choice in selecting the type of academic environment that best fits their child's unique interests and learning style.



Funding will be provided through the \$4.6 million Texas Title I Priority Schools Grant Sam Houston received earlier this year.

Sam Houston will be one of 62 New Tech schools nationwide offering the program distinguished by a one-to-one student-to-computer ratio, and project-based curriculum that makes learning relevant as

teens address a specific real-world issue or challenge.

While using 21st century technology tools and the critical and creative thinking abilities required to solve complex problems, students will learn how to collaborate, communicate and access information - skills that can be applied to college and the professional workforce.

Vote for the 2011-12 calendar

SAISD employees and community members have the opportunity to choose their favorite of two draft instructional calendars for next school year.

Both draft A and B call for an Aug. 22 first day of school, 177 teaching days, 10 staff development days, a full-week Thanksgiving break, a Dec. 19-Jan. 2 winter break, Jan. 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, March 12-16 spring break, holidays for Good Friday, Battle of Flowers and Memorial Day, a June 6 last day of school for students and a June 7 teacher last day/bad weather makeup day.

Under draft A the teacher start day would be Aug. 15, compared to draft B's Aug. 12.

Other differences include holidays. Veterans Day would be a holiday under draft A, while draft B holidays would include Columbus Day and Presidents Day (unless needed as a bad weather makeup day).

The deadline to vote is Wednesday, Feb. 9.

Employees may vote at: https://dw.saisd.net/iPoll/Home_Page.aspx.

For community members visit: <http://intouch.saisd.net/itech/mod/questionnaire/view.php?id=1681>.

The draft receiving the most votes will be presented to School Board members for their consideration.



Partners for education funding

Deputy Superintendent Betty Burks addresses participants at a Jan. 21 joint press conference hosted by SAISD and District 123 State Rep. Mike Villarreal (right) at Brackenridge HS. The topic was "Local Leaders Respond to Texas House Budget Proposal. State Must Invest in Education Despite Revenue Shortfall." Villarreal provided a preliminary analysis of the impact proposed cuts to public and higher education funding in San Antonio would have on school children and college students. The lawmaker also offered alternative approaches to the state budget crisis that would allow Texas to continue to invest in an educated workforce and our state's future prosperity. Last week House Republican leaders introduced a two-year budget that would slash \$31.1 billion including cutting nearly one-quarter of funding for public education. To view the base appropriations bills visit: http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Bill_82/1_Recommend/Bill-82-1_House_Recommend.pdf.

State funding crisis meeting

The community is invited to hear an update on how the Texas budget shortfall could impact SAISD:

Feb. 9 (Wed) - 6 p.m.
Alamo Convocation Center
110 Tuleta Drive

SAISD's Associate Superintendent for Finance Steven Bassett also will provide an overview of how the state's funding crisis originated.

Citizens' Oversight Committee named to monitor SAISD Bond 2010

District residents and at-large business and community organization representatives have been appointed to oversee progress on the Districtwide building improvement program.

The 24-member group and eight alternates (in the event a vacancy occurs) were appointed by Trustees during the Jan. 18 School Board meeting.

They were selected by each of the seven Trustees and Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Durón from a pool of applicants, and reflect diverse business and community backgrounds.

COC members

District 1

Steve Lecholop – attorney

Richard Moore – architect

Nellie Gomez Shannon – TXDOT engineer

Alternate

Hong Deng – President/CEO of Feditc LLC Inc.

District 2

Herbert L. Brewer – retired SAISD facilities planning and construction director

Nettie Patricia Hinton – San Antonio Branch of the NAACP education committee member

Linda Jackson – Eastwood Village Neighborhood Association president

Alternate

John M. Wilkins – Bowden ES teacher

District 3

Lillian M. Jones-McPherson – retired

Paul Anthony Lombrano – CPS Energy supervisor

Amy Middleton – CAS Consulting and Services Inc. engineer associate

Alternate

Mary McNaughton – San Antonio Fighting Back youth services director

District 4

Jose R. Limon – project manager private consultant

Elizabeth Riojas – District 5 City Council aide

Cynthia Rodriguez – retired

Alternate

Henry Yzaguirre – South San ISD school administrator

District 5

Martin Marin – Generations Federal Credit Union records specialist

Addison Quiroga – University of the Incarnate Word student

Doug Sellers – former SAISD Trustee, and 1997 bond COC member

Alternate

Armando C. Cadena – SAISD transportation route supervisor

District 6

Louis Benavides – teacher

Anthony Herrera – parent/volunteer

Rachel Ponce – retired

Alternate

Paul Talamantez – Attorney and former SAISD School Board member

District 7

Josette Gonzalez – Keller Williams Realty San Antonio historic homes specialist

Celina Peña – ACCION Texas Louisiana vice president. Also co-chaired the 2010 bond planning committee.

Randy Sanchez – Jefferson United Futbol Club co-founder/general manager

Alternate

Ferne Burney – Monticello Park Neighborhood Association president

Superintendent's at-large nominees

David M. Adelman – Cross & Co. principal commercial real estate

Mario Barrera – Bracewell and Giuliani attorney/partner, and SAISD Foundation board member

William (Bill) Reynolds – H-E-B group vice president-facility alliance

Alternate

Alva-Alicia Cardenas – Bonham Academy parent

First COC meeting

Feb. 2 (Wed) - 6 p.m.

Central Office Board Room, 141 Lavaca St.

This will be an organizational meeting at which members will elect officers and draw for lengths of terms varying from 12 months, 18 months or two years.



Living the legacy

Page MS principal Lemelle Taylor holds the solid bronze bust she received as the 2011 Martin Luther King Jr. Distinguished Achievement Award recipient. The 25-year SAISD veteran was nominated for her work in the field of education and in the community through her church, Chosen Generation Baptist Church. The honor recognizes a Bexar County resident whose life embodies Dr. King's legacy through commitment to education, human rights, and economic well-being for all citizens.



in the Spotlight



Courtesy photo

'Teaming Up' for the Secret Garden

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich and guard Gary Neal assist Bonham Academy dual language kinder and 4th-graders in restoring a garden where the older students will read books about the environment and community service to their younger buddies. The visit was in honor of Bonham being one of 20-area Team Up Challenge schools sponsored by the Spurs Sports & Entertainment Charities. Each received \$2,500 in seed money for service learning projects.



Courtesy photo

Picture perfect architecture

Posing with their winning photographs are Jefferson HS sophomore Dylan Garcia and Longfellow MS 8th-grader Autumn Oliva. They each placed first in their category with photos of Jefferson in the smARTCHITECTURE competition. Students from Wheatley MS also competed in this contest showcasing the architecture of historic SAISD schools. With the winners are (l to r) contest organization sponsors SMART Director Yvette Benavides, Architecture Foundation of San Antonio representative Debbie Hutchenson and SMART executive director Andy Benavides. Other sponsors were SAISD, the SAISD Foundation, and the Southwest School of Art.



Honoring Maverick's namesake

The Maverick ES choir and principal Linda Nance (right) are special guests for the unveiling of the Sunshine Ranch historical marker at Morningside Manor. In addition to bearing the name of the original owner Samuel A. Maverick, the school also is on the former ranch land that his descendants donated for the campus. Choir director (left) is Dora Sauseda.

All in the (SAISD) Family!

Since 1961 there has been a member of the George Hinojosa family in SAISD. And if that trend continues, it is slated to extend through at least 2023 when its youngest member is targeted to graduate from Highlands HS. This prospective six-decade legacy all began when George Sr. entered Stewart ES, advancing to Jefferson Davis JHS (now S.J. Davis MS), and onto Sam Houston HS where he was in the class of 1973. He returned to SAISD in 1988, serving the District's Police Department until his retirement in 2010. During this time he and wife Lydia were raising SAISD's next generation. In addition to her PTA work, mom became a daily school volunteer and both parents were Band Boosters members for each of their four boys.

The year following eldest son George Jr.'s 1995 graduation from Highlands HS, mom entered the SAISD workforce as a substitute teacher, retiring in 2007. Meanwhile, three more sons would go on to graduate as Owls: Juan, 2001; Martin, 2008, and Hilario, 2010. Currently, George Jr. and his wife Mayra are director of bands and band director (respectively) at Connell MS. Juan is a Jefferson HS special education teacher, and father of Juan Jr., a Highland Hills ES kindergartener.

Hilario and Martin attend Texas A&M University, and both plan to return to SAISD as teachers. Hilario, a biology major, would like to teach science, while Martin aspires to teach his college major, technology/theatre arts. In addition to making SAISD their work-place home, all remain residents. "I think we chose SAISD because this is where we all came from and wanted to give back for what we all received from the District," George Jr. explained.



Courtesy photo



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insider is produced by the **Communications Department**.
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