



In This Issue

[Thrill of the Grill 5K](#)

[NEW! Fitness Program](#)

[Program Spotlight](#)

Program Spotlight

Plano ISD's 16th Annual Teacher Recruitment Open House was a huge success with a record 1,470 applicants.



Plano ISD has historically garnered one-third of its new teaching staff each year from the popular event, which is sponsored by the Plano ISD Education Foundation and Ebby Halliday REALTORS.

[View Event Video](#)



Ebby Halliday Team

2010 Girl's Physics Camp

Employees Donate Record \$121,614 to Plano ISD Education Foundation

Plano ISD employees reinforced their commitment to "Touch the Heart of a Child" by generously contributing \$121,614 to the [Plano ISD Education Foundation](#) whose programs support the school district's students and staff. Despite a national economic recession and local financial belt-tightening initiatives, 100% of Plano ISD schools and service departments contributed to the annual employee campaign to support the Foundation.



Plano ISD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto presented a check for \$121,614 to Beth Webb, President of the Plano ISD Education Foundation, at a school principals' meeting. Also pictured are Sandra Wyson, campaign coordinator; Michael Urtso, Foundation president-elect; Monica Shortino, Foundation executive director; and Danny Modisette, deputy superintendent and campaign chair.

Some 3,134 employees contributed more than \$121,614. Fifty-two of 78 schools/departments exceeded their goals. A total of 358 employees donated \$100 or more and will receive "I Love Plano

ISD" yard signs.

2010 Employee Campaign Goal Busters! [View Complete List](#)

The Foundation thanks all schools and departments for staff participation.

Get Your Running Shoes Ready!



Spring time in Texas. Is there a better time to get outside, barbecue with friends and family, maybe squeeze in a post-winter jog? Do all of the above in one morning at the second annual Central Market Thrill of the Grill 5K benefiting the Plano ISD Education Foundation!

Join us for a great day of food, beverages, music, art and more ... all beginning with a 5K fun run designed for all levels and ages of walkers, joggers,

runners and hot doggers! It's a celebration designed to kick off the grilling season benefiting the Plano ISD Education Foundation.

Get In Thrilling Shape by Joining the Briefing Fitness Team for FREE Social Runs!

Join us at Central Market's Plano location Wednesday evenings in April at 6:30 PM for free social runs and walks to help get you in shape! The Briefing Fitness team will be on hand to help you, your friends and family get ready for the race! Plus we will have food specials and other exciting information to teach you how to balance food, fitness, family and fun!

Registration and event details at www.thrillofthegrill5k.com or click here [to volunteer](#). Become a fan of the "Thrill of the Grill 5K" on [facebook](#) and receive the latest run updates, grilling and fitness tips.

Teachers Win TI Innovative Teaching Awards

Plano Senior High School's Karen Shepherd, science department chair, and Janet Greene, Frankford Middle School eighth grade math teacher, captured the 2010 Texas Instruments Foundation Innovations in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Teaching Awards and were recognized at the April 6 meeting of the Plano ISD Board of Trustees. Karen and Janet were among six Plano ISD teachers honored for superior teaching by the TI Foundation and the Plano ISD Education Foundation.

The Plano ISD Education Foundation is proud to partner with Texas Instruments Foundation and the Women of TI Fund to present the 2010 Plano ISD Girl's Physics Camp. The camp will be held from June 21-July 1, 2010 and is open to all female students signed up for Pre-AP or AP Physics next year and able to attend all days of camp. This unique summer physics camp helps students brush up on math skills, learn to use a new calculator and fill some summer days with learning and fun. [Sign up and additional details.](#)

\$5,000 GoodSearch Giveaway-
Three Days Only!

GoodSearch will donate a \$1 for every toolbar that is downloaded between April 6th at 9am EST and April 9th at 9am EST up to \$5,000!! [Please download the toolbar right now.](#)

Our new Plano ISD Education Foundation toolbar is free to download and allows you to raise money for our cause every time you search or shop online! Once added to IE or Firefox, each time you shop at more than 1,300 stores (from Amazon to Zazzle!) a percentage of your purchase will automatically be donated to Plano ISD Education Foundation at no cost to you (and you may even save money as the toolbar provides coupons and deals as well!). The toolbar also has a search box and each time you search the Internet, about a penny is donated

"The high caliber of teacher nominees was amazing and reaffirms that Plano ISD teachers are among the most talented professionals in the country," stated Dr. Jim Wussow, executive director for secondary academic services, who presented awards along with Torrence Robinson of TI and Beth Webb, Plano ISD Education Foundation president.



TI STEM Award Winners Janet Greene and Karen Shepherd (front, center) are pictured with (front row) Beth Webb, Plano ISD Education Foundation president, and Torrence Robinson, TI director of education and workforce, and (back row) Monica Shortino, Plano ISD Education Foundation executive director; Dr. Jim Wohlgehausen, secondary math coordinator; Finalists Catherine Stolarski, Rice Middle School; Julie Baker, Williams High School; Sara Freeman, Plano East Senior High School; Dr. Jim Wussow, secondary academic services executive director; Finalist Laura Mondeel, Vines High School; and Linda Flack, secondary science coordinator.

2010 Texas Instruments Foundation Innovations in STEM Teaching Award Winners



Karen Shepherd, biology teacher and science department chair at Plano Senior High School

Karen once said, "Teachers shouldn't be afraid to invest time in their students' lives," and she has invested much says her principal Dr. Doyle Dean. Karen is the sponsor of science

clubs at Plano Senior High School and Vines High School since 1985 and works on the science leadership team through the team leader academy mentoring other teachers. Karen challenges her students daily in the classroom through creative strategies in group and labs. She continues to strive to make her classroom and students better. **Karen is pictured with Dr. Jim Wussow and Torrence Robinson.**

to Plano ISD Education Foundation.

Please hurry and do this now so that we can earn the \$1 bonus per toolbar!

And, please pass this along to all of your friends. The two minutes it takes to add this toolbar to your browser can make a lifetime of difference for our cause!

[Get the toolbar NOW!](#)

Your Investment Is Making a Difference!



Thanks to your investment in the Plano ISD Education Foundation you are making a difference across the district!

19,631 students benefited from innovative classroom grants from the Grants to Educators program;

12,000 middle school math students and 300 teachers benefited from a middle school math specialist;

700 students received scholarships for 5th grade science camp;

420 students and parents received literacy training at the Plano Family Literacy Center; and,

952 students participated in the AVID program, a college readiness program.

Janet Greene, eighth grade math teacher at Frankford Middle School

Janet approaches each student as a valuable member of the classroom with unique talents and gifts to share. The energy and enthusiasm for learning is contagious in her classroom as



she shares her love of mathematics. Janet not only provides her students with real life applications for problem solving in her classroom, she works with the district curriculum team to improve middle school curriculum. Janet was supported at the school board recognition by her husband Doug (teacher at Armstrong Middle School) and Frankford Principal Renee Godi.

STEM Teaching Award Finalists

Julie Baker, science department chair at Williams High School

Julie is part of the instructional specialist team. Julie's love for science is shown everyday in her classroom as her students work in groups performing labs and problem solving activities. Her goal is to transfer her love of biology to her students and showing how it relates to their lives today. She is a life long learner and daily instills that in her students.

Sara Freeman, co-chair of the math department at Plano East Senior High School and team leader for more than 10 years

Sara is a strong leader and visionary teacher who describes mathematics as a beautiful way of describing why complex and intricate relationships exist. Sara is not only talented in her classroom but continues to be a leader on her campus.

Laura Mondeel, Biology 1 teacher and member of the student support team at Vines High School

Laura is a teacher with a unique gift in supporting and connecting with her students. Laura says she went into teaching because she wanted to have a positive and meaningful impact on the community she lives. The moment you walk into Laura's classroom you experience the impact she is making through her creative methods in reaching the students. She brings science to life for her students.

Catherine Stolarski, sixth and seventh grade math teacher and math counts coach at Rice Middle School

A teacher who strives to help her students reach their full potential, Catherine approaches everyday of teaching knowing that she is touching the future. She approaches each student knowing that these students will solve problems facing our global society. Her approach is shown through her teaching style in igniting the imaginations of her students -- from bungee jumping barbies to instruction on the graphing calculator -- students are taught to be life long learners.

Visit www.pisd.edu/foundation to learn more.

Volunteers Needed!

The Plano ISD Education Foundation is seeking volunteers for this year's "Thrill of the Grill" 5K event on May 1, 2010. Adults and students are invited to volunteer for this exciting event.

[For additional details and sign up.](#)



[Visit Us Online](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

About the Awards

The Texas Instruments Foundation's Innovations in STEM Teaching Awards recognize innovative teaching and open new avenues for these teachers to expand their experiences.

"These honorees are very hardworking teachers whose students are energized and successful in the classroom," said Dr. Jim Wussow, secondary academic services executive director. "These are teachers who demonstrate outstanding teaching skills each day in the classroom."

Beth Webb, president of the Plano ISD Education Foundation, noted that the Foundation board embraced the district's efforts to improve the instruction of mathematics and science instruction in Plano ISD middle schools through senior high schools.

"All students' successful completion of advanced science, technology and mathematics courses is critical to their future," she noted. "It is also important to Plano's corporate and business community, as we are so fortunate to have numerous high tech corporations based in our area.

She also explained that, "The Foundation created a vehicle for community support called STEM Partners, recently completing a gift of \$300,000 over the past three years for Plano ISD to assist in the transition of Algebra I instruction to middle school.

"In 2010-2011 we will kick off our second phase of STEM Partners with a Science Improvement Initiative which will focus on middle school science and high school chemistry. The Foundation has pledged an additional \$300,000 over the next four years for this effort."

Also supporting the improvement of STEM education, the Texas Instruments Foundation offered the school district's Foundation the opportunity to recognize outstanding teachers of secondary STEM courses, making an \$80,000, four-year pledge in creation of the TI Foundation Innovations in STEM Teaching Awards.

This marks the fourth year of the execution of the STEM teaching award program, with six finalists and two recipients named on April 6. "We are most appreciative of the Texas Instruments Foundation's leadership in making these awards possible to Plano ISD teachers and in helping us raise funds in support of both programs as a Plano ISD STEM Partner," said Ms. Webb.

Torrence Robinson of TI who presented the teacher finalists and winners said, "We know that these teachers will inspire others to foster enthusiasm and generate excitement about science, technology and mathematics as they work with their students and among their colleagues."

Each of the two selected 2010 winners received \$10,000 in awards, including a \$5,000 cash award and \$5,000 for classroom

technology and professional development opportunities. The Plano ISD Education Foundation further recognized these outstanding teachers by presenting a \$500 monetary award to each of the four finalists.

Texas Health Plano Sponsors Pilot Fitness Program at Six Plano Elementary Schools: Hospital provides \$55,000 grant to Plano ISD Education Foundation

Fifth graders at six Plano elementary schools have embarked on a new fitness program designed to help them establish good exercise and eating habits at an early age, thanks to a grant from Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano.

Plano Independent School District (ISD) Education Foundation recently received the second installment of a \$55,000 grant from Texas Health Plano, covering the cost of the pilot project for 630 students this year and 1,770 students during the 2010-2011 school year. Students



enrolled in the pilot will be introduced to the program in the fifth grade and continue it the following year when in sixth grade.

The new fitness program comprises several components: physical exercise, curriculum, nutritional education, activity logs for recording progress, rewards and incentives, and technology and assessment tools developed by the renowned Cooper Institute. It also encourages parental involvement by posting each student's individual progress on the MyPISD parent portal system.

"An important part of our mission at Texas Health Plano is to improve the health of the people in the communities we serve," said Dr. Jeffrey Canose, hospital president. "What better way to do this than to partner with our schools in helping teach healthy lifestyles at a young age, with our objective to encourage children to continue along this pathway through adulthood."

Physical fitness data gathered by Plano ISD shows a steady decline in students' fitness levels starting at about age 10. By the time students reach middle school, their activity levels during the school day change dramatically, and recess is no longer offered. In addition, some students at this age have limited access to extracurricular activities, making them more prone toward a sedentary lifestyle.



Students participating in the pilot are issued a three-function pedometer, which allows them to not only track their steps but also measure MVPA

(moderate to vigorous physical activity) time and activity levels, and total activity time - before, during and after school.

Each student is assessed at the beginning and end of each semester using the Cooper Institute's FITNESSGRAM®. This tool utilizes research-based criteria to evaluate students in three areas based on what is optimal for good health: aerobic capacity; body composition; and muscular strength, endurance and flexibility. Recommendations are made when improvement is needed.

Students also are provided nutritional and activity logs to record what they eat and how much they exercise. In addition, enhanced curriculum and teacher involvement emphasize the importance of making healthy nutrition choices, and becoming and staying fit.

Plano schools are working with local sports teams and businesses to offer students special rewards for completing the program, as well as incentive rewards throughout the process.

"This generous grant from Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano has allowed us to extend a current classroom learning opportunity by engaging students on an everyday and all-day-long basis," said Dr. Doug Otto, Plano ISD superintendent. "Each student literally becomes his or her own personal trainer, and is challenged to exercise beyond the school setting."



Elementary schools involved in the pilot program include: Hickey, McCall, Wyatt, Andrews, Barksdale and Brinker. During the 2010-2011 school year,

sixth graders at Bowman, Rice and Renner Middle Schools also will be involved in the program, as fifth graders from the six elementary schools will feed into these middle schools.

Plano ISD Education Foundation

2700 W. 15th Street

Plano, Texas 75075

www.pisd.edu/foundation

469/752-8272

[Forward email](#)