

Plano ISD Education Foundation

March/2011

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Program Spotlight

AVID students from across the district had the opportunity to participate in an AVID Leadership Retreat at Collin County Adventure Camp in February. Over 100 AVID students from 21 different campuses participated in the Leadership Retreat this year. During the retreat, students were given the opportunity to take part in team building activities, challenge courses, leadership lessons, rock wall climbing, archery and canoeing. The goal of the retreat was to bring together leaders from each of the AVID schools in an environment where they could explore what it means to be a leader.

\$60 million REASONS TO Give



The Plano Independent School District is facing a potential \$60,000,000 shortfall to its annual budget over the next biennium due to the State of Texas budget crisis. The Plano ISD Education Foundation is launching the "[\\$60 Million Reasons to Give](#)" campaign from now until June 30, 2011, in which we hope to raise \$60,000 from individuals in support of our district. This meaningful pursuit to raise \$60,000 will send a strong message of camaraderie to our students, teachers and school officials that we are in this together.



What did you learn about others during the retreat?

[Participate, track progress and share your reason for giving.](#)

THRILL OF THE GRILL
5K
APRIL 30

GET GRILLING AND JOIN THE FUN!
APRIL 30, 2011 - Central Market Plano
Benefiting Plano ISD Education Foundation

SIGN UP NOW!
EARLY REGISTRATION
ENDS APRIL 23RD
SAVE \$5 BUCKS!

REGISTER ONLINE
thrillofthegrill5k.com

Looking to Volunteer? Sign up now, check us out ↗

GROUP DISCOUNTS >> This year a special award will be given during the awards ceremony to the group (10+) with the largest participation at the race. For details call 214-DFWRUNS (339-7867) or email groups@dfwruns.com. **DFWRUNS**

Don't delay, sign up! Last year the event was attended by 1,200 runners, walkers and hot doggers and we hope to grow the event this year as we celebrate PISD! The event proceeds will benefit the students and teachers of Plano ISD. Save \$5.00 on Adult Registration by signing up early!

Reminder: Join us for our weekly FREE Social Runs on Thursday night at 6:30pm at Central Market Plano to FIRE UP YOUR RUN in time for the race. The social runs are free, all ages are welcome, walk/run 20-30 minutes, and we have pace leaders, water on the route and weekly giveaways, join us and get training. [Register today.](#)

Alliance Data to Support Plano Education Foundation Through Multi-Year, \$200K Contribution

The Plano ISD Education Foundation announced on March 1 that Alliance Data, a leading provider of loyalty marketing services headquartered in Plano, will support the Foundation through a multi-year, \$200,000 contribution. The funding will benefit programs designed to boost educational achievement for Plano ISD students. In addition to monetary support, the company will provide employee volunteer support throughout the school district.

"You have to really know someone to find out what they are like."

"You can become friends with anyone no matter what age."

"Everyone has some quality of a leader and we all play an important part."

"Talk to people, because some of the quiet people have the best ideas."

"We have young leaders too. No matter what age, you can be a leader."

"Some people can be impatient, but kindly letting them know can help."

"All AVID students have many great leadership qualities."

"People can be trusted."

"The seniors have been through a lot and I'll take their advice."

"People have different ideas and everyone's input matters when working in a group."

The Plano ISD Education Foundation partnered with Alliance Data to provide funding for this year's retreat.



Employees donate over \$120,000 to Foundation

Plano ISD employees reinforced their commitment to "Touch the Heart of a Child" by generously contributing \$120,230 to the Plano ISD Education Foundation through its annual employee campaign. Despite a national economic recession and



Michael Urto, president, and Monica Shortino, executive director of the Plano ISD Education Foundation, are pictured at the March 1 school board meeting with Ed Heffernan, Alliance Data president and CEO.

This year's funding will benefit a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) secondary science improvement initiative, grants to educators, an AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program leadership retreat and support for three Title 1 school campuses.

"Alliance Data has always been committed to supporting the communities where we live and work. Given our recent move to Plano and one of our focus areas being education, partnering with PISD was a natural fit," said Ed Heffernan, president and chief executive officer of Alliance Data, who told the Plano ISD Board of Trustees on March 1 that he, personally, will donate an additional \$30,000 to support the Foundation. He also challenged other corporate leaders to join him in supporting education.

Michael Urto, Plano ISD Education Foundation president, addressed the school board and audience on March 1 and thanked Alliance Data for its generous contribution to the Foundation.

"Supporting efforts that help students excel in school is absolutely imperative to ensuring the viability of our national economy and society as a whole. We want to help Plano ISD raise student achievement in the areas of math and science and get them better prepared for college so they are ready to address the challenges of the future.



School Board Secretary Missy Bender thanked Ed Heffernan and presented him with a Plano ISD umbrella. "During these rainy days while facing this tough budgetary situation, your contribution will help us achieve our school district's mission."



"Additionally, we're pleased to

state and local budget cuts, 100% of Plano ISD schools and service departments contributed to the annual employee campaign to support the Foundation's programs for students and staff. Fifty schools and departments exceeded their goals, with 3,278 employees contributing to the campaign. [Read a list of goal busters!](#)



Legislative Matters: A Message from Dr. Otto

We are all aware of the drastic cuts being proposed for public schools across the State of Texas. Plano ISD is not immune from the effects of the state's budget shortfall and will suffer funding reductions along with all Texas districts. Based on state budgets under consideration, Plano ISD's funding faces cuts of \$57 to \$64 million per year.

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support initiatives that further empower teachers to drive creativity and innovation in their classrooms as well as other programs that help under-served schools. What better place to start tackling these issues than in our own back yard, and with the support of our very giving employee volunteers."

"The Plano ISD Education Foundation greatly appreciates this significant contribution to improve educational achievement among the school district's students," said Michael Urtso, Foundation President. "With this gift from Alliance Data, the district is able to support these important initiatives that will help Plano ISD succeed in its mission to provide an excellent education for all students." [Read More](#)

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