



San Antonio Regional Public
PK-12 Education Forum IV
Presented by  **Report**



SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL PUBLIC PK-12 EDUCATION FORUM



2018 SA Regional PK-12 Public Education Forum Speakers and Panelists
Photo: The Rivard Report

It's hard to believe that today marks the fourth consecutive year the *Rivard Report* has organized and presented the San Antonio Regional PK-12 Public Education Forum. This will be the second consecutive year our keynote speaker and panelists focus on early childhood education, while our morning program was dedicated to the Alamo Promise. Stay tuned for plans to expand the education forum next year to include an early evening event, a *Rivard Report* tribute to great teachers that will mix much-deserved recognition with a fun hour of socializing and learning.

Each year, it seems, there is greater demand for increased education coverage and more frequent and expanded civic engagement events promoting better public education outcomes in Bexar County. We strive to do our best to meet community demand and expectations, and we thank all the many educators, community partners and sponsors who help us along the way.

The first San Antonio Regional PK-12 Public Education Forum was staged at San Antonio's historic Pearl Stable in 2016. Retired energy executive and philanthropist, Michael Burke, conceived the idea of bringing together elected state and local officials with leaders in the Bexar County public school and education community, including district and public charter leaders and education nonprofit executives, to explore ways to inspire greater community support for improved public education outcomes. The San Antonio Area Foundation and the *Rivard Report* worked together with Burke to make this first forum a success. More than 40 area education nonprofit leaders have participated each year in the planning of the education forum since its inception, and more than \$120,000 in net proceeds have been distributed to area education institutions and nonprofits over the forum's first two years.

The *Rivard Report* has served as the organizing nonprofit since the second year, and Editor & Publisher Robert Rivard has served as the event moderator and emcee each year. In 2017, the Education Champion award was created and first presented to Burke in recognition of his efforts to create the Education Forum and to recognize the philanthropic contributions that Michael and Louise Burke have made and continue to make in the education sector. Last year, the award was presented to Charles Butt, Chairman and CEO of H-E-B, who is widely recognized as the leading individual philanthropic supporter of public schools, school leaders, and teachers in Texas. Butt has been the principal supporter of Raise Your Hand Texas and is the founder and funder of the Holdsworth Center, started with his initial \$100 million gift in 2017. Who is this year's Education Champion? All we can report on deadline is that five very worthy finalists are showcased in this program. They are all winners, but only one can be celebrated today. That leaves us lots of community talent and leadership for consideration in the years to come.

Each year, we bring education experts from near and far together on stage to explore the most relevant issues and challenges of the day. Today will be no different. We have an exciting program in store for you. Thank you for your support, for your attendance, your heart for education, and for your readership and support of the *Rivard Report*.

FORUM AGENDA

PK-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION FORUM IV

April 2, 2019 at the Mays Family Center, The Witte Museum

EXHIBITS

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

REGISTRATION

10:00 am – 11:15 am

11:15 am All Audience Seated

PROGRAM

11:30 am – 1:30 pm

11:30 am Kickoff Speaker: **Sheryl Sculley** – San Antonio City Manager

11:45 am Keynote: Dr. **Robert Pianta** – Early Childhood Expert, University of Virginia

12:00 pm Education Champion Award Presentation:
Presenter, **Michael Burke** – Founder, SA Regional PK-12 Public Education Forum

Moderator: **Robert Rivard** – The Rivard Report

12:00 pm Panel Discussion Begins

1:30 pm Adjourn, 2:00 pm Exhibits Close

Dr. Robert Pianta
Early Childhood Expert,
University of Virginia

Rolando Toscano
Superintendent,
East Central ISD

PANELISTS

Kasi McCormick
Vice President, Grants
United Way of San Antonio
& Bexar County

Dr. Libby Cohen
Director of Advocacy and
Outreach, Raise Your Hand Texas

Dr. Sarah Baray
CEO,
Pre-K 4 SA

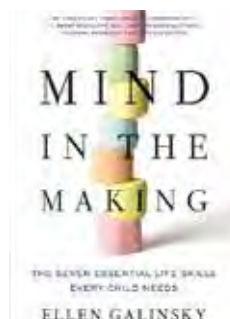
ATTENDEES

700 concerned citizens and dedicated, energized leaders of our region

As a token of appreciation to each of our Education Forum Program participants we will donate each of these five-star books (a total of 40) to a library of their choice.



The Power of Play
David Elkind, Ph.D.



Mind in the Making
Ellen Galinsky



Goodnight Moon
Margaret Wise Brown

LEADERSHIP LEVEL SPONSORS



San Antonio Area Foundation
Where Giving and Community Connect



Pre-K14SA

Early Inspiration. Future Success.

GreatHearts®

CLASSICAL EDUCATION. REVOLUTIONARY SCHOOLS.



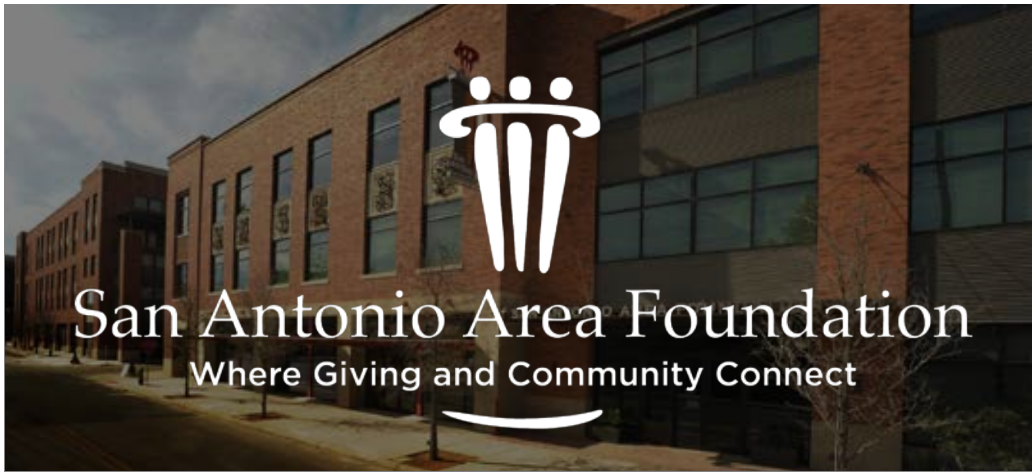
Apply at
GreatHeartsAmerica.org



Tuition-Free Classical Liberal Arts Education



- Great Hearts Forest Heights K-6
- Great Hearts Western Hills K-6
- Great Hearts Northern Oaks K-11
- Great Hearts Monte Vista South K-5
- Great Hearts Monte Vista North 6-12



2018

\$4.8M+
IN SCHOLARSHIPS

748
SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS

+100
DONOR
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

\$635K
IN HIGH SCHOOL
COMPLETION GRANTS
INCLUDES MULTI YEAR GRANTS

\$215K
OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME
PROGRAMS

The San Antonio Area Foundation understands impact. The community foundation helps people make meaningful gifts that will have a long-lasting impact on the quality of life in San Antonio. Together with our donors, the San Antonio Area Foundation helps local nonprofits strengthen their mission, leads the way on several key community issues, and creates change through grants and scholarships.

One key impact area is the education of today's students. Donors at the San Antonio Area Foundation believe that the future success of our community rests in the hands of today's students and that success is greatly enhanced by a quality education. That's why donors have established more than 100 scholarship funds for graduating high school and current college students to ensure educational dreams and goals are not hindered nor altered due to financial concerns.

In 2018 alone, 748 students received scholarships totaling more than \$4.8 million. In addition, the Area Foundation began the College Success Program to help renewable scholarship recipients complete their education on time. The College Success Program includes emergency assistance grants, an annual scholarship event, a texting system to remind students of upcoming deadlines, on-campus meet and greets, and other valuable information.

The Area Foundation also focuses on high school completion, another key community initiative, to ensure students are equipped and empowered for graduation. The Area Foundation does this by awarding grants to nonprofit organizations that provide out-of-school programs to Bexar County students in third through ninth grade. In addition to grants, the Area Foundation provides resources and leadership to help make these programs high quality and high impact. Other key impact areas include training and development for area nonprofits.

By funding and supporting our local nonprofits and students, the San Antonio Area Foundation is transforming both the lives of San Antonio's young people and the future of our community.

The San Antonio Area Foundation and its donors believe that the success of our community rests in the hands of today's students.

s a a f d n . o r g

2019 PK-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION FORUM PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. Shari Albright

President, Raise Your Hand Texas

Deborah Amini

Chair, Teach for America SA

Sarah Baray

CEO, Pre-K 4 SA

Dr. Alejandra Barraza

Principal, Early Childhood Education Center, SAISD

Dr. Dana Bashara

Superintendent, Alamo Heights ISD

Dejah Behnke

VP Advancement, Great Hearts Texas

Becca Brune

President, San Antonio Area Foundation

Mike Burke

Board: IDEA; Great Hearts; Reasoning Mind

Jennifer Cantu

SVP, Community Engagement, Bank of America

Asia Ciaravino

President/CEO, San Antonio Youth

Shannon Sedgwick Davis

CEO, Bridgeway Foundation

Dr. Margo DelliCarpini

Dean, College of Education & Human Development, UTSA

Libby Doggett

former Early Learning Deputy assistant to Secretary Department of Education

Wayne Fagan

Co-Founder/Chair, Dee Howard Foundation

Suzanne Feldmann

CEO, Culinary Health Education

Rebecca Flores

Education Policy Administrator, COSA

Sandy Sullivan Gallagher

Resource Development and Marketing, City Year SA

Nick Garcia

CEO, Teach for America SA

Judy Geelhoed

Ex Dir, San Antonio ISD Foundation

Henry Gonzalez III

Gonzalez Chiscano Angulo Kasson

Dr. Brian Gottardy

Superintendent, Northeast ISD

Joel Harris

CEO, City Education Partners

John Hayes

Chair, SA Area Foundation

Vanessa Hurd

Founding CEO, Doseum; Great Hearts Texas Board

Margaret Judson

Chair, Alamo Heights ISD Board

Dr. Sean Kearney

Dean, College of Education, TAMUSA

Kassie Kelly

Membership Coordinator, The Rivard Report

Aaron Kindle

Superintendent, Great Hearts Texas

Rosemary Kowalski

Founder, The RK Group

Mark Larson

Founder/CEO, KIPP San Antonio

Laura Lopez

Events Coordinator, The Rivard Report

Dr. Ryan Lugalia-Hollon

Executive Director, SA P16 Plus

Laura Saldivar Luna

VP of People, Teach for America USA

Kathy MacNaughton

Ex Dir, Masters Leadership Program

Jenna Price Mallette

Chief Operating Officer, The Rivard Report

Selene Martin

Director of Corporate Responsibility USAA

Pedro Martinez

Superintendent, San Antonio ISD

Daniel Menelly

CEO, San Antonio DoSeum

Mike L. Molak

SA Region Chair, Plains Capital Bank

Bill Moll

Ret Chair Clear Channel TV & KLRN; KIPP Board

Tiffany O'Neill

Managing Director, External Affairs – Teach for America

Rolando Posado

Ex Dir, IDEA San Antonio Region

Carl Raba

Co-Founder, Raba-Kistner

Robert Rivard

Founder/Publisher, The Rivard Report

Kate Rogers

Executive VP, Holdsworth Leadership Center

Juan Sepulveda

SVP System Leadership, PBS in DC; Distinguished Visiting Professor, Trinity University

Katy Silva

Advertising & Marketing Director, The Rivard Report

Lionel Sosa

CEO/Founder, Yes, Our Kids Can!

Susan Steves Thompson

Ex Director, AVANCE SA

Tom Torkelson

Founder/CEO, IDEA Public Schools

Roland Toscano

Superintendent, East Central ISD

Dr. Julian Trevino

Professor, Education, UTSA

Dr. Deborah Valdez

Executive Director, SA Youth Literacy

Dr. Lloyd Verstuyft

Superintendent, Southwest ISD

Jessica Weaver

Ex Dir, Communities in Schools

Dr. Brian Woods

Superintendent, Northside ISD

Jodi Williams-Thomas

Deen Creative Design Group

CHANGE IN ONE GENERATION



EDUCATION
CENTERS

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

COMPETITIVE
GRANTS

PARENT
ENGAGEMENT

A stronger, more vibrant San Antonio is on its way! Pre-K 4 SA is changing the future of our great city in One Generation through high-quality, innovative, comprehensive and city-wide initiatives. Through Education Centers, Professional Development, Competitive Grants, and Parent Engagement, Pre-K 4 SA has already served over 167,140 children and invested \$28.9 million in local schools to improve the quality and access to early childhood education throughout San Antonio. An improved workforce. More engaged citizens. Decreased poverty. Better health and wellness. It's coming. We're getting there one school year at a time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR BOOTH OR PREK4SA.COM



Dispelling Myths About Early Childhood Education

Dr. Sarah Baray – CEO, Pre-K 4 SA

No other area of education has been scrutinized as much as early childhood education. Despite five decades of academic research, some continue to dispute the benefits of early learning to overall student success. In this article, we address four of the most persistent myths about early childhood education.



Myth 1: Preschool is just babysitting.

High-quality early learning classrooms are joyful places where children actively move about, explore materials, interact with others, laugh, sing, and dance. Because a preschool classroom is structured differently from a classroom for older children, some mistakenly assume that preschool children are not learning anything important. Nothing could be further from the truth. Young children learn through play, and for that reason, quality early learning classrooms are strategically designed to engage children in purposeful play, encouraging them to be active participants in their own learning. So while the children think they are just having fun, they are actually developing language skills, mathematical thinking, scientific concepts, and literacy. They are also developing strong social-emotional skills, which are critical not just to school success, but also to life success. Early learning teachers have deep knowledge of how children develop physically, emotionally, socially, and academically. And they use this knowledge not only to create an engaging classroom environment, but also to continuously individualize instruction for each child. Highly individualized instruction is key to ensuring every child is supported at each stage in their development. No other level of teaching requires as much knowledge of human development or as much individualization of instruction as early childhood education. Effective early learning teachers are far from babysitters. They are among the most highly skilled educators in the teacher workforce.

Myth 2: Young children are not ready for school.

No one is more ready for learning than young children. While the brain continues to grow throughout the human lifespan, the most rapid brain development occurs in the first few years of life. In fact, young children grow over a million neural connections every second, faster than at any other time in their lives. After age five, brain growth slows and existing neural connections become hardwired into the brain, serving as the foundational mortar upon which all other learning will be built. The brain is a highly integrated and complex organ, and the strength of the brain's foundation affects learning, behavior, and health throughout life. One way to help ensure young children develop strong brain architecture is through high-quality early learning before the age of five. Quality early learning programs provide children with supportive adult-child relationships, which have been identified as key to healthy brain development. Additionally, quality early learning programs utilize a holistic approach to address the cognitive, language, physical, social, and emotional domains of development. By doing so, early learning programs build strong brains, strong bodies, and strong spirits within young children.

Myth 3: Early learning is a waste of taxpayer dollars because any positive effects fade out by third grade.

The myth of the fade out effect emerged after a study of Head Start programs found that while children who attended Head Start had positive academic and social gains during the years they were enrolled in the program, they had similar academic outcomes as their peers by the end of third grade. This study led many to wrongly conclude that early learning does not work. While the Head Start study did not find sustained benefits for the entire sample of children, the study did identify sustained benefits for certain groups of children, particularly children living in households categorized as being at high-risk for traumatic stress. Children in high-risk households who attended Head Start as three-year-olds had better third grade reading scores than their peers. In other words, the most vulnerable children in the study outperformed their peers on third grade reading when they attended Head Start as three-year-olds. Additionally, other studies have shown that children who attend quality early learning programs retain academic and social advantages well past third grade. More importantly, academic skills in third grade are not even the most important benefit of early learning. Over four decades of research indicates the strongest effects of high-quality early learning are seen in the later school years and throughout adulthood.

Dispelling Myths About Early Childhood Education

Dr. Sarah Baray – CEO, Pre-K 4 SA

Myth #4: Early childhood education is too expensive.

Even supporters of early learning often concede that it can be quite expensive. But, is it really? When one considers that high-quality early learning leads to reduced costs at other points in the education pipeline, the costs begin to look rather reasonable. Dr. James Heckman, Nobel laureate and professor of economics at the University of Chicago, has conducted multiple studies analyzing the costs and benefits associated with early learning programs. Professor Heckman concludes that high-quality early learning programs yield an annual return on investment of 7% to 13% through better outcomes in education, health, sociability, economic productivity and reduced crime. And that is only the monetary benefit. There are other indirect benefits to children, families, and communities. For example, how does one calculate the value of a child avoiding failure because he received a strong start in school? Or the value of a parent watching her child become the first in the family to earn a college degree? Or of a community changing its educational trajectory in one generation? These are the real, but intangible effects of children having access to high-quality early learning.



EXHIBITORS



DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



SHERYL SCULLEY

San Antonio City Manager

Sheryl Sculley was appointed City Manager of San Antonio, Texas in 2005. Until March 1, 2019, Sculley was the Chief Executive Officer of the municipal corporation of 13,000 employees, an annual operating and capital budget of \$2.8 billion, and a city population of 1.5 million residents. During her tenure, she recruited top talent, streamlined city business systems, increased financial reserves, improved customer service and elevated the professionalism of City staff.

During her tenure in San Antonio, Sculley proposed the three largest bond programs in city history totaling \$2 billion including 450 construction projects for streets, sidewalks, drainage, parks, libraries, fire stations and museums. All three programs were overwhelmingly approved by San Antonio voters and projects were executed with precision –on time and within budget.

Sculley is also credited with the successful implementation of the Pre-K 4 SA early childhood education program. In partnership with the Pre-K 4 SA of Directors, the City Manager oversaw the Pre-K 4 SA CEO, teachers, staff, and four schools.

Sheryl Sculley is a change agent who worked in city management for 40 years. Prior to joining the City of San Antonio, Sculley served 16 years as Assistant City Manager of the City of Phoenix, Arizona. Prior to Phoenix, she served as City Manager of Kalamazoo, Michigan working for that city for 15 years.

Sculley is married and has two adult children. She is a fellow in the National Academy of Public Administration and has been an adjunct professor at the LBJ School of Public Policy at the University of Texas in Austin. Sculley is an avid runner having completed nine full marathons, including two Boston Marathons and more than 30 half marathons.

DR. ROBERT PIANTA

Early Childhood Expert, University of Virginia

Robert Pianta, PhD, is Dean of the Curry School of Education, Novartis US Foundation Professor of Education, Professor of Psychology, and founding director of the Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning at the University of Virginia. Dr. Pianta's research and policy interests focus on the intersection of education and human development. In particular his work has been influential in advancing the conceptualization of teacher-student interactions and relationships and documenting their contributions to students' learning and development. Dr. Pianta has led research and development on measurement and improvement tools that help teachers interact with students more effectively and that are used widely in the United States and around the world. Dr. Pianta received a BS and an MA in Special Education from the University of Connecticut and a PhD in Psychology from the University of Minnesota. An internationally recognized expert in both early childhood education and K-12 teaching and learning, Dr. Pianta regularly consults with federal agencies, foundations, universities, and governments. He was named a Fellow of the American Education Research Association and received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Minnesota in 2016.



2019 EDUCATION CHAMPION AWARD FINALISTS

PRESENTED BY THE 2019 EDUCATION FORUM PLANNING COMMITTEE



LAURA SALDIVAR LUNA

VP of People, Teach for America USA

As Founding CEO, built Teach for America SA as one of the finest TfA chapters in the nation



TOM TORKELESON

CEO, IDEA Public Schools

Co-Founding CEO of the fastest growing, high performance charter school system in the nation – IDEA public schools



LIONEL SOSA

San Antonio's Renaissance Gentlemen

Major role in success of Incarnate Word University, significant contributions to St. Mary's U., UTSA, and Texas A&M University SA and now founder of the transformational Yes! Our Kids Can.



DAVID ROBINSON

Founder of Carver Academy, Spiritual Leader, Proud Father, and High School Students Mentor and ok basketball player

The preeminent professional sports super star role model. The Carver/IDEA partnership established a fabulous platform for charter school growth in SA.



DR. SHARI ALBRIGHT

President, Raise Your Hand Texas

Education Foundation, Teacher, Principal of the International School of the America (winner of HEB outstanding principal award), Chair of Trinity University Department of Education.

An investment in
knowledge pays the
best dividends.

Ben Franklin

2018 AWARD RECIPIENT



CHARLES BUTT

Founder, H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards

Raise Your Hand Texas

Charles Butt Foundation

Charles Butt Scholarship for Aspiring Teachers

H-E-B Read 3 Campaign

Holdsworth Center

2017 AWARD RECIPIENT



MICHAEL BURKE

Founder, SA Regional PK-12 Public Education Forum

IDEA Public Schools Fiduciary Board

Texas A&M University SA Advisory Board

Great Hearts Americas Board

Great Hearts Texas Board

Chair, IDEA Public Schools San Antonio Regional Board

Author of many books for Louise and his grandchildren

MODERATOR



ROBERT RIVARD

Founder/Publisher, The Rivard Report

Robert “Bob” Rivard is the founder and director of the Rivard Report, a nonprofit local news and information site that informs and connects engaged citizens in San Antonio.

The Rivard Report is in its sixth year of publication and now has 15 full-time employees and a growing number of freelance contributors. It also serves as a publishing platform for people in the community to share their stories and commentaries.

Rivard is a longtime, award-winning journalist who served as editor of the San Antonio Express-News from 1997 to 2011, and previously worked for Newsweek magazine as its Central America correspondent covering the region’s civil wars in the 1980s and from 1985-89 as its global chief of correspondents.

He is the author of *Trail of Feathers: Searching for Philip True*, a nonfiction book that chronicles the disappearance and murder of Express-News reporter Philip True in Mexico’s Sierra Madre, and the long fight to win the conviction of True’s killers.

PANELISTS

DR. LIBBY COHEN

Director of Advocacy and Outreach, Raise Your Hand Texas

Libby joined Raise Your Hand Texas in August 2018 to lead the organization’s efforts to develop a grassroots advocacy network across the state. Previously, Libby worked as an organizer with the Industrial Areas Foundation in Baltimore, Maryland. There she worked with top neighborhood and institutional leaders to restore deep funding cuts to public schools; win a standards-setting community benefits agreement attached to the new Under Armour world headquarters; secure millions of dollars in improvements for West Baltimore neighborhoods; and clear interstate markets for illegal drugs, among other efforts.

Libby holds a PhD in economic and social history from the University of Oxford, where she was a Rhodes scholar. She earned a bachelor’s degree in English and public policy at the University of North Carolina, where she was a Morehead-Cain scholar.

Originally from Dallas, Libby is a sixth generation Texan and is delighted to have the opportunity to strengthen public institutions in her native state. She is a lifelong student of ballet and fan of baseball, and she loves exploring the Austin barbecue scene with her husband, Jake.



ROLANDO TOSCANO

Superintendent, East Central ISD

Mr. Roland Toscano, is an East Central graduate, who has served the last twenty years of his career in East Central ISD as a bus driver, science teacher, coach, assistant principal, Heritage Middle School Principal, East Central High School Principal and now as Superintendent of Schools. He graduated from UTSA with his Bachelor’s degree in 1997, and earned his Master’s degree in 2005, from Texas A&M, Kingsville, in Educational Administration. Mr. Toscano has an established record of mentoring and developing successful school leaders. He serves on the TASA Executive Committee, the Go Public Steering Committee, and is involved in numerous educational leadership organizations across Texas. Roland and his wife Bonnie (also an East Central Graduate), have three

children; Dustin, a 2013 EC graduate, who is beginning a career in education; Francine, a 2015 EC graduate, currently attending nursing school; and Tyson, who is a 7th grade student at Heritage Middle School.

PANELISTS



KASI MCCORMICK

Vice President, Grants at United Way of San Antonio & Bexar County

Dr. Kasi McCormick is the Vice President of Grants at United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County. Kasi is the Project Director for the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) grant and the Military and Veterans Prevention Program, both funded by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. In her role, she partners with local school districts, non-profit organizations, Child Protective Services and the City of San Antonio to collaborate on child abuse prevention, early childhood efforts and data sharing. Additionally, she manages the local Early Development Instrument (EDI) data collection and analysis process, as well as the ReadyKidSA Coalition focused on children 0-8 years old. Through her position at United Way, Kasi has participated in writing local, state, and federal grants and serves as a grant reviewer for the City of San Antonio and multiple Federal Departments including Health and Human Services and HUD. Kasi has a Master's degree in Sociology and a Doctorate in Management with a focus on Organizational Leadership.

DR. SARAH BARAY

CEO, Pre-K 4 SA

Sarah Baray, Ph.D. is Chief Executive Officer of Pre-K 4 SA. Dr. Baray joined Pre-K 4 SA in 2016 bringing more than 25 years of education experience to the program. In her most recent role as a professor at Texas State University, she directed the Ph.D. in School Improvement program and served as a researcher and instructor in the Educational and Community Leadership program. Prior to her tenure at Texas State, she served in various roles within the Austin Independent School District, including elementary school teacher, elementary school principal and district administrator.

Dr. Baray's research interests center on policies and practices related to educational equity. Recent research projects include examining educator beliefs about students of diverse backgrounds, documenting the effects of student protests for educational equity in Chile and exploring the experiences of novice principals.

Additionally, Dr. Baray has served on the editorial board of prominent journals including Educational Administration Quarterly and the International Journal of Leadership in Education. She has been a keynote presenter at the annual conference of the British Educational Leadership, Management and Administration Society (BELMAS) and a Distinguished Faculty member for the David L. Clark Research Seminar.



**Every child deserves a champion;
an adult who will never give up on
them, who understands the power of
connection and insists that they become
the best they can possibly be.**

Rita Pierson

VIP BREAKFAST MODERATOR



EMILY DONALDSON

Education Reporter, The Rivard Report

Emily Donaldson is the *Rivard Report's* education reporter. Donaldson joined the San Antonio nonprofit newsroom in January 2018 and has spent the last year reporting on the city's 17 school districts, numerous charter and private schools, six institutions of higher education, and the Alamo Community Colleges District.

Donaldson often writes about inequality, state accountability and intervention, and innovative programs looking to bridge the achievement gap in local schools.

Before moving to San Antonio, Donaldson reported on public education and state government in Austin and Houston with *Community Impact Newspaper*. She is originally from Houston.

Donaldson is an alumna of the University of Missouri's School of Journalism.

VIP BREAKFAST PANELISTS

PEDRO MARTINEZ

Superintendent, San Antonio ISD

Pedro Martinez joined SAISD as superintendent in June 2015, bringing to the District a focus on improving academic achievement so that more students are performing at higher levels. In January 2016, he unveiled the SAISD Blueprint for Excellence: Target 2020, which outlines the strategies the District is using to achieve 10 academic goals by the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

The blueprint was developed with a long-term perspective and inclusive of external and internal feedback. Martinez believes the success of students extends beyond high school graduation, and for that to happen, all stakeholders need to be involved.

Martinez welcomes community members to ask tough questions. He knows it's a sign they are engaged or are looking to be engaged, and community involvement and commitment is what the District needs to realize its goals for transforming SAISD into a national model urban school district.

Under his leadership, the District is seeing improved graduation and college-going rates, as well as expanded access to rigor. Innovative schools have been developed and launched providing new models of education. In addition, strong academic programs in existing schools have been expanded to provide high-quality choice for families.

Martinez is a data-driven leader with a strong financial background and in-depth knowledge of academic reform strategies. He has more than 20 years of experience in the private, nonprofit and public education sectors. He holds an MBA from DePaul University, a bachelor's degree from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is a graduate of Broad Superintendents Academy.



VIP BREAKFAST PANELISTS



DR. RICHARD RHODES

President/CEO, Austin Community College

Dr. Rhodes joined ACC in 2011 with a commitment to close education gaps and accelerate achievement among all students. Under his guidance, ACC earned Achieving the Dream Leader College status. Success initiatives led by Dr. Rhodes include an innovative redesign of developmental math curriculum, including the successful implementation of MATD 0421 Developmental Mathematics, and the opening of the nation's largest computerized learning lab. During Dr. Rhodes' tenure, the college has established new campuses in the City of Elgin, Hays County, and the refurbished Highland Mall in central Austin. Bond packages approved in 2014 will allow continued revitalization of ACC Highland and expanded career-technical training facilities.

By partnering with business and industry, universities, school districts, lawmakers, and nonprofit organizations, Dr. Rhodes ensures that ACC is an integral resource for the region. Through his leadership, ACC will continue to meet Central Texas' evolving needs and remain the No. 1 college choice for area high school graduates.

ROBERT MCKINLEY

Vice Chancellor, Economic Development and Workforce for Alamo Colleges

Robert McKinley has guided economic development at UTSA since 1990, achieving constant growth and tangible results. He began his career at UTSA as the regional director of the Southwest Texas Border Small Business Development Center (SBDC). He then moved up to the position of assistant vice president for economic development, where he leads the Institute for Economic Development (IED) umbrella organization for all UTSA economic development programs. Subsequently, McKinley became the associate vice president for economic development and then the senior associate vice president for economic development.



His wealth of experience includes serving as the past chairman of the board of America's Association of Small Business Development Centers (ASBDC), director of the Control Data Business & Technology Center in San Antonio, executive director of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Fort Worth and community organizer for Misión de Amistad to develop Mayan Ejidos in Municipio de Tizmín, Yucatán.



REBECCA FLORES

Director of Education Programs, City of San Antonio

Rebecca rejoined the City of San Antonio team where she oversees many of the City's education and youth initiatives. She has an extensive background in education and worked with school districts throughout the state on school finance, and assessment and accountability issues while working at Moak, Casey & Associates. Rebecca also worked on developing and implementing "Pre-K 4 SA," a city-wide early education initiative. She also served as the director of government relations for the Houston Independent School District (HISD) and oversaw the district's federal, state, and local legislative issues. She proudly taught in HISD and served as an adjunct professor for the Houston Community College System.

Rebecca has a Bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at Austin and a Master's degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.



Don't miss this moment!

Students not reading on grade level by 3rd grade are four times less likely to graduate high school on time. Be part of the solution - volunteer, give, share.

Learn how you can help at sayl.org



@SAYouthLiteracy    



Morgan Stanley



Bank of America supports early education for helping children step into the future

Before a young person takes the first step in life's journey, you wonder where will she go? What will he do? Who will she become? There's nothing more important than nurturing the promise of every child.

Bank of America recognizes the Public Education Forum for focusing on the future, one young person at a time.

Visit us at bankofamerica.com/texas

Life's better when we're connected®

©2018 Bank of America Corporation | ARBYPW7V



What a joy it is to learn from your grandchildren...



"If you work hard to achieve your goals, good things will come." Bgirl10*

* Age at time of quote

"The joy comes in not what you can get, but from what you can give." Jgirl7*

"Books have taken me on wonderful trips, given me great adventures, and taught me so much." Sgirl9*

"Mistakes are a doorway to new ideas. So always learn from them." Bboy8*

"Life is about filling other people's buckets. And when you do that, you will also fill your own." Mgirl6*

CONGRATULATIONS TO IDEA CARVER'S FIRST GRADUATING CLASS!

Your accomplishment of 100% college acceptance proves what's possible! Way to go, Class of 2019!



Follow us @ideaschools    ideapublicschools.org

TEACHER EXCELLENCE IN THE SAN ANTONIO REGION 2019

All teachers on these pages have been invited as our guests for our April 2, 2019 Education Forum.

No great surprise: These teachers were most grateful for the invitation, but the majority declined because of their teaching obligations!



2018 Linden Heck Howell Outstanding Teaching of Texas History Award Winner

MICHAEL BAILEY
Bradley Middle School

2018 Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award Winners

STEPHANIE CASH
Advanced Learning Academy

ERIN GUTIERREZ
Lanier High School

REGION 20 TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2019

Congratulations Reg. 20 Teachers of the Year!



State Finalist!

ANDREA GREIMEL
San Antonio ISD
Carvajal Early CC



Winner!

JEFF WHEATCRAFT
Alamo Heights ISD
Alamo Heights Jr. School

The Texas State Teacher of the Year Program, sponsored by the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA), honors excellence in classroom education and provides a forum to showcase many outstanding educators whose efforts and example inspire their students, their colleagues and the communities they serve.

Outstanding Nominees:

JENNIFER ACEVES
School of Science and Technology

EVELYN BUSHART
Rayburn Elementary
Harlandale ISD

NIEVES CARRALES
Somerset Elementary
Somerset ISD

MARY CISSELL
Charles L. Kuentz Jr. Elementary
Northside ISD

LUIS COSTILLA
Carrizo Springs Intermediate
Carrizo Springs ISD

SARAH REBECCA DEORSAM
Robb Elementary
Uvalde ISD

SARAH HARRED
Pecan Valley Elementary
East Central ISD

JESSICA MALDONDO
Ed Flores Elementary
Pearsall ISD

ELIZABETH WRASE
Tom Daniels Elementary
Kerrville ISD

ADRIANA ABUNDIS
Irving Middle School
San Antonio ISD

CAROL ALLEN
Byron P. Steele High School
Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD

ISAAC ESQUIVEL
Hector Garcia Middle School
Northside ISD

VICTORIA LINNARD
Carrizo Springs High School
Carrizo Springs ISD

ERIC MAHLER
Uvalde High School
Uvalde CISD

EDNA MARTINEZ
Pearsall High School
Pearsall ISD

SIERRA MOLINA
Somerset High School
Somerset ISD

Texas Association of School Administrators 2019 Texas Teacher of the Year

**Congratulations to Jeff Wheatcraft,
Eighth-Grade Science Teacher at Alamo Heights Junior School!**

Jeff Wheatcraft was named the 2019 Secondary Teacher of the Year in September 2018 and selected to represent Texas as Texas Teacher of the Year in the National Teacher of the Year competition. Wheatcraft teaches eighth-grade science at Alamo Heights Junior School in Alamo Heights ISD, where he has taught since 2012. Wheatcraft is also the 2018 recipient of the Trinity Prize for Excellence in Teaching and has twice been nominated for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching.



2018-2019 TRINITY PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE FINALISTS



Alamo Heights ISD

Erika Guerro, CTE/Special Education Teacher, Alamo Heights High School



Judson ISD

David Dodge, 8th Grade Math Teacher, Kitty Hawk Middle School



South San ISD

Michael Tudyk, Music Teacher, Five Palms Elementary



Boerne ISD

Wendy Zamzow, AP Physics Teacher, Boerne-Samuel V. Champion High School



Lackland ISD

Mary Sims, ELAR Teacher and STEM-based Elective, Virginia Allred Jr./Sr. High School



Southside ISD

Cheryl Kindred, Art Teacher, Heritage Elementary



Comal ISD

Amber Galvan, 5th Grade Reading/Social Studies/Science Teacher, Specht Elementary School



Northeast ISD

Brynn Luikens, 4th Grade ELA Teacher, Stahl Elementary School



Southwest ISD

Michael Sandoval, Pre-AP World Geography and AP Human Geography Teacher, Southwest High School



East Central ISD

Timothy McMeans, Art Teacher, East Central High School



Northside ISD

Priscilla Prather, Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher, Dr. John Folks Middle School



Uvalde ISD

Irma Garcia, 3rd Grade, ELAR, Social Studies Teacher, Robb Elementary



Edgewood ISD

Evangelina Perez, Pre-K 3 and 4 Dual Language Teacher, Loma Park Elementary School



Randolph ISD

Todd Olivera, Health Science/Athletic Trainer, Randolph High School



Winston School of San Antonio

Rebecca Summers, Lower School Teacher, Winston School



Fort Sam Houston ISD

Katie Michna, Library Media Specialist, Robert G. Cole Middle/High School



San Antonio ISD

Andrea Greimel, Bilingual Early Childhood Teacher, Carvajal Early Childhood Center



Harlandale ISD

Olivia Robinson, 7th Grade ELA Teacher, Armando Leal Jr. Middle School



Somerset ISD

Jesus Gutierrez, 3rd Grade Math and Science Teacher, Somerset Elementary School

RECENT NEW EDUCATION LEADERS NAMED



Dr. Mike Flores
Chancellor, Alamo Colleges



Laura Saldivar Luna
National VP of People, Teach for America



Dr. Shari Albright
President, Raise Your Hand Texas



Dr. Sean Maika
Superintendent, Northeast ISD



Dr. Lindsay Whorton
President, Holdsworth Center



Dr. Carl Sheperis
Dean of the College of Education and Human Development, Texas A&M San Antonio



Nick Garcia
CEO, Teach for America San Antonio



Dr. Mike Villarreal
Director of the Institute for Urban Education, UTSA

Why Earn a Masters in **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION?**

STUDY INTERESTING SUBJECTS

- Early Childhood Development
- Multicultural Education
- Literacy Development
- Curriculum Development
- Early Childhood Assessment

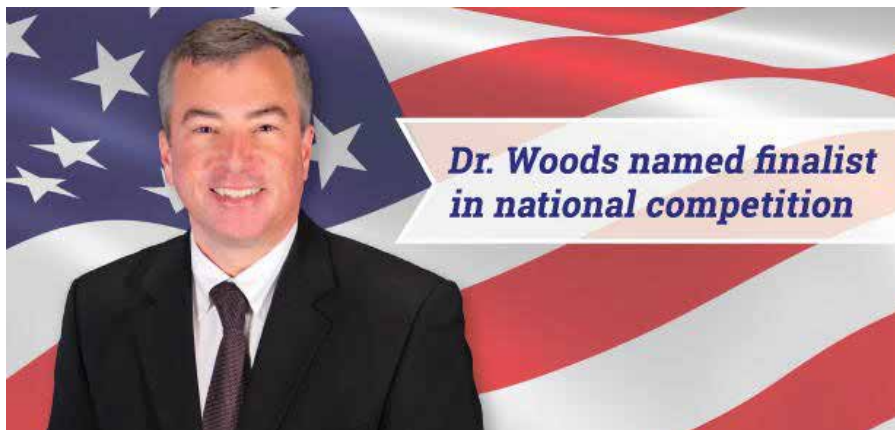
PURSUE EXCITING CAREERS

- Preschool Teacher
- Kindergarten Teacher
- Elementary School Teacher
- Childcare Worker
- Preschool or Childcare Center Director

DEVELOP NEW SKILLS

- Communication Skills
- Interpersonal Skills
- Creativity
- Organizational Skills

Dr. Woods is One of Four Finalists For 2019 National Superintendent of the Year



December 17, 2018 – Northside ISD Superintendent Dr. Brian T. Woods has been selected as one of four finalists for 2019 National Superintendent of the Year®, an award given by AASA, The School Superintendents Association.

The other finalists are Jeff Butts, Indiana; Curtis Jones, Jr., Georgia; and Mary Ann Ranells, Idaho. The four finalists were chosen from among 49 state Superintendents of the Year for the national award program, co-sponsored by VALIC, First Student and AASA. Now in its 32nd year, the program measures candidates against the following criteria: leadership for learning, professionalism and community involvement.

“We have always been proud of Dr. Woods, his leadership, and his passion for our students,” said M’Lissa Chumbley, President of the NISD Board of Trustees. “Now, the entire nation will learn about this incredible school district and the leader at its helm.”

“We are incredibly proud of Brian Woods!” said Kevin Brown, executive director of the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA), which nominated Woods for the national honor. “His exceptional leadership skills, impeccable character, strong sense of mission, and articulate voice for all public education children are an inspiration to all of us.”

Woods has served as superintendent of Northside ISD in San Antonio for six years, but has worked in the district since 1992, when he began his career

as a social studies teacher at Marshall High School. As an assistant principal, he helped open O’Connor High School then served as vice principal and principal at Clark High School. His career with Northside ISD also includes service as assistant superintendent for secondary administration and deputy superintendent.

Woods says he is proud that Northside ISD, despite rapid growth during the past 30 years and a student population of more than 106,000, has retained the feel of a much smaller district with a strong sense of community.

“In Northside, engagement of our stakeholders has played a crucial role in our success,” he says. “At the campus and district level, we involve our whole community as a means of keeping them informed, eliciting their input and support, and fostering an environment of shared responsibility and accountability. I have no doubt that the success of our students and the quality of our programs depends greatly on this engagement.”

In September, following his selection as Region 20 Superintendent of the Year, the Texas Association of School Boards named Woods the 2018 Texas Superintendent of the Year. Then, in November, Woods was named the Texas nominee for AASA National Superintendent of the Year by TASA.

Woods and the other finalists will be interviewed by a national blue-ribbon panel in Washington, D.C. Jan. 10. The 2019 National Superintendent of the Year® will be announced at AASA’s National Conference on Education in Los Angeles Feb. 14. A \$10,000 college scholarship will be presented in the name of the National Superintendent of the Year® to a student in the high school from which the superintendent graduated, or the school now serving the same area. Woods is a graduate of Clear Lake High School in Clear Creek ISD in League City, Texas.

GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS



*Louise & Mike
Burke*



JOHN & FLORENCE
NEWMAN
FOUNDATION



CHARLES BUTT
FOUNDATION



RAISE
YOUR HAND TEXAS

GreatHearts[®]





Schulman,
Lopez, Hoffer
& Adelstein, LLP

San Antonio

Austin

Houston

New Orleans

Trusted Public School Counselors & Advocates

- › Accessible
- › Comprehensive
- › Effective
- › Responsive
- › Service Driven
- › Straightforward

www.slh-law.com | 210-538-5385 | info@slh-law.com



RAISE
YOUR HAND TEXAS

THE
FUTURE OF TEXAS 
IS IN OUR **PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

RaiseYourHandTexas.org

An investment in Texas public schools is an investment in the future.

The future of **strong communities.**

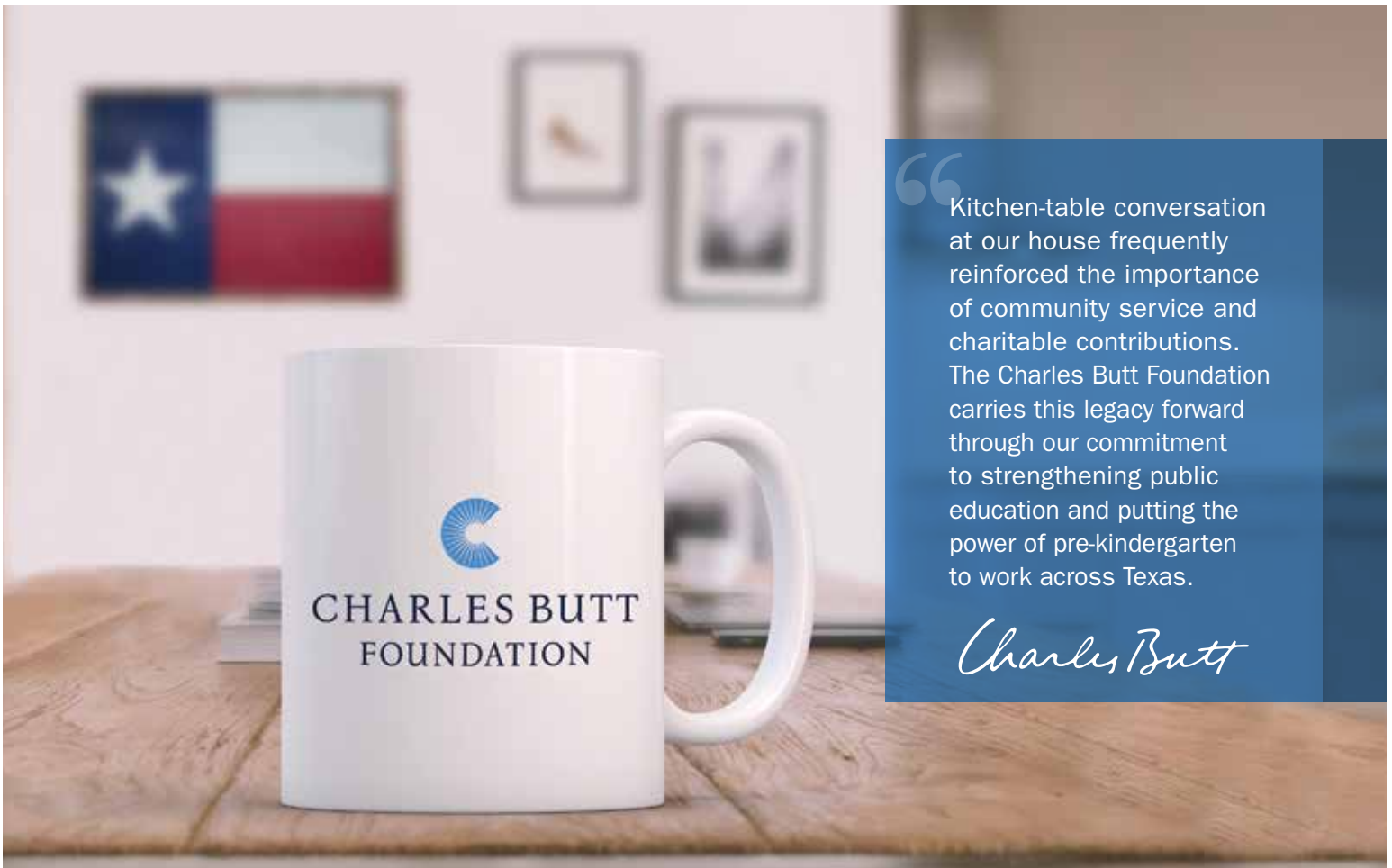
The future of a **strong economy.**

The future of a **strong citizenry.**

JOIN US IN STANDING UP FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS!



Sign up to get involved by texting
RAISEMYHAND to **40649**



“

Kitchen-table conversation at our house frequently reinforced the importance of community service and charitable contributions. The Charles Butt Foundation carries this legacy forward through our commitment to strengthening public education and putting the power of pre-kindergarten to work across Texas.

Charles Butt



Giving back to the places we call home is helping here.

That’s why we partner with over 6,500 local organizations to help make a difference.

For H-E-B, Helping Here is more than a statement. It’s a spirit of giving that goes all the way back to the day we opened our first store over 110 years ago.

Whether we’re honoring outstanding public school professionals or aiding in the fight against cancer, we’re helping here to make a difference. It’s our way of saying thanks for allowing us to be your neighbor.

Learn more at heb.com/community

HEALTH & WELLNESS

HUNGER RELIEF

EDUCATION

MILITARY APPRECIATION

DISASTER RELIEF

ENVIRONMENTAL

DIVERSITY



Helping Here®



Texas Charter Schools

&
BASIS[®]
.ed

The **TOP 7** public high schools in the nation are
BASIS Charter Schools. - *U.S. News & World Report*



Embracing diversity and achieving success, the K-12 BASIS Curriculum model provides an internationally competitive education and unlimited opportunity.

1903_076

Learn more at www.EnrollBASIS.com

Brooke Baker, fifth grade student from Raba Elementary School, North Side ISD is the grand prize winner in the 2019 Texas Cavaliers River Parade Art Contest. Her art teacher is Katrina Gonzalez.

**Raba student
wins Fiesta
art contest**





IMAGINE ...

a spectacular learning environment focused on concepts in science, technology, engineering and math integrated with literacy and arts in a way that makes learning so fun, kids and parents won't want to leave. Be a spy, an artist, a builder, a musician, or an inventor. Dance up a musical staircase or hang out with a live robot.

The DoSeum is more than just a children's museum; it's a family playground. Don't bother telling the kids it's a haven for interactive education. Just say you're going to the coolest playground in all of Texas!

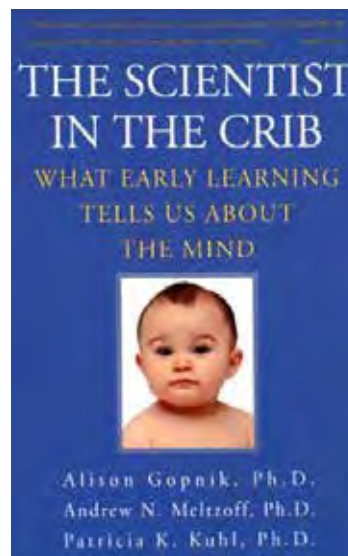
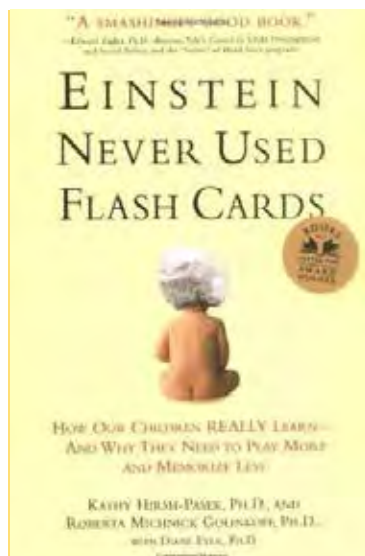
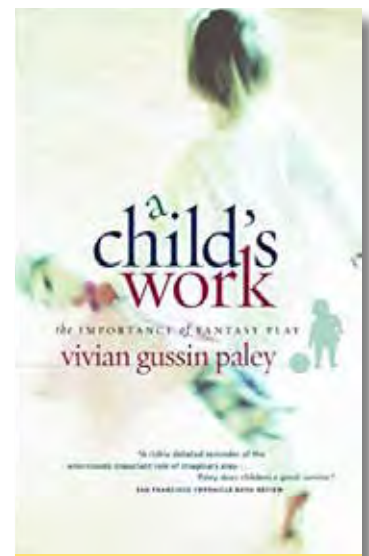
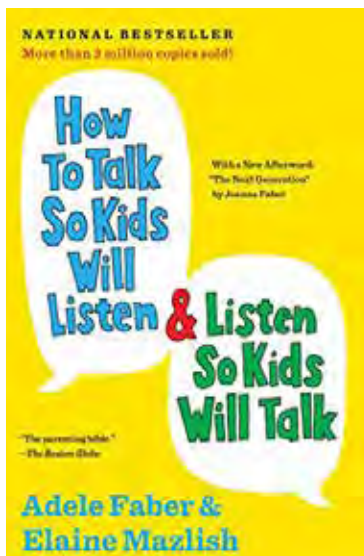
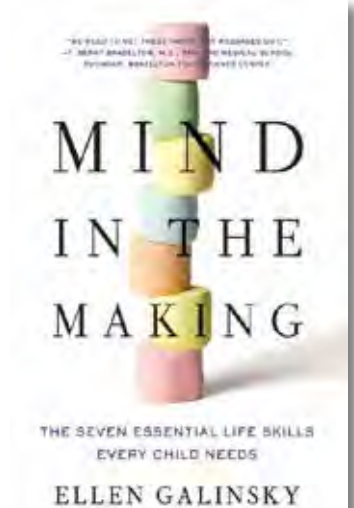
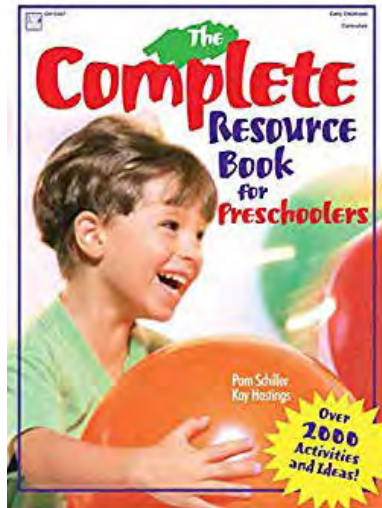
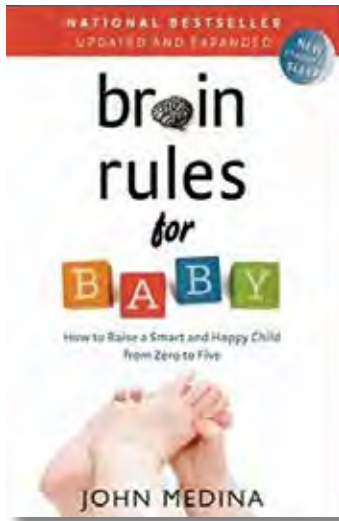
LEARN MORE

TheDoSeum.org

The DoSeum | 2800 Broadway
San Antonio, TX 78209 | (210) 212-4453

©THE DOSEUM 2019. IS A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT

RECOMMENDED BOOKS ON EARLY EDUCATION FOR PARENTS





THE GAMBRINUS COMPANY

"Beer brings enjoyment to the world."
-KING GAMBRINUS



South Texas Energy
& Economic Roundtable

STEER is the South Texas Energy & Economic Roundtable, a place where people and ideas come together to strengthen our communities through the development of oil and natural gas. Our diverse membership includes some of the largest operators in the Eagle Ford Shale region including: Chesapeake Energy Corporation, ConocoPhillips, Cheyenne Petroleum, Devon, Encana, EOG Resources, EP Energy, Marathon Oil, Murphy Oil, Noble Energy, Pioneer Natural Resources, SM Energy, Equinor and XTO. As an organization, STEER served as the bridge connecting the oil and natural gas industry to South Texas communities to ensure the development of the Eagle Ford's energy resources is accomplished in a manner that is mutually beneficial to the industry and communities throughout South Texas.

www.steer.com

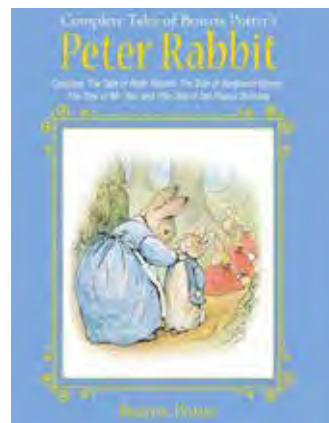
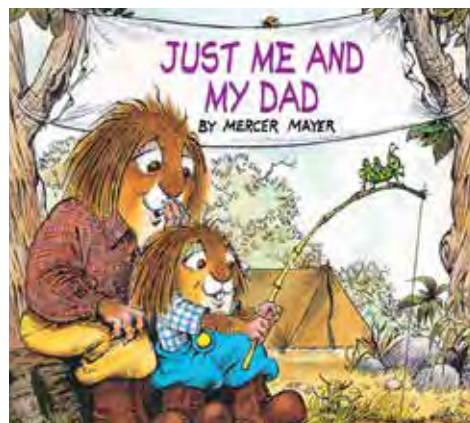
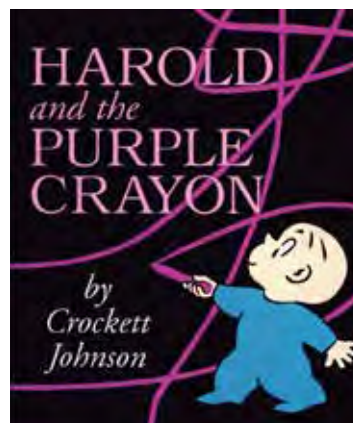
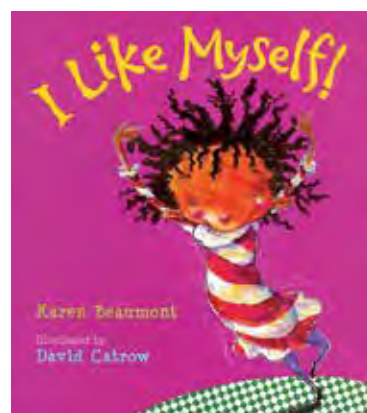
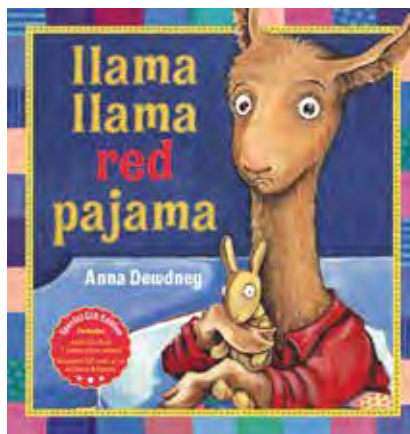


As you prepare for your future career, take your classroom knowledge to the next level through exciting internship opportunities with CPS Energy.

For more information visit cpsenergy.com
or contact Cristina Duarte at CDuarte@cpsenergy.com.



RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR CHILDREN



RIVARD REPORT – A SAMPLING OF EDUCATION ARTICLES

Photos by Scott Ball and Bonnie Arbittier



50 Candidates File for 21 School Board Trustee Positions on May Ballot
Emily Donaldson 2-20-19



Alamo Colleges Developing Free Tuition Program for All Bexar County HS Grads
Emily Donaldson 1-14-19



Plan to Reopen South San Schools Raises Questions About Cost, Demand
Emily Donaldson 3-7-19



North East ISD Names Successor for Retiring Superintendent Brian Gottardy
Emily Donaldson 2-18-19



KLRN Creates 21st Century Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood for SA's Youngest Students
Emily Donaldson 2-16-19



SAISD Superintendent: District 'On Course' For Future Progress
Emily Donaldson 2-13-19



South San Leader Alexandro Flores Talks Adaptability, Challenges, and Reopening Schools
Emily Donaldson 2-12-19



School Districts Consider Expanding Full-Day Pre-K for Thousands of SA 4-Year-Olds
Emily Donaldson 2-8-19



A Closer Look at Consolidating Bexar County's Weakest School Districts
Emily Donaldson 2-3-19



Book Appétit Literary Feast with *Hamilton* author Ron Chernow | Friday, April 5 11:00am | Tickets at FESTIVAL.SAPLF.ORG

PRESENTING SPONSOR CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

PREMIER SPONSORS 80|20 FOUNDATION

MAJOR SPONSORS EY, Katy & Ted Flato Charitable Fund, H-E-B, Holt Family, Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation, Mays Family Foundation, John & Florence Newman Foundation, Ann & Chuck Parrish Charitable Fund, Rices Products Company, William & Salomé Scanlan Foundation, Texas Monthly, The Tobin Endowment. **KEY SPONSORS** Backyard Studios, CE Group, Hotel Valencia Riverwalk, KSAT, Las Casas Foundation, San Antonio Express-News

FOUNDING PARTNERS SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY, SOUTHWEST SCHOOL OF ART, Texas Book Festival

San Antonio Area Foundation Where Giving and Community Connect

GET CREATIVE SANANTONIO.ORG

DON'T MISS THE MOTH MAINSTAGE FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 7PM THE MAJESTIC THEATRE TICKETMASTER.COM

SABF is the signature program of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation. SAPLF

RIVARD Report

Your Source For Education Coverage

In San Antonio

www.rivardreport.com

Sign up for our daily, weekly and events newsletter!

Support nonprofit journalism by becoming an individual or business member!

The Rivard Report is San Antonio's leading local online news source. We are nonprofit and nonpartisan and we do not have a paywall. Our content is available at no cost to everyone in the city and beyond. We believe a well-informed and connected community is essential to making San Antonio a better place to live, work, and play.



Recognition of Pre-K Education Excellence in San Antonio



In January 2019, CityHealth, an initiative of the de Beaumont Foundation and Kaiser Permanente, rated large U.S. cities in nine categories, including high-quality pre-kindergarten programs. CityHealth found that although many cities are implementing prekindergarten programs, few of them are both high-quality and far-reaching. San Antonio, however, was awarded a **Gold Medal in high-quality pre-kindergarten** because of its investment in Pre-K 4 SA, which improves school readiness and success for thousands of children in San Antonio.

In 2018, **San Antonio received the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize. San Antonio was one out of only four communities nationwide to be selected for the award.** This health equity prize—which came with a monetary prize of \$25,000—recognizes communities which have come together around a commitment to health, opportunity, and equity through collaboration and inclusion, especially historically marginalized populations and those who are facing challenges to good health. Pre-K 4 SA was one of the multiple initiatives considered to receive this recognition.

Education is not preparation for life;
education is life itself.

John Dewey

ALEJANDRA BARRAZA, PH.D.

Principal, Carroll Early Childhood Education Center – SAISD



School administrators hold a critical role in creating early learning environments that are focused on developing the whole child through cognitive and academic rigor. School administrators—particularly principals—are tasked with making decisions that directly and indirectly impact what happens in a classroom. Effective principals empower and guide their teachers, who then give agency to their students. This agency is most productive when play and student interests are a central focus of early learning classrooms. Play inspires cognitive rigor in our youngest of students and focuses on developing the whole child as it addresses all of a young student's needs, not just the academic ones. As a result of the recent focus on standardized test scores, much of what is appropriate for older grades has started to seep

into early learning classrooms. The administrator's leadership and influence is required to push back against this practice as it is counterproductive in the development of the whole child. It is of the utmost importance that administrators and principals recognize their role in supporting and inspiring the creation of high-quality, play-centered learning experiences for all young children.

San Antonio Awarded Gold Medal for Pre-K Education by NIEER

NIEER researchers found that many cities are offering Pre-K programs, but many of these programs lack key quality benchmarks that extensive research has shown deliver lasting benefits. They also found that many cities offer high-quality programs reaching too few children, which is defined as less than 30 percent of the eligible population of preschoolers. A positive trend is that the number of Pre-K programs is growing in U.S. cities, and much of this growth is fueled by cities' willingness to create new, local funding streams to establish and sustain the programs.

Results of NIEER's assessment. Each city is listed, including its CityHealth medal status, which was assigned according to how many of the 10 quality policy benchmarks the city met, and whether the city enrolls at least 30 percent of 4-year-olds. Data are also included to show whether a city's Pre-K program meets standards for teacher salary equity with K-12 educators, and whether the city has established a local funding stream to improve either quality or access of its Pre-K program. All Pre-K programs that have shown longterm benefits for participants have had highly qualified teachers paid at salaries comparable to those in the K-12 system.



















GOLD MEDAL CITIES (Five): **San Antonio**, Boston, Charlotte, New York, Nashville
A total of 44 major cities evaluated

Policy Benchmark	Description	Why it Matters
LEARNING GOALS	Guides teaching and assessment	Defines what children are expected to know completing Pre-K
CURRICULUM SUPPORTS	Guides selection of content-rich curriculum	Focus on language, literacy, mathematics, science, and social-emotional development
TEACHER EDUCATION	Lead teachers – Bachelor's Degree	Higher education levels = higher quality learning environments for children
SPECIALIZED TRAINING	Lead teacher has specialized training	Teach children in ways that are consistent with a child's learning and development
ASSISTANT TEACHER EDUCATION	Need formalized entry-level credentials	All members influence classroom quality
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	On-going training	Professional learning with coaching produces high-quality learning experiences for children
MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE	Maximum number is 20	Effective programs have small classes, enabling teachers to address each child's interest
TEACHER-CHILD RATIO	Ratio teachers to children 1:10	Small groups of children allow teachers to offer more individualized attention
HEALTH SCREENING	Screenings for vision, hearing, health & development concerns	Helps children get the help they need/prevents later costly services
CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT	System to assess program quality/guide improvement	Helps educators provide the high-quality early learning

Pre-K Participation LONG-TERM BENEFITS INCLUDE: • Lower rates of crime and teen pregnancy • Higher lifetime earnings • Better health outcomes PRE-K PARTICIPANTS ARE ALSO MORE LIKELY TO: • Go to a doctor, receive immunizations and screenings • In programs that facilitate it, get dental care • Make cognitive and social emotional gains children make in Pre-K are associated with improved health in adulthood

By the National Institute for Early Education Research at the Graduate School of Education, Rutgers University and CityHealth // Peer Reviewers: Libby Doggett Ph. D. Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Policy and Early Learning The US Department of Education 2013-17 Albert Wat, M.A. Senior Policy Director, Alliance for Early Success

LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

SCHOOL DISTRICT		SUPERINTENDENT	# SCHOOLS	# STUDENTS
	Alamo Heights	 Dr. Dana Bashara	6	4,748
	Comal	 Andrew Kim	27	18,590
	East Central	 Roland Toscano	12	16,000
	Edgewood	 Eduardo Hernandez	20	11,293
	Floresville	 Dr. Sherri Bays	5	4,000
	Ft. Sam Houston	 Dr. Gail Siller	2	1,546
	Harlandale	 Rey Madrigal	31	15,324
	Judson	 Dr. Carl Montoya	30	23,138
	Lackland	 Dr. Burnie Roper	2	956
	North East	 Dr. Sean Maika	68	64,385
	Northside	 Dr. Brian T. Woods	120	106,400
	Randolph	 Lance Johnson	3	1,134
	San Antonio	 Pedro Martinez	91	53,857
	Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City	 Dr. Greg Gibson	16	15,000
	Somerset	 Saul Hinojosa, Jr.	7	4,057
	South San Antonio	 Alexandro Flores	12	9,625
	Southwest	 Dr. Lloyd Verstoyft	17	13,519

OVERLAND

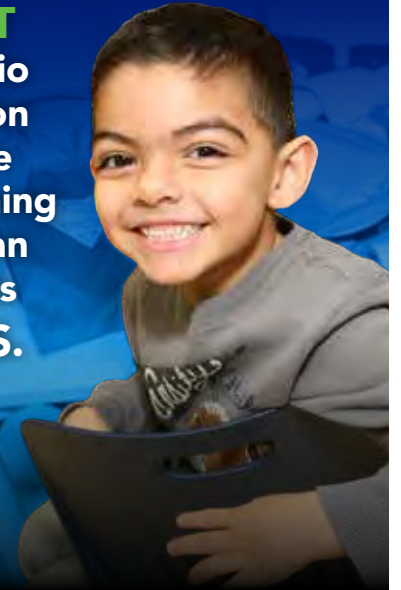
Architecture. Urban Design.

www.overlandpartners.com

PRE-K MATTERS IS

proud

**TO SUPPORT
the San Antonio
PK-12 Education
Forum because
we know learning
your ABCs at an
early age spells
S-U-C-C-E-S-S.**



PreK  Matters

DR. CYNTHIA TENIENTE-MATSON

President, Texas A&M University-San Antonio

Quality education is a vehicle that can help an individual to navigate through many of life's challenges. Over time, various aspects of that vehicle must change in order to continue to effectively serve new generations of consumers. Our focus at Texas A&M University-San Antonio (A&M-SA) is to facilitate ongoing innovation in education in order to insure that it is student-centric, personalized, culturally relevant, and socially responsible. Texas A&M University-San Antonio is strategically positioned to implement innovative practices designed to improve and enhance student learning and degree attainment, especially for first-generation students. These practices include curriculum that provides students with the tools to solve complex real-world problems and High-Impact Practices (HIP) that are designed to increase retention and student engagement.

Diversity, inclusion and equity are at the forefront of everything we do at A&M-SA. We have been designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and in 2017, we launched the President's Commission on Equity (PCOE), which is charged with building a culture of excellence that values equity and inclusion on campus. We are on a mission at A&M-SA to provide equitable opportunity and support for all of our stakeholders.



SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS



Pre-K Matters



Carla and John Brozovich

OVERLAND

LIBBY DOGETT

Former Early Learning Deputy Assistant to U.S. Secretary Department of Education

Young children learn more through play than they do from TV, apps, or worksheets. Setting up a classroom where children are actively engaged in play takes a highly trained teacher who understands how children learn, builds on children's interests and can individualize activities to meet children with varying skills.

In visiting programs from Boston to San Francisco and here in San Antonio (at PK4SA and SAISD's Caroline Center), you see preschoolers totally absorbed in play. Delving beneath the flawlessly executed schedule of "play" is a carefully sequenced set of learning goals. The teacher and her assistant are engaging small groups in science experiments or math games or walking around challenging children to extend their learning. For example, a teacher might challenge a child to make the foundation in a block tower sturdier or encourage him to write a grocery list of what to purchase at the newly installed play grocery store. It is play and it is so much more.

While children are definitely learning their ABC's and 123's, they are also expanding their vocabularies and learning important social-emotional skills. These are the skills that business leaders most look for when hiring—people who show up on time, get along with coworkers and are eager to learn more. Children in PK4SA (and other high-quality programs) are learning to take turns, to share, to think before acting, to respect the teacher, and most importantly they are learning how to learn. It is play and creates a foundation for a lifetime!



IMPORTANT PK-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVES IN SAN ANTONIO



Insure that every child dramatically improves their educational success in school, college and career

within Bexar County. Convene and facilitate educational enhancing efforts to inspire and prepare our communities' families and students for success.

Charlie Amato – Chair

Bartell Zachry – Founding Chair

Ryan Lugalia-Hollon – Executive Director



Our mission is to surround students with a community of support, empowering

them to stay in school and achieve in life.

Jessica Weaver – CEO



Trinity Principal Leadership and Fellows Program – An innovative and intensive preparation that equips candidates with the transformational leadership

skills required of successful educational leaders today. Prepares instructional leaders to take on the challenges of urban school leadership.

Dr. Norvella Carter – Interim Chair,
Department of Education



Establishes a positive trajectory for educational attainment by providing a child with a complete experience that ensures academic excellence in school inspiring

students to develop love for learning & to become contributing members of society.

Dr. Sarah Baray – CEO



Led by 16 San Antonio-area Independent School Districts and co-

chaired by Kim Lubel, CEO of CST Brands, Lowell Tacker, Principal at LPA, Inc. and David Crouch, Vice President of Toyota Motor Manufacturing Texas, Go Public is inspiring people across the region to take a step back and celebrate the positive and sustained impact public schools make on all of us. All residents– whether they have kids in school or not – have reasons to love and support our public schools.

Lisa Losasso Jackson – Executive Director



CHOOSE to SUCCEED

Working to attract the nation's best public charter schools to San Antonio. Our mission is to ensure that every family has access to exceptional, tuition-free public education options.

Chip Haass – Executive Director

Steve Lewis – Chair



Teach For America corps members and alumni are helping lead an educational revolution in low-income communities across the country.

Nick Garcia – San Antonio Executive Director



We are a community of youth development leaders. Our members provide out-of-school Time (OST) services to young people and their families.

Working together, our goal is to make San Antonio the top U.S. city for youth to learn, grow, and thrive.

Ryan Lugalia – Hollon – Program Director

IMPORTANT PK-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVES IN SAN ANTONIO



The Witte Museum is where nature, science and culture meet to inspire people to shape the future of Texas through relevant and transformative experiences. Lifelong learning is experienced through daily

demonstrations and immersive exhibitions, and through powerful partnerships. The Witte is a place that engenders a future where all people have the opportunity to create an extraordinary life.

Marise McDermott – President & CEO



San Antonio's only museum just for children where kids learn by doing, creating and tinkering—instead of just looking and listening. As

an institution committed to fostering a lifelong love of learning among children. The DoSeum offers a diverse array of programs for children ages 0-10.

Daniel Menelly – CEO



The experience will inspire the youth of today to discover scientific and technical principles relevant to their everyday lives. Students will learn about careers in science that they might never have considered.

Ultimately, they will come away with the feeling that “science is cool!” and “I can be an aeronautical engineer, neurologist or an electrical engineer!”

Bonnie Baskin – Founder, CEO



IDEA is one the highest performing charter school networks in Texas. Founded in the Rio Grande Valley 15 years ago, IDEA has successfully pursued its mission to make

college for all children a reality.

Tom Torkelson (CEO) and JoAnn Gama – Founders
Rolando Posada – Executive Director, San Antonio



Educational Services

KLRN is the Emmy-Award winning Public Television station for South Central Texas broadcasting to a 30-county radius. The mission of KLRN is to use the power of communications to provide quality programs and services which advance education, culture and community, to enrich the lives of people throughout our community. It is its “beyond television” strategy that forms KLRN’s educational outreach model – to prepare children for kindergarten and academic success and to impact the quality of care.

Arthur Emerson – CEO



Great Hearts is a non-profit classical K-12 public charter school

network committed to academic excellence and moral formation. We operate high-performing schools staffed by exemplary teachers and founded upon the classical ideals of truth, goodness, and beauty. Our students are prepared for success in higher education and to be leaders in creating a more philosophical, humane, and just society. Visit www.greatheartsamerica.org to learn more.

Jay Heiler – Board Chair
Wade Dyke – Chief Executive Officer
Aaron Kindle – President, Great Hearts Texas



Ensuring aspiring educators are, “Ready from Day One,” by providing >120 hours of field residency experiences.

The College of Education

and Human Development offers 10 distinct Master’s degree programs including a Masters in Early Childhood Education. All of our programs blend theory with practical experiences so that our graduates are well prepared to be highly effective educational leaders.

Carl J. Sheperis, Ph.D. – Dean College of Education & Human Development



Promotes the literacy skills of San Antonio’s at-risk youth using SAYL Reading Buddies Program, an early intervention program. SAYL trains volunteers to work one-on-one with elementary school children who are reading below grade level.

Dr. Deborah L. Valdez, Ed.D. – Executive Director



KIPP Texas Public Schools is an open-enrollment public tuition-free charter school network of 52 schools

educating more than 27,000 Pre-K-12 students across the state, including San Antonio where there are six schools and more than 3,534 students. We believe that all children, irrespective of zip code or income level, has a right to an exemplary education, so the focus at KIPP Texas is educating students with the academic and character skills necessary to thrive in and graduate from college, positively impact their communities, and lead choice-filled lives.

Sehba Ali – Chief Executive Officer
Mark Larson – Chief External Officer



College Advising Corps works to increase the number of first-generation college going, low-income, and/or underrepresented

students who apply, enter, and complete college. CAC, with its partner universities, places well-trained recent college graduates as full-time college advisers in underserved high schools. We believe that every student deserves the opportunity to enter and complete higher education.

Nicole Hurd – Founder and CEO



The mission is to promote excellence in education for all students in Bexar County by improving the governance and collaboration among the 20 ISDs wholly or partially in Bexar County, Texas. Major goals are: Improve Governance; Identify Common

Legislative Priorities; Collaborate on Areas of Commonality

Robert Blount, Jr. – President



City Year helps bridge the gap between what students need to succeed and how public schools are designed and resourced. As full-time, near-peer tutors, mentors, and role models, City Year AmeriCorps

members tutor students one-on-one, provide in-class academic and behavior support, and organize school-wide initiatives to improve school culture proven to move high-potential students back on track to graduation.

Kelly Hughes Burton – VP and Executive Director



Began in 2001 with a mission to inform high school students of STEM careers driven by industry. Students are exposed to high demand career pathways through a hands-on curriculum to make better decisions

on their educational and career plans. Academies: Advanced Technology & Manufacturing, Aerospace, Diesel Technology, Health Professionals, Information Technology & Security, The Academies Mission.

Katherine Sanchez-Rocha – Executive Director



Led by United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, Eastside Promise Neighborhood is a collaborative efforts impacting San Antonio's east side. Inspired by the Harlem Children's Zone and funded by the U.S. Department of Education, it focuses on achieving

results on Ten Promises to the community, all focused on improving education opportunities for youth and strengthening families and the neighborhood.

Mike Etienne, Ph.D. – Director



Goal is to close the college graduation gap for San Antonio by helping its students graduate from high school, enroll in college, and

earn a college degree and/or certificate. The Partnership delivers its key services each year through three programs: Road to Success, the San Antonio Education Partnership Scholarship and cafécollege.

Adriana Contreras – Executive Director



San Antonio Public Library's early literacy program, designed to support the development of young children's love of books, reading and learning. Services are provided free of charge at public libraries, childcare facilities, schools and community-based organizations.

Cresencia Huff – Manager

IMPORTANT PK-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVES IN SAN ANTONIO



MISSION: To empower students to achieve at globally competitive levels with our transformative K-12 academic program. BASIS schools

offer students something no other American public school does: An education that prepares them according to the highest, most rigorous international standards. Our schools have been ranked consistently among the best schools in the United States—and the world. The BASIS Primary School academic program includes humanities, math, science, Mandarin, art, music, drama, and physical education. The Upper School, which serves grades 8-12, offers an accelerated science and liberal arts program. New schools are in the Medical Center and North Central San Antonio.

Dr. Peter Bezanson – CEO



The Alamo Academies is a national award winning, innovative, STEM-based

instructional model operated by the Alamo Area Academies Inc., a non-profit organization, in partnership with the Alamo Colleges, San Antonio area high schools, industry and the cities of San Antonio, New Braunfels and Seguin providing America's youth with tuition-free career pathways into critical demand technical STEM occupations.

Gene Bowman – Executive Director



of San Antonio

Girls Inc. of San Antonio works to inspire all girls to be strong, smart, and bold. The organization equips girls to navigate gender, economic, and social barriers to grow up healthy, educated, and independent. Girls

build confidence and embrace positive decision-making to take charge of their health and wellbeing, and to achieve academic, personal, and career goals.

Lea Rosenauer – President & CEO



Provides comprehensive out-of-school programs that keep children safe and help them achieve in school and life. Focused on developing skills in one of more of the following areas: Technology, Education, Life Skills, Sports, Culture. More than 3,000 children from Bexar County have participated in 50 different programs since its launch.

Dr. Patricia Karam – Executive Director



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of South Texas

For more than 100 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and thrive in life. As the nation's largest donor and volunteer supported

mentoring network, Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles"), ages 6 through 18, in communities across the country. We develop positive relationships that have a direct and lasting effect on the lives of young people.

Denise Barkhurst – CEO



Academica is one of the nation's longest-serving and most successful education service organizations, providing professional services and related support to nearly 150 public charter schools. A pioneer in the charter school movement, Academica was founded in 1999 on the principle that each school of choice is a unique educational environment governed by an independent Board of Directors best qualified to forge its path to student success.

Fernando Zulueta – CEO



The Scobee Education Center aims to carry on the Space Shuttle Challenger crews educational mission – to spark interest and joy in science, technology, engineering and math. The Scobee Education Center is dedicated to enriching the lives of children and adults alike by fostering a love of science and astronomy through hands-on and minds-on experiential education.



A grassroots movement that promotes, supports and celebrates San Antonio's commitment to be a world-class compassionate city: one where the civic government, the religious and volunteer organizations, the businesses, the community and its educational institutions come together to recognize the importance and value of compassion in the life of a city and by doing so create an ethos of compassion and a safety net for its most vulnerable citizens.

Dr. Ann Helmke – Executive Director



A community challenge started by President Obama encouraging city leaders, including SA Mayor Ivy R. Taylor, to implement a coherent life-impact strategy. This national initiative is designed to help boys and men of color reach their full potential regardless of life's circumstances. Locally, MBKSA will coordinate with other strategies that connect youth with opportunity and help young people build healthy relationships with themselves, their families and their community.

Mayor Ivy Taylor & Dr. Mike Etienne – Co-Chairs of Steering Committee



Texas Aquatic Science is a pathway for water science education providing educators a complete curricula and teaching guide aligned with TEKS and integrated with experiential place based field sites, mobile and interactive technologies, and comprehensive on-line teaching options. Developed by Meadows Center for Water and Environment, Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, and Texas Parks and Wildlife. Originated through funding by the Ewing Halsell Foundation. Texasaquaticscience.org

Dr. Rudy Rosen – Project Director.



CAST Tech High School, opening in August 2017, will be a career-themed school focusing on coding, cyber security, gaming, entrepreneurship, business and more. Located near the city's downtown Tech District on the Fox Tech campus, the school will work hand-in-hand with industry partners to prepare students for careers in technology and business, where the demand is high for skilled workers.

Kelly Flieger – Principal



Education Service Center, Region 20 is one of 20 regional education service agencies within Texas which assist school districts in improving student performance and increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of school operations. A non-regulatory agency; our relationship with school districts is collaborative and supportive. Provide an array of programs and services in the areas of administration, business support, certification and recruitment, curriculum, instruction and assessment, health and safety, professional development, specialized services and technology.

Dr. Jeff Goldhorn – Executive Director



A county wide Community of Practice with a commitment to provide STEM/STEAM experiences for all students with a focus on students traditionally underrepresented in STEM/STEAM. SABSSE establishes and articulates Early Learning to Middle School STEM/STEAM Pathways of learning experiences and will disaggregate the High School Graduation Rates to include STEM Endorsement, 21st Century skills, and other metrics for measuring the impact of SABSSE.

Dr. Paul Reyna – Executive Director

IMPORTANT PK-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVES IN SAN ANTONIO



Our mission is to empower families to engage in a marketplace of schools – that is, to understand their school options and choose the right school for their child. We do this by providing families with tools and resources for selecting a school and helping them navigate the application

process to get there. We do not advocate for any one schooling option over the other.

Colleen Dippel – Founder & Executive Director
Quincy Boyd – Coordinator, San Antonio

RELAY/LAB SCHOOLS

Relay Lab Schools, a new, non-profit schools management organization working in close partnership with urban public school districts around the country, manages neighborhood schools that prepare all kids to enter, succeed in, and graduate from college. Relay Lab Schools Texas currently manages two neighborhood elementary/ middle schools on the West Side of San Antonio.

Learn more about us—and discover how to join our growing team of educators and entrepreneurs—at www.relaylabschools.org.

Chris Fraser – Executive Director



Democracy Prep Texas, currently running a dual language elementary school in partnership with SAISD, is expanding to serve students in middle school for the 2019 – 2020 school year. Democracy Prep is a national charter organization that puts

students on a path to college graduation and a life of active citizenship.

Jeremy Jones – Executive Director



DEE HOWARD FOUNDATION

Established the Pre-K thru 12 Aeronautical STEM Initiative in 2016 to introduce aviation and aerospace related STEM curriculum in schools primarily focused on underserved students in the San Antonio area.

In the fall of 2019 the DHF program will be in four school districts and ten schools during the school day. It includes age appropriate classroom instruction, guest speakers, field trips, virtual tours, opportunities for students to fly with private pilots, and the 9th thru 12th grade includes an aircraft build program of a full size single engine aircraft. The goal is to expand the DHF Aeronautical STEM program by one school district per academic year.

Wayne I. Fagan – Chair

Around here we don't look backwards for very long. We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things, because we're curious...and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.

Walt Disney





The University of Texas at San Antonio

College of Education and Human Development



Transform Lives

Start your path to becoming a teacher, counselor, or leader.

Teacher Certifications Offered:

- Early Childhood - 6th Grade
- Early Childhood - 6th Grade Bilingual
- Early Childhood - 6th Grade ESL
- 4th - 8th Grade
- 4th - 8th Grade Bilingual
- 4th - 8th Grade ESL
- 4th - 8th Grade Language Arts/Reading/Social Studies
- 4th - 8th Grade Math/Science
- Early Childhood - 12th Grade Special Education
- Secondary Certification (7th - 12th Grade): English, History, Math, and Science
- All Level Certification: Art, Music, Physical Education, and Spanish
- Post-Baccalaureate Certification

Education Professional Certifications Offered:

- School Counselor
- Reading Specialist
- Principal
- Superintendent

education.utsa.edu | 210-458-4370 | education@utsa.edu

HUMAN SERVICES
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

sanantonio.gov/humanservices 210.207.8198

f t i @COSADHS

TAYLOR EIGHMY, PH.D.

President, The University of Texas at San Antonio



Learning happens everywhere.

Experiential learning opportunities for college students have a significant impact on their learning. These opportunities have been shown to produce numerous benefits—including enhancing what is learned in the classroom, increasing student engagement, and improving career readiness—which results in improving student retention, generating marketable skills, and enhancing a student’s self-efficacy.

These type of signature learning experiences—including internships, service learning, undergraduate research and study abroad—directly align with UTSA’s vision of exemplifying an urban-serving, Hispanic-thriving discovery enterprise. The more we can interweave students’ classroom learning with real-world applications, the better positioned they will be to pursue their career goals. UTSA has committed to making experiential learning more widely available to our Roadrunners through our Classroom to Career Initiative. These experiences will not only benefit our students but also the San Antonio community through workforce development—and keeping our talented students in our community.




**ON A MISSION
TO TEACH TEXAS**



When Texas A&M San Antonio's aspiring teachers participated in a field residency at a failing elementary and provided tutoring, the elementary students outperformed their peers in academic progress after only a year! This is how We Teach Texas. We are united and audacious in action, determined to propel the world.

TAMUSA.EDU  @TAMUSanAntonio

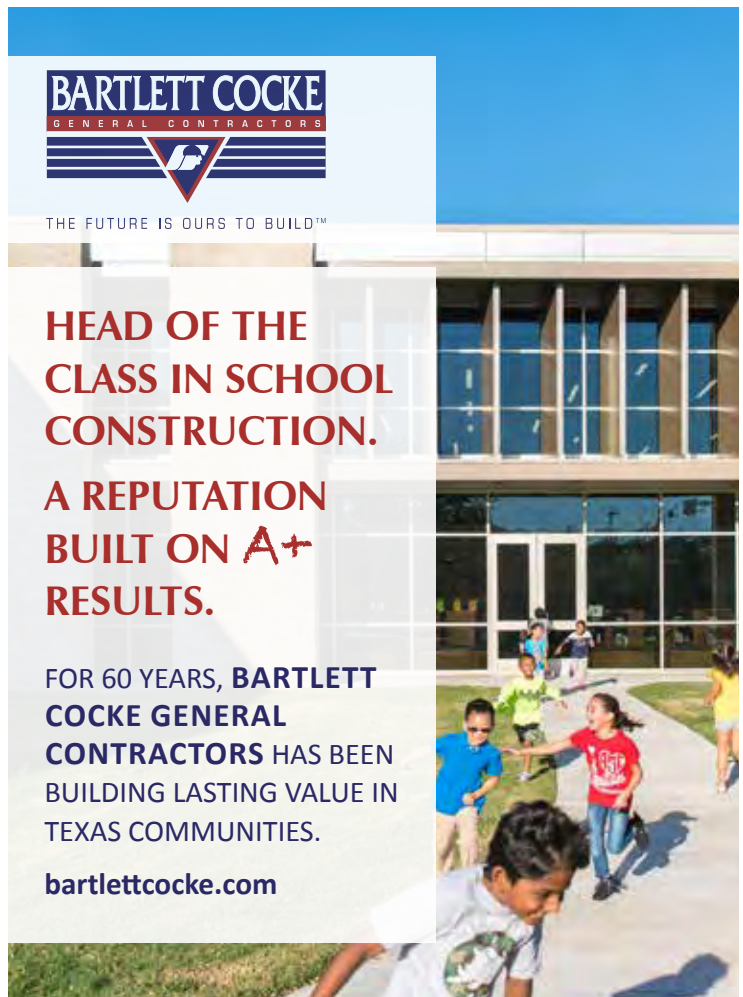


THE FUTURE IS OURS TO BUILD™

**HEAD OF THE
CLASS IN SCHOOL
CONSTRUCTION.
A REPUTATION
BUILT ON A+
RESULTS.**

FOR 60 YEARS, **BARTLETT
COCKE GENERAL
CONTRACTORS** HAS BEEN
BUILDING LASTING VALUE IN
TEXAS COMMUNITIES.

bartlettcocke.com



TOM TORKELSON

CEO & Co-Founder, IDEA Public Schools



When JoAnn Gama and I started IDEA Public Schools in Donna, Texas in 2000, we never thought that one day we would one day open schools in San Antonio. Our bargain with families then was simple: if you stick with us, we will stick with you, and we will get your children to college.

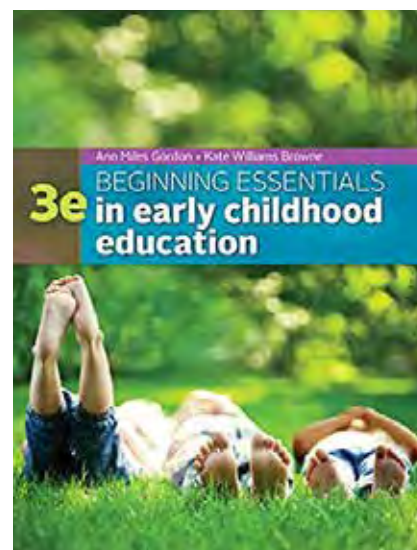
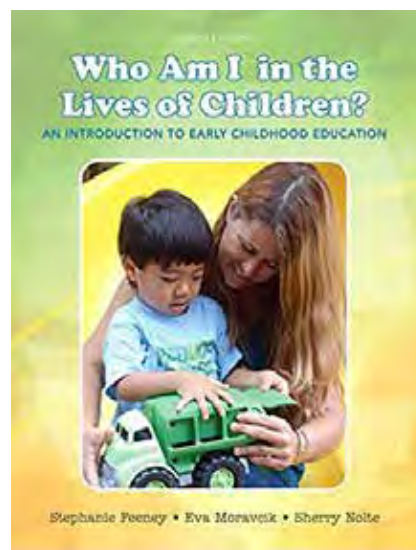
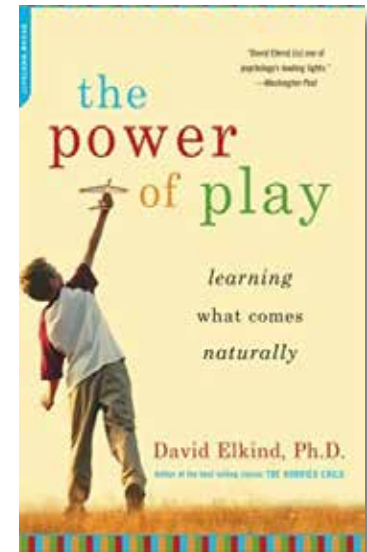
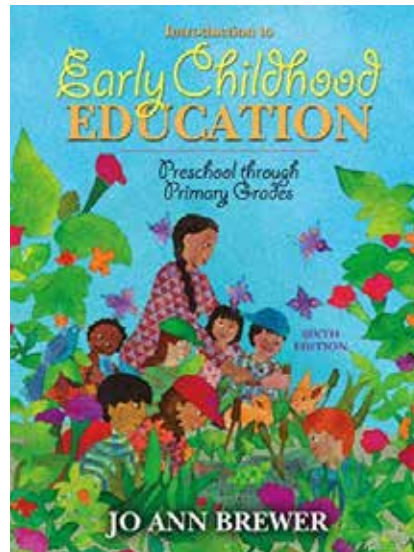
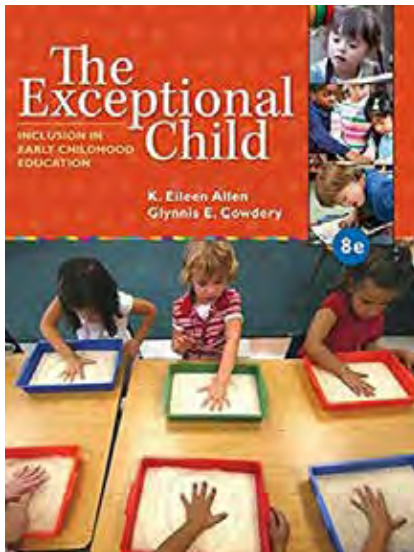
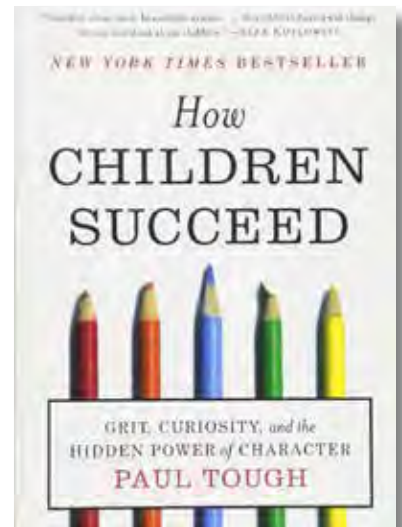
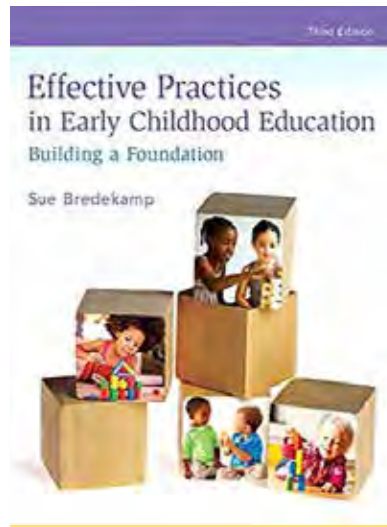
That promise has proven to be appealing to thousands of students and families since our founding in 2000, and is ultimately what led to our expansion to San Antonio in 2012 – well, that, and it's hard to say "No" when David Robinson comes calling.

This year, on February 8, we made good on our promise for our seniors in the class of 2019. On that day, we learned that 100% of our 2019 seniors had been accepted to college. Our first- ever graduating class at Carver College Prep in San Antonio – the school that started it all for us here – represents the first of our graduates in San Antonio to have that honor.

Over the years, the promise we keep and choice we offer has led to us partnering with traditional districts, public charter schools, colleges and universities, and community members and institutions to move the needle not just for our own students and families, but for the good of all of the communities we serve. That trend continues, as in 2020, we will open a partnership with Midland ISD to provide more choices for students and families in that community. We look forward to what the future holds in San Antonio on this front as well, as we work collectively to improve outcomes for all of the city's youth.

San Antonio is garnering national attention for its education landscape, and that can be chalked up to choice. Families, when presented with choices, can find a school and environment for their children that will help them achieve their dreams for the future. The choice that exists in San Antonio today are far greater in quantity and quality than when IDEA started here in 2012, and I look forward to seeing that trend continue for the benefit of all of San Antonio's students and families regardless of race or income level.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS ON EARLY EDUCATION FOR TEACHERS



Full STEAM Ahead with Early Learning

Carol Harle, Ph.D., Education Consultant
Early Learning Lead for Alamo STEM Ecosystem, Northside ISD Board

It's an exciting time to be a "little STEAMer" in San Antonio! Our early learners, ages 3-8 year olds, are experiencing rigorous subject matter and robust learning activities that had traditionally been offered to older students and young adults. Early learning opportunities have "exploded" with engaging, hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) activities that foster problem solving skills, literacy development, creative and critical thinking, designing techniques and collaborative project work, all while having fun.

Coding... and solving... and creating, Oh My! Three to eight year olds "squealing" with delight as they explore the properties of magnetism, investigate uses of levers and pulleys, design codes that tell a "caterpillar" where to go, tinker with open-ended materials, problem solve with laser beams and create stories and songs for how plants make food are now commonplace in STEAM early learning programs. New studies* suggest that integrating STEAM activities enrich the foundational education experience for early learners and their families and can decrease inequities in access that students from poverty and/or at-risk environments experience. Increasing opportunities by exposing early learning students to STEAM learning experiences fosters increased academic and social emotional success that follows them into college, careers and "life!"

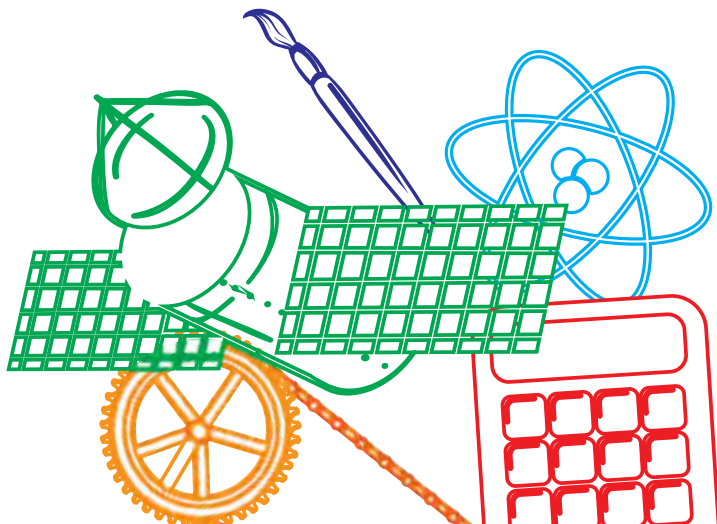


Furthermore, the STEAM Early Learning initiative is part of the newly established Alamo STEM Ecosystem which, "acts to cultivate a STEM/STEAM mindset with a focus on equity and innovation in our community by aligning and connecting efforts." (See: <http://www.alamostemecosystem.org/>) Our early learning "STEAM Team" of experts is currently working on connecting STEM -STEAM resources and programs city wide and with STEM-STEAM Ecosystems in Mexico and around the world. Most schools and outside school day organizations and nonprofits such as Girls, Inc, Doseum, Communities in Schools, Boys & Girls Clubs of San Antonio, iTEC (Interactive Technology Experience Center w/ UTSA Engineering), Youth Code Jam, Robotics and Legos Engineering, Northside ISD Learning Tree after school/ extended day, week &

year programs, Engineering for Kids, Bits, Bytes, & Bots, offer high quality STEAM activities that build confident, collaborative and caring children.

Even though approximately 75% of today's early learners will be working in jobs that don't exist yet, essential and "universal" skills and understandings such as critical & creative thinking, problem solving, cooperative team work, engineering design, innovation, effective communication, persistence, pride in work, healthy well-being, concern for others, social consciousness, etc. transcend time and "performance." All of these STEAM skills and behaviors have been and will continued to be championed by all organizations and businesses. Isn't it great that our youngest of learners are being introduced to STEAM-sational experiences?!

For more STEAM early learning information and research see: [Considerations for STEM Education from PreK through Grade 3, \(2018\)](http://cadrek12.org/resources/considerationsstem-education-prek-through-grade-3.). Retrieved from <http://cadrek12.org/resources/considerationsstem-education-prek-through-grade-3.>



Bexar County and S.A. Have a Child Care Challenge

Bob Sanborn and Shay Everitt, San Antonio Express News



PHOTO CREDIT: BILLY CALZADA

November 11, 2018 – As Texans, we are proud of the work of San Antonio in creating and establishing Pre-K 4 SA. No other city so well understood, and then acted on, the crucial need to educate our youngest residents in preparation for the future. However, we cannot claim victory and move on. The foundation of our children’s education does not begin at age 4. It starts much earlier. Early childhood education is a comprehensive approach that incorporates parents and quality child care providers at an early age. Child care is the true foundation for future success, and right now the foundation in Bexar County is weak.

It’s a two-generation issue. During the first few years of life, children’s brains are forming more than 1 million neural connections every second, building the foundation that impacts all future learning. The time of greatest brain-building occurs in babies and toddlers, and it slows noticeably by kindergarten. This brain-building is based primarily on quality interactions with caregivers.

Skilled, competent employees are the foundation of business. Many employees are parents, and businesses struggle when their employees cannot find affordable, stable child care options. Across the U.S., businesses lose \$4.4 billion every year due to child care breakdowns among their employees.

There simply is not enough quality child care in San Antonio. Only six percent of all child care providers in Bexar County are certified as quality programs through Texas Rising Star, the state’s quality rating system for early childhood education programs. In Bexar County, there are over 23,000 children younger than six whose working parents do not have access to affordable, quality child care.

Broadly speaking, we must:

Establish a sound business model by coordinating services for child care providers so they can operate more efficiently. Many providers are small organizations, but most share similar costs, including staff, food purchasing/preparation,

curriculum, payroll and more. By bringing child care providers together to share services, they can negotiate costs, save time and money, and reinvest to improve quality.

Strengthen partnerships. Pre-K 4 SA, school districts, child care providers, the city of San Antonio, Workforce Solutions Alamo and others provide professional development for teachers of young children. By working together, they can reduce costs and provide continuity for early-learning standards across all settings. This can also help child care teachers anticipate what school districts expect for school-readiness and school districts to get more exposure to child-development training.

Effectively engage and educate parents. Coordinating information for parents receiving public services such as Head Start, Pre-K 4 SA, and public school pre-K will increase parents’ understanding of options and help them make the best choices. Coordination helps administrators more efficiently spend money by coordinating waitlists and services.

Invest in a quality child care workforce. Child care teachers are often paid poverty wages, and are not required to have more than a high school diploma and minimal training. We must ensure child care teachers are adequately trained and compensated. Combining wage supplements or stipends with scholarship programs would also help these teachers build careers and reduce turnover.

Ensure child care teachers’ professional development is counting toward an early childhood credential or degree. This can help child care teachers affordably build their careers and stay in the child care field, which historically has higher rates of turnover than other low-wage industries. More qualified teachers also helps child care providers meet higher Texas Rising Star standards.

Access to quality, affordable child care is critical for working parents and for building the foundation of our future workforce.

Please stay tuned for the release of Children At Risk’s full report on the economic potential of quality child care, available at childrenatrisk.org/ece this month. The executive summary is available now. Readers should use this information to encourage state and local leaders to act.

Dr. Bob Sanborn is the CEO of Children At Risk, a Texas-based advocacy and research group. Shay Everitt is the director of Early Childhood Education Initiatives at the organization.

Every child

deserves to attend a high-performing school.



is one option.

- Accelerated **STEM** focused curriculum
- "A" rated school system by Texas Education Agency
 - 100% college acceptance
- Variety of sports and after school activities
- PK-12 • Tuition Free • Four San Antonio campuses

For More Information: sstschools.org • success@ssttx.org



MASTERS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
OF GREATER SAN ANTONIO

*Preparing, Connecting, and Serving
to Build a Better...*

Community

www.mlpsa.org

SPURS SPORTS
AND ENTERTAINMENT



San Antonio to Host 2019 Texas Special Olympic Summer Games

Roseanna Garza, *The Rivard Report*



November 16, 2018 – Special Olympics Texas announced on Monday that San Antonio will host the 2019 Summer Games for more than 3,000 athletes from across the state.

Hosted by Morgan’s Wonderland, the 50th annual Summer Games will include track and field, cycling, gymnastics, soccer, and tennis competitions held at area venues, including Toyota Field and the South Texas Area Regional Soccer Complex, which are adjacent to Morgan’s Wonderland in Northeast San Antonio.

The four-day event will take place from May 2-5, 2019, and is free and open to the public.

Tim Martin, president and CEO of Special Olympics Texas, said that in addition to the more than 3,000 participating athletes, the event will bring more than 800 coaches and 3,000 volunteers to San Antonio.

“These athletes have been training for their sport for a minimum of 12 weeks,” he said. “This event is always open to the public, and we want you here. You need to see our athletes and what they are capable of.”

While San Antonio has the most Special Olympics athletes in the state, it is the first time the city has hosted the four-day event, said Gordon Hartman, founder of the Gordon Hartman Family Foundation, which is sponsoring the event with support from Special Olympics Texas.

“This is a special honor because it highlights what San Antonio is known for,” he said. “We are a city that is compassionate, considerate, and has compassion for special-needs individuals.”

Hartman’s foundation also was the driving force behind Morgan’s Wonderland, a theme park designed to be fully accessible to people with special needs.

Health screenings for participants will be provided by the Children’s Rehabilitation Institute of TeletonUSA (CRIT), a comprehensive treatment facility for children with neurological and musculoskeletal disorders located near Morgan’s Wonderland.

CRIT Director Federica Soriano said that 2019 will be the first year that Special Olympics Texas will conduct its health screenings at a medical facility. Athletes will meet with medical professionals in a designated facility rather than a makeshift screening room on the event grounds, she said.

“We are very happy not only to serve these athletes, but we also have people working here who know what they are doing,” Soriano said. “When working with [people with special needs], you get better results when you put your heart into it, and we know how to work with them.”

Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher.

Japanese Proverb

DR. MIKE FLORES

Chancellor, Alamo Colleges District

As chancellor, my vision for the Alamo Colleges District is to partner to end poverty and enhance economic and social mobility in the San Antonio region through education. The average associate degree graduate from the Alamo Colleges will see an increase in earnings of \$9,400 each year compared to someone with a high school diploma working in Texas. An associate degree may mean the difference between a living wage and struggling to make ends meet, buying a home instead of renting or saving for a child's education.

However, there are numerous challenges to this vision. San Antonio is one of the most economically divided cities in the United States. Less than 50 percent of high school graduates in San Antonio go on to college and those who don't earn a credential or degree will likely earn an annual income that's well under the poverty rate. Many students who go on to college lose credits or leave college because life gets in the way. The lack of a skilled workforce is also a hurdle our community must overcome to enhance our economy. Texas' forgotten middle skill jobs are the largest segment of the workforce, while only 42% of the state's workers are trained to middle skill level.

The Alamo Colleges have established systems, such as AlamoENROLL and AlamoADVISE, to support our students as they navigate their educational path. We also have implemented the AlamoINSTITUTES to ensure students stay on the right course and take only the classes that will count toward a degree and transfer to the university of their choice. Our Experiential Learning initiative provides connections to our K-12, university and employer partners to ensure a smooth transition through each phase of the education spectrum. It also ensures we are focusing on producing graduates in the high-demand fields that can bolster the region's economic development.

With the support of community partners, we can increase college attainment in San Antonio, help change the trajectory of our students' lives, and reduce socio-economic disparities in our community.

EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSESSMENT

Birth 1 Year 2 Years	3 Years 4 Years	5 Years 6 Years 7 Years 8 Years
<p>Parents and caregivers observe and respond as children develop language and physical skills.</p>	<p>Parents, caregivers, and preschool teachers use direct measures, including observations of what children are learning, to decide what to teach next.</p>	<p>Teachers use both formal and informal assessments to plan and guide instruction.</p>

From: Principles and Recommendations for Early Childhood Assessments: National Education Goals Panel; February 1998

LEADERSHIP

Mike Morath – Commissioner



DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS:

Academics: **Penny Schwinn** – Assessment and Accountability Division; Standards and Programs.

Educator Support: **Martin Winchester** – Educator Leadership and Quality Division.

Finance: **Mike Meyer** – TEA divisions: the Permanent School Fund; School Finance; and Agency Finance.

Governance: **A.J. Crabill** – Accreditation and School Improvement Division; Complaints, Investigations and Enforcement.

Operations: **Megan Aghazadian** – strategic planning process, performance goals and milestone to improve student outcomes statewide. Oversees the TEA divisions of Communications, Governmental Relations and Human Resources.

Chief Information Officer: **Melody Parrish** – Information Technology Services/Statewide Education Data Systems

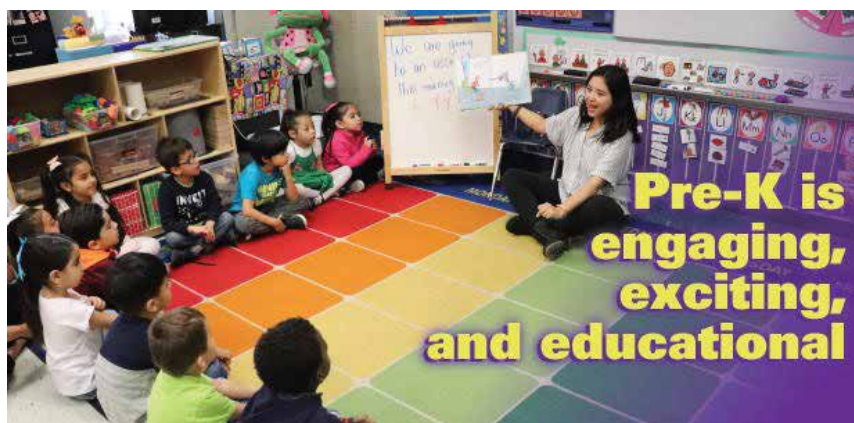
Special Population: **Matt Montano**

Standards and Engagement: **Jeff Cottrill**

For more information, visit: tea.texas.gov

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. Nelson Mandela

Northside ISD Pre-K Program Lays the Foundation For Student Success



NISD Trustees voted unanimously to expand the District's Full Day Pre-Kindergarten programs to 28 additional campuses making a total of 33 campuses with full day Pre-K. In addition, the District will also offer a limited number of tuition-based slots for non-qualifying families.

The district will continue to offer half-day Pre-K programming at 35 campuses.

Studies have found that children who attended high-quality Pre-K programs were less likely to be placed in special education,

and more likely to graduate from high school than peers who did not attend such programs. The early years are critical in laying the groundwork for literacy learning.

"By offering an expanded Pre-K program with skilled and qualified educators who are certified in early childhood, we are able to provide a solid academic foundation for these students as well as help them develop social and emotional tools in order to be successful in school," says Dr. Brian Woods, NISD Superintendent. "We hope to continue to expand our offerings as the demand dictates."

IMPORTANT EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS IN SAN ANTONIO



Empowering individuals and families to transform their lives and strengthen their community. The

programs support positive family values, respect the changing role of the family, and assist children, seniors, and families to deal effectively with problems and challenges.

Nancy L. Hard – President/CEO



Provides Out-of-School-Time (OST) programming that develops the character, strengths, talents, and skills of San Antonio's high-risk urban youth through safe experiences, positive learning

environments, and holistic programming that inspire each child to fulfill their potential. Founded in 1984 as a solution to a large number of youth congregating around downtown San Antonio with nowhere to go after school.

Asia Ciaravino – CEO



Delivers innovative family education and support services to under-served families, using a two-generation

model focused on parental engagement and education. We provide quality education for 1,500 children from birth to age four, as well as family services that directly impact children's development while assisting parents in achieving their own educational and professional goals.

Susan Steves Thompson – Executive Director



As the only Children's Advocacy Center in Bexar County, we provide expert care and

specialized services to children who have been traumatized by abuse, neglect, or sexual abuse.

Last year, Bexar County, which encompasses San Antonio, had the 4th highest rate of reported child abuse cases in Texas. One in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday; almost one-third are not old enough to attend kindergarten.

Kim Abernethy – President/CEO



Provides family & community education and developmental services to children with disabilities or delays empowering them to achieve their individual potential making them successful in every community. We set a strong foundation for children of ALL abilities through early childhood intervention, early childhood education and special education support.

Kim Jefferies – CEO



A coalition of organizations across Bexar County that builds on successful child and family programs in San Antonio. The purpose is twofold: 1. Create a comprehensive early

childhood system that promotes the social, emotional, physical and cognitive development of children 0-8. 2. Provide parents and caregivers with tools & resources to better support their families



Voices identifies critical issues that impact child well-being in San Antonio/ Bexar County and collaborates with local and state organizations to improve programs, practices and policy. Voices partners with over 200 organizations on its various initiatives in focus areas of Early Care and Education, Child Abuse/ Neglect and Children's Health and Mental Health. Working with City and State government and leaders, as well as with the health, education and human service sectors, Voices for Children continues to keep the wellbeing and the future of children at the forefront.

Dr. Kathleen A. Fletcher – President/CEO



St. Peter-St. Joseph Children's Home is a social service agency operating under the Archdiocese of San Antonio as an independent 501(c)3 non-profit. The mission of St. PJ's is to be a safe and loving refuge for children in crisis

and to accompany them on their journey to healing and wholeness, breaking the cycle of abuse and neglect one child at a time.

Gladys Gonzalez – Executive Director



Rooted in the loving ministry of Jesus as a healer, we commit ourselves to serving all persons with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable. Our Catholic health ministry is dedicated to spirituality centered, holistic care, which sustains and improves the health of individuals and communities. We are advocates for a compassionate and just society through our actions and words.

Veronica Segura – President/CEO



St. Paul Child Enrichment Center

At St. Paul Enrichment Center, our first priority is providing a nurturing environment where children's physical needs are met and they feel emotionally secure. With that foundation, we can offer. Since 1982, our mission has been to provide high quality, nationally recognized care that fosters the physical, social, language and cognitive development. We value

healthy relationships with each child's family and celebrate the diversity of our families and staff.



"Provide a safe family environment for children in need so

they may become responsible adults." Our campus is designed to help children in crisis who cannot remain in their own home for a variety of reasons. Our children come from homes that are in crisis. By providing food, shelter, clothing and medical services, we are able to provide the basic necessities needed to make the child feel safe and comfortable. We encourage a good education leading to college, trade or military options. Options that previously seemed like a dream.

Paula Tucker – CEO



Provides a safe, stimulating and nurturing environment where young children can develop age appropriate cognitive, physical, social and emotional skills while simultaneously assimilating the language and culture of Latin America.

Dr. Hugo F. Carvajal – Executive Director



A catalyst for change, supporting individuals and families by providing excellent community services to overcome the impact of poverty. These services include a child development program, afterschool and summer youth enrichment programs, a college readiness program, and family services.

Simon Salas – Chief Executive Officer

IMPORTANT EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS IN SAN ANTONIO



Is a private, nonprofit, nationally accredited multi-denominational preschool governed by a volunteer Parent Board of Directors. To supplement tuition and fees, it maximizes Parent participation and fundraising. Offers the highest quality preschool

education, employs early childhood specialists, and strives to keep its tuition affordable to a wide community base, as well as offering a scholarship program to assist families in need.

Mary Stanchak – Director



Mission is to create a success mindset in financially disadvantaged families by inspiring them to pursue education beyond high school. We reach public school students on tablets daily, and their parents on

smartphones 3 times a week starting in first grade with engaging, motivational messages and curriculum that's TEKS aligned.

Lionel Sosa – Founder/ CEO



Serve teen girls who have been removed from their own families by CPS

due to abuse and neglect and are also pregnant and/or parenting a child. Most residents have lived in disorganized, chaotic families, often being passed from one set of relatives, or foster homes to another. Most are suffering from chronic trauma related to poverty, violence, abuse and neglect with symptoms of anxiety & depression. Provided supervised safe shelter, food and clothing, counseling, medical/dental care, prenatal care, parenting and life skills education and spiritual/moral guidance.

Thelma Gutierrez – Executive Director



The mission of the Blessed Sacrament Academy Child Development Center is to build the community through Christian programs that develop family success one child at a time. Parents' Academy exists to empower parents with positive parenting skills that reduce family stress and build family

success. Por Vida Academy Charter High School supports success through education by providing our students an innovative educational experience, preparing students for life beyond high school.

Sister Odilia Korenek – CEO



We are a multi-purpose service agency offering affordable day care, parenting classes, youth and family services including after school and summer youth programs, assistance to individuals and families in crisis of food, clothing, and utilities assistance, senior nutrition, senior activities and volunteer income tax assistance programs.

Anthony E. Hargrove – Chief Executive Officer



The mission of is to provide compassionate service to youth-in-crisis by focusing on individualized education in a non-traditional setting, early childhood development and essential support services. Offers high school and GED programs;

Daycare for infants and toddlers ages 6 weeks to 5 years; Health services for Healy-Murphy clients including Well Baby/Well Mommy check-ups.

Douglas J. Watson – Executive Director



Mission: Restoring innocence and strengthening families.

India Chumney – Executive Director



The Child Care Services of The City of San Antonio provides child care and provider management services for Bexar County, and 12 surrounding areas. The Program provides child care subsidies to an average of 9,000 children per day through more than 600 local child care providers. Child care services are available for both full and part-time care for qualifying families.

The Department of Human Services operates the After School Challenge (ACS) Program through contractual agreements and established partnerships with eight school districts and four community based organizations in 146 Elementary and Middle Schools. ACS provides educational & recreational, activities to youth at 146 school sites during the school year. Fees for the program are based on family income & family size. Over 11,650 children will receive homework assistance, tutoring and other school-related aid.



Serves families who live in the most economically distressed census tract in San Antonio. Consider these stark numbers: 92 % economically disadvantaged, 70% students academically at risk, 41% adults didn't graduate high school

Former Housing and Urban Development Secretary and San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros and his wife, former Councilwoman Mary Alice Cisneros founded American Sunrise in 2001 in an effort to address these needs and help families lift themselves into more prosperous lives.

The Learning Center provides: After school tutoring; a nutritious meal; Certified teachers and student teachers to equip our young people with the skills they need to succeed in school and throughout their lives.

Verlyn Maldonado – Executive Director



IMPORTANT EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS IN TEXAS



An advisory council established to achieve a series of goals towards improving school readiness in Texas

through targeted strategies stemming from the Council's four priority areas:

- Parental Outreach and Communications
- Early Childhood Workforce and Professional Development
- Collaborations and Standards
- Data Systems and Quality Rating and Improvement Systems



A universal approach to supporting newborns and their families that is based on the highly-successful Durham

Connects program. Bridges the gap between parents and community resources to improve family well-being, including reducing emergency medical care for infants and improving parent behavior and child care selection. The program provides between one and three nurse home visits to every family with a newborn beginning at about three weeks of age, regardless of income or demographic risk.



Champion policies and programs that lift children out of poverty; protect them from abuse and neglect; and ensure

their access to health care, quality education and a moral and spiritual foundation. Supported by foundation and corporate grants and individual donations, CDF advocates nationwide on behalf of children to ensure children are always a priority.



An early childhood home visiting framework that builds strong communities, thriving families and children who are healthy, safe and ready

to learn. It certifies professional parent educators to implement the program. Parent Educators emphasize parent-child interaction, development centered parenting, and family well-being in their work with families. Model has four components: personal visits, group connections, screenings, and resource referrals.



Protects children and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Adult Protective Services, Child Protective Services,

Investigations, Prevention and Early Intervention

Takes reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation from across the state through its Texas Abuse Hotline (1-800-252-5400) and through the website TxAbuseHotline.org External Link 24-hours a day, every day of the year.



NINE OUT OF 10 WOMEN IN THE TEXAS NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

PROGRAM HAVE DELIVERED THEIR FIRST BABY FULL-TERM AND AT A HEALTHY WEIGHT. THESE RESULTS AND OTHERS SHOW THAT THIS PROVEN PROGRAM IS HELPING VULNERABLE TEXAS FAMILIES GET OFF TO A GOOD START.

A rare community health program that has been documented to achieve lasting significant effects through multiple, well-designed randomized, controlled trials. More than 37 years of research proves that it works. Evidence shows clients – low-income, first-time mothers – that if they follow the program and work with their nurse, they can transform their lives and the lives of their children. Why does it work? By empowering women to become the mothers and role models they want to be, Nurse-Family Partnership, as a Texas charity helps children get on a healthy path to success.

earlymattersdallas

A Historic Coalition on Early Education

A broad-based coalition of business, civic, education, philanthropic and nonprofit organizations and volunteers, working together to raise awareness about, and advocate for, the importance of high-quality early education for a strong economy tomorrow. Early Matters leaders continuously advocate for increased financial resources allocated to this critical, high return-on-investment area. In partnership with Early Matters Houston and Early Matters Austin, we work to align efforts to advocate for the children in Texas – 1 of 3 of whom live in our three regions.

Founder – Regan Fearon

Kimberly Manns – Executive Director

earlymattersgreateraustin

A Historic Coalition on Early Education

Advocates for public policy and funding that increases access to high quality early learning programs as a wise investment of public dollars with a strong return on the investment. At both a state and local level we support policies that promote both higher quality and efficiency for high quality full day early childhood education programs (including both PreK and child care).

Seeks to establish the Greater Austin area as a region positioned to incubate, pilot, and scale innovative solutions to challenges of access and affordability in the early childhood sector. Works collaboratively with representatives from the business, health, education and philanthropic sector to create an early childhood innovation hub in Greater Austin. From a business perspective, this will help ensure that public investments are well-managed, coordinated, and resources are invested for maximum impact.

EARLY MATTERS HOUSTON

A critical time for Houston

We must invest more heavily in the early stages of our children's learning and development, a time in which we see the highest financial return on investment and the greatest impact on preparing children for a bright and successful future.

Only 1 in 5 will graduate

Only 1 in 5 children in our region are graduating from high school and completing some form of post-high school credential. However, Houston's rapidly growing employers desperately need employees with post-high school education.

Houston Commitment

By 2025, all Greater Houston area students will be reading at or above grade level by the end of 3rd grade.



Mission is to meaningfully improve the quality of early childhood education and

care for Greater Houston's children through those who are most influential in their lives. These are their stories, and the stories of how we're making a lasting impact on education in Houston: Family library encourages parent and child reading time; Building brains with STEM through new online courses; Road to Recovery: One Provider's Story; Child care centers foster College Bound from Birth program; Coming Back Stronger after Harvey

IMPORTANT EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS IN TEXAS



Alliance includes more than 50 organizations and individuals representing government, community-based early child care providers, faith-based organizations, educators,

school district administrators, training organizations, nonprofit service providers, health and mental health providers, and private foundations. Focused to:

- Ensure that families are empowered to be full partners with professionals in their children's learning and are connected with the support systems they need,
- Provide adults with information and data so they can better support the learning and development of the young children in their care, and
- Design a career pathway to attract, support, and retain qualified professionals to work with children from birth to age eight.



Envision a Texas in which all children grow up to be healthy, safe, successful, and on a path to fulfill their promise. A statewide, non-profit, non-partisan, multi-issue children's policy organization. Develop policy solutions, produce research, and engage Texas community leaders to educate policymakers, the media, and the public about what works to improve the well-being of Texas children and families. Funded by a variety of foundations and individuals. Work covers child protective services, juvenile justice, mental well-being, maternal and child health, early childhood, and the ways that each of those policy areas work together to shape children's lives and the future of Texas.



Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.

George Washington Carver

Texas Legislators Should Improve Child Care Systems

Without Early Childhood Education, The Texas Miracle Will Not Last



Recent news reports have shed light on the alarming challenges in keeping Texas children safe in child care.

We have seen heartbreaking stories around the state about injuries to young children in child care, including the tragic, yet entirely preventable, deaths of our youngest and most vulnerable Texans. The disturbing reality is that Texas child care standards are too low, challenges in obtaining data are too high, and the need to enact change is too important to delay.

Consider these Texas facts:

Over 1 million young Texans are in child care.

In the previous 10 years, **nearly 90 young Texans have tragically lost their lives as a result of abuse or neglect** while in unlicensed or licensed care.

Texas' standards for teacher-to-child ratios are among the worst in the country, despite efforts to enact needed change.

Wages for child care educators in Texas are exceedingly low, with **54 percent of these educators drawing on public assistance.**

Texas Rising Star (TRS) is the state's quality rating system, but participation is voluntary and limited to only child care subsidy providers. **Only 8.5 percent of licensed child care providers in Texas are TRS-star rated**, leaving parents without a reasonable guide in locating quality care.

The state can play a critical role in supporting transparency and encouraging quality improvement by collecting and sharing relevant data and by establishing

and enforcing standards that protect the health, safety and well-being of children. And it should provide Texas families with ready access to information about the safety and quality of providers.

Parents with young children must have child care in order to work and provide for their families, and it's reasonable for them to expect their children will be nurtured, cared for and educated, especially within those facilities receiving state funding. Parents should be able to trust that their child care provider is operating under state regulations designed to support child development and safety.

As stakeholders and providers in the field of early education and child care in Texas, we support efforts to promote, support and sustain quality child care programs and to help parents understand what quality programs look like, and how to find and access the right program. We applaud the steps the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has taken to use the significant increase in federal funds in FY2018 toward quality enhancement in child care in Texas, and we believe there are some other necessary, near-term improvements.

We encourage lawmakers in the 86th Texas Legislature to consider the following initiatives to further improve the safety and well-being of our tiniest Texans:

Expand participation in Texas Rising Star by incenting participation by all licensed child care programs and requiring participation by all providers in the child care subsidy program.

Collect data and review Texas' current teacher-child ratios.

Expand and incent Pre-K partnerships between schools and TRS 3- and 4-star child care centers.

Build consumer awareness in finding quality early education by developing a statewide website and app for parents to locate quality child care, Pre-K, Head Start and Early Head Start, all in one place.

Now is the time to work together to improve child care for Texas families. We don't want to read one more devastating story—we want to work with our policy makers to make the right adjustments to the child care system.

Contributed by Child Care Associates in Fort Worth and the Child Care Group in Dallas.

IMPORTANT PK-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVES IN TEXAS



Strong public schools are one of the best investments that we can make in the future of our

State. Creating change in a system with over 1,000 school districts and more than 8,000 public school campuses can be slow, and at times frustrating. It will not happen overnight, and it will not happen without the quality of our public schools being a top concern of every Texan.

Dr. Shari Albright – Executive Director

Charles Butt – Founder



Through policy and advocacy, Texas Aspires is committed to building a world-class education system that provides every Texas child the opportunity to achieve

their full potential and contribute to a stronger Texas. A bipartisan, non-profit organization working in partnership with education, business, and community leaders to provide greater opportunity for Texas children by improving education in the State.

Courtney Boswell – Executive Director



Headed by the Commissioner of Education, TEA is the state agency that oversees primary and secondary public education.

The mission of TEA is to provide leadership, guidance and resources to help schools meet the educational needs of all students.

Mike Morath – Commissioner



TCSA was created to unify, support and grow the charter movement. It has embarked on a planning process designed to

assess the current environment, chart a course for the future and define a sustainable business model that enhances vital services for our members and the broader charter school community.

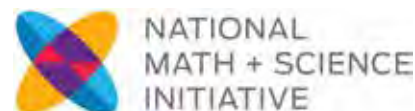
Starlee Coleman – Executive Director



TASB is a statewide educational association that serves and represents local Texas school districts. A volunteer-based organization, TASB shares information through publications and training to help

Texas board members serve their communities more effectively and speak with a unified voice to decision makers to chart the best future for Texas public schools.

Charles Stafford – President



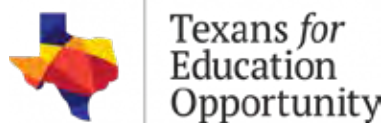
NMSI was formed to address one of this nation's greatest economic and intellectual threats – the declining number of students who are prepared to take rigorous college courses in math and science and are equipped for careers in those fields. To flourish in the 21st Century, our nation must continue to generate intellectual capital that can drive the economic engine of our future prosperity.

Matthew Randazzo – CEO



The development of leadership capacity is critical to the success of Texas public schools. Dynamic partnerships are necessary to carry out our work. We must cultivate a broad network of allies committed to strengthening public education in our state and nation. The participatory nature of the organization is vital to the success of our mission. The ideals described in *Creating a New Vision for Public Education in Texas* are the compelling principles that guide our pursuit of these enduring aspirations.

Dr. Kevin Brown – Executive Director



TEO is a statewide organization that works with parents, educators, community leaders and elected officials to advocate for expanding educational options in Texas. TEO seeks to advance meaningful legislation that would allow for every child in Texas the opportunity to attend the school of their parent's choice, specifically in the form of an education savings account.

Stacey Hock – Chair

Amando Covo – Executive Director

IMPORTANT PK-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVES IN TEXAS



CLI at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth is the preeminent resource for learning solutions that produce tested, proven, effective results through

scientific research and evidence-based interventions. The CLI team includes more than 200 experts in the fields of child development, education, medicine, neurodevelopment, research analysis, and more. Services provided include clinical assessment; diagnosis and treatment of learning disorders; cutting-edge research on techniques to enhance a child's home and learning environments; and development of multi-modal teaching, learning, and coaching platforms.

[Dr. Susan H. Landry – CEO](#)



A leading catalyst for progress, Educate Texas is an innovative public-private partnership focused on a common goal: Improving the public education system so that every Texas student is prepared for success in school, in the workforce, and in life. Educate Texas has been nationally recognized for tapping into a bold and collaborative approach for creating transformational change for Texas students.

[John Fitzpatrick – Executive Director](#)



Children at Risk serves as a catalyst for change to improve the quality of life for children through strategic research, public policy analysis, education, collaboration and advocacy.

[Dr. Robert Sanborn – President & CEO](#)



TCC is a statewide, non-profit, non-partisan, multi-issue children's policy

organization that develops research and policy to engage community leaders and educates policymakers, the media, and the public about what works to improve the well-being of Texas children and families. TCC's work covers child protective services, juvenile justice, mental well-being, health and fitness, and early childhood development.

[Stephanie Rubin – CEO](#)

The Charles A. Dana Center at The University of Texas at Austin

The Dana Center works with our nation's education systems to ensure that every student leaves school prepared for success in postsecondary education and the contemporary workplace. Work focuses on K-16 mathematics and science education with an emphasis on strategies for improving student engagement, motivation, persistence, and achievement. The center strives to develop innovative curricula, tools, protocols, and instructional supports and deliver powerful instructional and leadership development.

[Uri Treisman – Executive Director](#)

[Carolyn Landel – Managing Director](#)



The Holdsworth Center is a new training and leadership development center in Austin for

school district leaders from across Texas that offers the opportunity for sustainable improvement. Research shows effective teachers and principals are two of the most powerful factors in affecting students' academic success. The center will be run by educators and will pull from best leadership training practices in education, the military and the private sector.

[Charles Butt – Founder](#)

[Lindsay Worton – Executive Vice President](#)

BRONZE LEVEL SPONSORS



TEACHFORAMERICA

Morgan Stanley

**Coldwater Ventures LLC/
Michael Westheimer**



BRAIN TEASERS (ANSWERS AT BOTTOM OF PAGE)

1. There are five sisters in the room. Ann is reading a book, Margaret is cooking, Kate is playing chess, Marie is doing laundry. What is the 5th sister doing?

2. Anna's mother has three kids, two of whom are Faith and Natasha. What is the 3rd child's name?



3. How can you make a small fortune competing with Amazon?

4. When I was four years old, my brother was half my age. Now I am 18. How old is he?

5. A bat and a ball cost \$1.10. The bat costs one dollar more than the ball. How much does the ball cost?

6. What do these words have in common: polish, job, herb?

7. Put a coin into an empty bottle and insert a cork into the neck. How can you remove the coin without removing the cork or breaking the bottle?

8. A sundial has the fewest moving parts of any timepiece. Which has the most?

9. Turn Me On My Side And I Am Everything. Cut Me In Half And I Am Nothing. What Am I?

10. If You Have Me, You Want To Share Me. If You Share Me, You Don't Have Me. What Am I?

11. Two Scientists Walk Into A Bar. One says "Give me a glass of H₂O" The Second says give me a glass of H₂O, Too." Which Scientist Dies?

12. David's Father Has Three Sons: Snap, Crackle, And _____?

13. What English word has three consecutive double letters?

14. A is the brother of B. B is the brother of C. C is the father of D. So how is D related to A?

ANSWERS 1. Playing chess with Kate 2. Anna 3. Start with a large fortune 4. Brother is 16 5. Five cents 6. Different pronunciations when capitalized 7. Push the cork in the bottle 8. Hourglass has thousands of grains of sand 9. Number 8: side-infinity/ in half two zeroes 10. Secret 11. Second one drinks H₂O hydrogen peroxide 12. David 13. Bookkeeper 14. A is D's aunt

TEXAS TRIBUNE – A SAMPLING OF EDUCATION ARTICLES

Photos by Texas Tribune



Gov. Greg Abbott raves about Dallas' teacher incentive pay program. But it's hard to replicate.
Aliyya Swaby 1-11-18



Texas Senate panel advances \$5,000 teacher pay raise proposal
Aliyya Swaby 2-25-19



Texas' school finance system is unpopular and complex. Here's how it works.
Aliyya Swaby 2-15-19



Gov. Greg Abbott advocates for state takeover of Houston ISD's school board in scathing tweet
Alex Arriaga 1-3-19



Texas has failed to close educational gaps for kids of color. In Edgewood ISD, the fallout has lasted generations.
Aliyya Swaby 12-18-18



San Antonio ISD is innovating to integrate its schools. Is it leaving some behind in the process?
Aliyya Swaby 12-4-18



5th Circuit upholds feds' \$33 million penalty for Texas decrease in special education funding
Aliyya Swaby 11-7-18



A Texas Board of Education seat hasn't flipped since 2010. Will that change in 2018?
Kathryn Lundstrom 10-31-18



How Texas educators train before arming themselves at school
Matthew Choi 8-14-18

deencreative

Brochure Design, Event Planning, and Forum Graphics by
Jodi Williams-Thomas www.deen-creative.com



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Please consider supporting the Education Forum and its expansion to year-around programming by making a tax-deductible donation to the Education Forum through the nonprofit *Rivard Report*. Contact Jenna Mallette, Chief Operating Officer for the *Rivard Report*, at jenna@rivardreport.com.

Proceeds from the 2019 PK-12 Education Forum will be used to support local education initiatives.

