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Program Spotlight

Plano ISD high school girls were selected to attend a physics camp sponsored by the Women of TI Fund in collaboration with the Plano



ISD Education Foundation and SMU School of Engineering. For two weeks, 58 girls met with young professionals from TI and learned about future STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) -related fields.

From June 21 through July 1, the unique summer physics camp helped the girls brush up on math skills, learn to use new calculators donated by TI and fill their summer days with learning and fun. Days were split up into math and technical segments, and discussion sessions gave the students a context for their role in the program and pursuit of science. [Read](#)



Plano ISD Education Foundation Kicks Off New School Year with New Board and New Initiatives

Michael Urtso, Managing Partner at Peckham Custom Builders, took the helm of the Plano ISD Education Foundation in July and looks forward to expanding reach into the community.

Michael Urtso has served on the Board of Directors for the Plano ISD Education



Michael Urtso and Bob Baggett at the 2010 Board Retreat

Foundation for four years. During this time, Mr. Urtso was a member of the Executive Committee and served as secretary, first vice president and president-elect prior to his elevation to president.

Mr. Urtso brings with him a true philanthropic spirit as he launches a

new school year for the Plano ISD Education Foundation. He is a member of the Board of Directors serving on the Finance Committee for CITY House and also serves on the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors as Treasurer for Star Children's Charity.

"We are pleased to have a new leader who is not only committed to our mission, but who is also eager to expand our connection to the community," said Monica Shortino, executive director of the Plano ISD Education Foundation. "I know that Michael will continue the progressive path set forth by our Board of Directors under the leadership of our immediate past president, Beth Webb."

"We are continuing our outreach to our alumni and the citizens of Plano," Mr. Urtso continued. "When people become aware of our mission and the positive impact we have on critical programs, their willingness to become a part of the solution is breathtaking."

The Foundation has three primary goals for this year:

(1) Implement the strategic plan which was just recently completed. "The implementation of this plan will set the stage for growth and sustained revenues that will be funneled to outstanding programs and initiatives conducted by Plano ISD," said Mr. Urtso.



Board members planning at this year's retreat.

(2) Grow fundraising by greatly increasing awareness of the Foundation in the community.

(3) Expand the donor base by reaching out to more businesses, leveraging the alumni of PISD and utilizing social media.

[2010-2011 Foundation directors](#)

Coming to a Campus Near You!

The Plano ISD Education Foundation encourages educators to apply

Wednesday, September 8th has been designated 2010 North Texas Giving Day!

On this day, every dollar given between 7am and 7pm to Plano ISD Education Foundation will be matched by a portion of the over \$700,000 available in matching funds. Please consider making a donation on this special day in order to maximize your gift. These funds will help ensure that the foundation is able to meet the needs for all the different programs it benefits.

This day of giving is made possible through DonorBridge. Donations must be made online on Wednesday, September 8, 2010 from 7am-7pm via credit card at www.donorbridgetx.org. Simply log on and search for Plano ISD Education Foundation and make a donation.

Your Sparkle Can Support Plano ISD Education Foundation

The Plano ISD Education Foundation will once again partner with Neiman Marcus Willow Bend to raise funds for foundation programs.

Please join us on Thursday, October 7, 2010, from 6pm to 8pm at the Gift Galleries at Neiman Marcus at the Shops at Willow Bend for "Fashion Plates" event. The Fashion Plates event is a reception to meet Waterford Crystal Director of Design, Jim O'Leary. The reception will

for the 2010 Grants to Educators Program. Grants fund projects, programs



2009 Grant Winner

and initiatives that support the district's major goal to enhance student learning with emphasis on closing the achievement gap and ensuring all students are college-ready. The Plano ISD Education Foundation was

organized in 1993 to help Plano ISD maintain its high standards of excellence. The educator grants are intended to help Plano ISD educators enhance instruction in schools and classrooms across the district. In 2009-2010 the Foundation awarded more than \$65,000 in grants to 52 grant projects. For more information [click here](#).

Special thanks to donors that help make this program possible including: Park Place Lexus, Flextronics, The Andrea-Mennen Family Foundation, PTA Council and Local PTAs and Murphy Plano Chamber of Commerce. If you are interested in participating as a sponsor please contact the Foundation office at 469/752-8272.

celebrate Mr. O'Leary's 50th anniversary with Waterford Crystal and will premier his exclusive "Decades Collection". Mr. O'Leary will be signing pieces as well.

Tickets available for \$25 each to purchase email foundation@pisd.edu or call 469/752-8272. All proceeds will benefit Plano ISD Education Foundation.

Ski Plano 2011
Save the Date

Join us for "An Extraordinary Evening on the Mountaintop" at the 15th annual "Ski Plano" fundraiser to benefit the Plano ISD Education Foundation. This year's event will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 29, at Southfork Ranch in Parker, Texas.

More than 900 guests are expected to enjoy the evening's activities including a seated dinner and dancing to the music of Mars Hill. Other entertainment will include the live auction, the silent auction, and the one-of-a-kind Avalanche raffle.

[Purchase tickets today.](#)



2010 Ski Plano Live Auction Item

Special Thanks



Bank of America presenting a \$25,000 donation to the Education Foundation for Plano Family Literacy program.

Plano Proud. . .Did You Know?

- Plano ISD students' scores on college entrance exams increased in 2009, remaining well above the national average.

Raise Money While You Shop

Kroger customers can now earn money for the Foundation with each

- SAT: Plano ISD 1165, State 985, National 1006
 - ACT: Plano ISD 25.5, State 20.8, National 21.1
- In 2009, Plano ISD's International Baccalaureate (IB) Program had 68 full diploma candidates and awarded 44 IB diplomas.
 - 7,513 Advanced Placement (AP) exams administered to senior high school students (grades 11-12).
 - 80% of AP test scores at the senior high schools were 3 or higher.
 - Plano ISD 80%, State 46%, National 57%
 - 1,109 high school students (grades 9-10) took the AP exam

Looking for Ways to Get Involved and Help Your School District?

One of Plano's greatest resources is community involvement. The Plano ISD and Plano ISD Education Foundation are always in need of volunteers. Volunteers are an essential piece to our organization. If you are interested in getting more involved we have numerous opportunities.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities Include:

Mentoring: Adult volunteers can invest 30 minutes a week with a student during the lunch hour. All campuses have a mentoring program. Your 30 minute investment will make a huge difference in our students.

Library Aides: The library services department are in need of library aides. Aides assist with reading to students, shelving books and other important needs in the library. Contact your local campus to start volunteering.

Ski Plano Committee: The Plano ISD Education Foundation is in need of volunteers for this year's Ski Plano committee. Committee members assist with the annual gala attended by more than 800 guests. Committees assist with solicitations of silent auction items, publicity, table sales, set-up and much more. Email foundation@pisd.edu to get involved.

purchase. Simply print the [form](#) and bring it with you to your next visit and begin supporting the Foundation.

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