

# Plano ISD Education Foundation

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## Students at 19 Plano Campuses to Benefit from Junior League Gift to Foundation and Sci-Tech Center

The Plano ISD Education Foundation is one of four Collin County foundations that will benefit from a \$35,000 donation made by the Junior League of Collin County (JLCC) in honor of the league's 35th anniversary. The donation will benefit Title One schools in Collin County as well as the Sci-Tech Discovery Center in Frisco.



The donation is designated for each school's fourth grade class to experience a field trip to the science and technology museum as well as to fund museum-supported assemblies at each school.

Plano ISD campuses to benefit from the JLCC donation are:

## Plano ISD Education Foundation Delivers \$100,000 to Educators Across the District

Thursday, November 3 was a special day for a number of Plano ISD teachers who received a surprise visit by district and community leaders and monetary awards for use in their classrooms or schools.

Plano ISD Education Foundation board members, program sponsors, district staff, and parent leaders will personally deliver nearly \$100,000 in monetary awards on Thursday, November 3, to fund 81 innovative instructional programs. The Park Place Lexus Grant Patrol will travel throughout the 100 square mile district in nine cars courtesy of Park Place Lexus.



Daffron Elementary Teachers Celebrate Their Award

The Plano ISD Education Foundation Grants to Educators program is intended to help Plano ISD educators enhance instruction in schools and classrooms across the district. Earlier in the school year, teachers

had the opportunity to complete applications for grants for programs for their classes, schools or joint programs at multiple schools.

Grant Committee Chairman Mark Johnson adds, "This year was an exceptionally difficult year for the school district with major budget cuts and resources becoming more and more limited, teachers frequently dip into their own pockets to enhance instruction in their schools and classrooms. The Plano ISD Education Foundation helps to bridge this funding gap. We are proud to offer this competitive grant program to Plano ISD educators each year and excited to offer more funding than ever before. Plano ISD educators make our classrooms innovative and conducive for students to learn."

The Foundation is awarding a record \$100,000 in grants this year. Funding for the grants program comes from the following generous sponsors: Huawei, Park Place Lexus, Plano ISD Council of PTAs, the Andrea-Mennen Foundation, The Flextronics Foundation, Alliance Data, InTouch Credit Union and the Murphy Chamber of Commerce. Since the Foundation's inception more than \$695,000 has been awarded to Plano ISD teachers through the Grants to Educators program.



Grant Patrol Donor Park Place Lexus provided cars and drivers for the day.

Plano ISD Education Foundation Board President Lisa Raskin said, "The Education Foundation is honored to assist our teachers by providing resources for innovative programs that enhance student learning in their classrooms. The Grants to Educators program is one of the best ways that private donors can assist outstanding classroom programs by supporting educators across Plano ISD."

The Plano ISD Education Foundation celebrates its seventeenth year of operation, having raised almost \$7 million to benefit Plano schools. The Plano ISD Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that funds priority programs identified by the school district for which tax dollars are not available. Programs funded by the Foundation enhance student learning; recruit, retain and recognize the very best teachers; or address critical needs of students and families so that all students can be successful. View a complete list of grants awarded.

## Plano Grad and Tony Award Winning Actor Named Honorary Emcee for Ski Plano 2012

This 16th wintry season the Ski Plano Lodge will once again overtake Southfork Ranch for the annual Ski Plano event on January 28, 2012.

Barron	McCall
Christie	Meadows
Daffron	Memorial
Davis	Mendenhall
Dooley	Mitchell
Forman	Rasor
Haggar	Sigler
Hickey	Thomas
Huffman	Weatherford
Jackson	

"We chose fourth graders for this special field trip opportunity because the museum is hosting a unique exhibit called 'Playing with Time,' which coordinates well with their math and science curriculums," said Beccy Alldredge, the Junior League of Collin County's president.

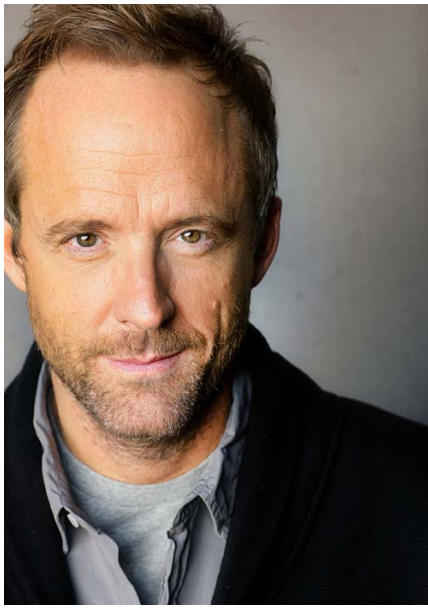
The donation includes transportation to and from the discovery center for hundreds of fourth grade students, who spread across four school districts including Plano, McKinney, Allen, and Frisco. Sci-Tech is also making sure that each student will go home from their trip with two spare tickets so they can visit the museum again with a parent.

[Read More](#)

[Thomas Elementary Shares Their Experience](#)

## Encana Oil & Gas Continues Generous Support for Plano ISD Secondary Science Initiatives

Several secondary science teachers from around Plano ISD attended training this month as new science fair sponsors. This training was made possible in part by a generous donation from Encana Oil & Gas to the Plano ISD Education Foundation. The gift totaled \$31,000, with \$12,000 used to supplement funding for Plano ISD's district science fair for secondary students.



Recent Tony Award winner and Broadway actor John Benjamin Hickey will serve as the honorary emcee and proud graduate of Plano Senior High School. Hickey recently won the 2011 Tony Award for the best performance by a featured actor in "The Normal Heart" and is also currently starring in the popular Showtime series "The Big C."

"As a graduate of Plano schools, it is an honor to return to my hometown and serve as emcee for one of the biggest fundraising events for the school district," Mr. Hickey said. "Plano ISD prepared me well for the life and career I've pursued since leaving its

outstanding schools, and I am glad to participate in an event that, especially during these tough economic times, will allow the district to continue providing an excellent education for years to come." [Read More.](#)

## "I Love Plano ISD" Campaign Kicks Off

"I Love Plano ISD" campaign continues after huge success last year. The Education Foundation raised more than \$50,000 through community donations in the "I Love Plano ISD" and "\$60 Million Reasons to Give" campaigns.

"This year, we hope to increase the number of signs displayed in the community," said Monica Shortino, executive director of the Plano ISD Education Foundation. "As the needs of the district continue to grow and state funding reduces, it is critical that the community joins with the district in the common effort to continue providing top-notch education to Plano students."

The "I Love Plano ISD" Campaign focuses on district needs for which tax dollars are not available. Enrichment programs such as additional mathematics, science and technology instruction, educator grants, fifth grade camp scholarships, programs to fill achievement gaps and many others will be sustained by these funds. The Foundation raised more than \$1 million last year through community support, all of which stayed within the district.

The Foundation kicked off the campaign at school open houses across the district and mailing brochures to Plano residents and business owners to garner their support. [The signs may also be purchased and donations online.](#)



"This donation will help maintain the level of excellence that is associated with the Plano ISD science fair," said Linda Flack, Plano ISD's secondary science coordinator. "Without it, we would have had to make some adjustments to fit the budget. Encana's gift will go toward training, registrations, transportation and other resources associated with the secondary science fair, allowing us to preserve the fair as an enriching experience for our students." [Read More](#)



Plano ISD Education Foundation launches first event for the **Plano ISD Alumni Association** at the October 28 football game featuring Plano Senior High School vs. Plano East Senior High School. More than 50 alumni attended the event. Fan the Alumni Association on Facebook for upcoming events.



## Education Foundation Hosts Breakfast Meetings with CEOs and Business Advisory Council

The Plano ISD Education Foundation has hosted two recent breakfasts to collaborate with local CEOs and Business Advisory Committee members about Plano ISD's career and technology education and partnership opportunities.



Ed Heffernan, CEO & President Alliance Data

## Plano ISD Education Foundation Hosts Second Annual CEO Breakfast

Community partnerships and supporting public schools were the topics of a second annual CEO breakfast hosted by the Plano ISD Education Foundation and Alliance Data CEO and President Ed Heffernan on October 4 at Alliance Data headquarters.

Corporate and civic chiefs representing approximately 15 businesses and organizations discussed challenges affecting public schools and Plano ISD, the importance of great public schools, business and education partnerships and forging ongoing partnerships and dialogue with public school educators.

Lisa Raskin, president of the Plano ISD Education Foundation, welcomed guests and introduced Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto who shared with the executives the current challenges facing public education and specifically Plano ISD.

## Plano ISD Education Foundation Thanks Long-Time Partner Texas Instruments

At the November Plano Independent School District (PISD) Board of Trustees' meeting, the district and longtime community partner Texas Instruments (TI) announced a \$5 million commitment from the company to help launch and develop the district's first academy.

As the founding corporate partner, TI's involvement will enable PISD to move ahead with plans for the new innovative high school as recommended by the Academy Visioning Committee in April this year. The committee, appointed by the Plano ISD board, was made up of parents, students, central office and campus staff members, higher education representatives, business leaders and community members. [Read More](#)

## Program Spotlight: 5th Grade Adventure Camp

Each year the Plano ISD Education Foundation donates \$50,000 towards the 5th Grade Adventure Camp program. The Camp provides a hands-on outdoor learning environment for students across the district. The funding provides

Ed Heffernan, President and CEO of Alliance Data, addressed the group about the importance of a quality public school system to the community and the value that his company places on the impact of public education and children. The focus of his remarks was that investing in the community is good business, and how he hopes to impassion his peers to become involved in supporting public education.

The executives also conducted round table discussions at the breakfast, which were led by Ms. Raskin, about what role they thought that the corporate community should play in public education and what expectations they hoped to receive in return for their investment.

Mr. Heffernan encouraged the corporate community leaders to return to their offices and determine how their organizations can get involved in public education through representation on the Plano ISD Education Foundation board, financial support and other avenues. He then encouraged his peers to connect with the Foundation about executing their involvement to move forward in making a difference in their schools.

Finally, Ms. Raskin stressed the importance of maintaining ongoing dialogue, stating that each of the breakfast attendees will receive a quarterly public education update from Plano ISD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto to keep them current on changes in public education as well as one-on-one meetings to discuss their goals. "We appreciate the support and involvement of these community leaders at this CEO breakfast and in the numerous ways that they have supported public education," noted Ms. Lisa Raskin. "We look forward to hosting this round table discussion annually." [Read More](#)

scholarships so that all students may participate.

[Watch Video](#)



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Plano ISD Education Foundation  
2700 W. 15th Street  
Plano, Texas 75075  
[www.planoisdeducationfoundation.org](http://www.planoisdeducationfoundation.org)  
469/752-8272