



Plano ISD Teachers Win STEM Awards

At the May 20 meeting of the Plano ISD Board of Trustees, two Plano ISD teachers were presented with 2008 Texas Instruments Foundation Innovations in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Teaching Awards. An additional four teachers were recognized as award finalists. Congratulations to:

STEM Award Winners

\$10,000 awards, including \$5,000 Cash and \$5,000 for Classroom Technology and Professional Development

Becky Higgs

Bowman Middle School
Eighth Grade Math,
On Level and Honors

Deborah Johnston

Schimelpfenig Middle
School Eighth Grade
Science, Regular and Honors

STEM Finalists

\$500 Cash Awards

Terri Silver

Vines High School Career
Education Department Chair

Kim Gunnels

Renner Middle School
Seventh Grade Science
Department Head

Susan Holder

Jasper High School
Biology I and Communica-
tions Applications

Teresa Michelsen

Frankford Middle School
Seventh Grade Math

Presentations were made by Ralph Stow, president of the Plano ISD Education Foundation, Torrence Robinson of Texas Instruments and Dr. Jim Wussow, Plano ISD executive director of secondary curriculum. Funds for the STEM awards have been generously pledged for three years by the Plano ISD and Texas Instruments Foundations. This is the second year that six PISD teachers have received STEM awards.

Read more about each of these outstanding Plano ISD teachers on the district website: www.pisd.edu.

'Future Focused'

School Board Adopts 2008-2012 Strategic Plan

The Plano ISD Board of Trustees on May 20 adopted the document *Future Focused: 2008-2012 Strategic Plan*. Karla Oliver, executive director for government and community relations, presented the plan to trustees, explaining that the document is the result of seven months' work by the school board and superintendent's cabinet as well as eight staff and community focus groups. "The Strategic Plan will serve as the foundation for the district's long-range planning and annual goals," she said. The plan is published here and on the district website at: www.pisd.edu.

Vision Statement

Participating in Plano ISD schools empowers students to be able to adapt to new learning opportunities throughout their lives, collaborate with, and contribute to, the global community and to be creative and disciplined in their thinking.

Plano ISD graduates will be empowered to:
Proactively adapt to new learning opportunities throughout their lives;
Collaborate with and contribute to the global community;
Be both creative and disciplined in their thinking.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Plano Independent School District is to provide an excellent education for all students.

Beliefs about Excellence in Education

The primary business of the school district is to foster the highest level of student learning. Successful learning is created by developing and maximizing each individual's:

- Essential academic, creative, and critical thinking skills;
- Strong appreciation of arts and cultures with emphasis on global awareness;
- Responsible citizenship and character traits of integrity and ethics;
- Mental and physical well-being with emphasis on developing communication and relational skills.

Successful learning is best achieved through collaborative partnerships with parents, families, positive adult and student role models and all sectors of the broader community.

- Continuous conversation to strengthen relationships, establish trust and unity to better serve children and youth;
- Strong partnerships and collective accountability including shared vision, cooperative effort and responsible action among families, students, staff and the community.

Ensuring high levels of student learning requires constant capacity development of the entire school system. Such capacity development includes:

- Attracting, training and retaining a highly qualified staff that is reflective of our student population;
- Achieving constant innovation to improve organizational structures and processes;
- Implementing technology tools to create personalized learning and effective and efficient system management;
- Developing strong leadership to promote and challenge the district to accomplish its mission;
- Understanding the demographics of the student population and adequately supporting their needs through the education of families;
- Improving and expanding our school infrastructures to accommodate our large number of students.

Continuous improvement of both student and system performance is essential and must be shaped through data-informed decision-making.

- Continuous improvement means the use of relevant and readily available data to improve learning and organizational effectiveness;
- Measuring the growth of student achievement, including higher order thinking and problem-solving skills, is accomplished using multiple measures.

Strategic Goals

Student Learning

We will provide an innovative curriculum with instructional programs and services that develop each student's potential to graduate prepared for post secondary experiences and the challenges of a global society.

Community Connectedness

We will proactively inform and engage our community to promote social responsibility, understanding, involvement and support of education to ensure student success.

Capacity Development

We will provide professional development for all employees to continually develop their professional and interpersonal skills to maximize student learning;

We will work to acquire and manage appropriate resources to maximize student learning;

All programs, support services, and facilities will be continually evaluated to promote successful student learning.

Data-Informed Decision Making

We will analyze and use relevant data to improve student achievement and district operations.

Guiding Principles

We will model and encourage cooperation and teamwork.

We will encourage and be responsive to high community expectations consistent with our mission.

We will strive to ensure a safe, nurturing, and orderly environment conducive to learning.

We will encourage, develop and support bold, responsible leadership by all.

We will focus on academic and life-long learning skills.

School Board Hosts Annual Awards of Excellence Program

The Plano ISD Board of Trustees hosted its annual Trustee Awards of Excellence Program on May 19 at Plano Centre, recognizing hundreds of students for outstanding accomplishments earned during the 2007-08 school year. Each student was presented with a medallion by members of the school board. Among student honorees were this year's top graduating seniors.

Plano East

Valedictorian: Sandra Marcatili
Salutatorian: Seung Ah Lee

Plano

Valedictorian: Theresa Lii
Salutatorian: Cindy Pan

Plano West

Valedictorian: Michael Wu
Salutatorian: Jeffrey Zou

Program Airing on Cable TV

The community may tune in to watch a videotaped version of the trustee awards program at 3:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays on Plano ISD Cable TV - Plano and Richardson Time-Warner Cable A-31, Digital Cable 99 and Verizon FIOS 33.



Danielle O'Brien, a Plano ISD Elementary History Fair winner, was among hundreds of students awarded by trustees on May 19.

Retired Teachers to Host Beach Party

The Plano Retired Teachers Association invites all new Plano ISD retirees to a "Welcome to Retirement Beach Party." The event will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on June 10 in the backyard at 826 Sterling Court in Allen. Retirees may contact LaWynn Rogers by phone (214) 547-8102 or e-mail lawynnrogers@sbcglobal.net for more information.

District Digest

E-mail: digest@pisd.edu

Phone: (469) 752-8030

Website:

www.pisd.edu/news

eNews listserv:

www.pisd.edu/eNews.htm

2008-09 Administrative Appointments

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Doug Otto announced the following 2008-09 administrative appointments at the Plano ISD Board of Trustees' May 20 meeting. Congratulations to the following employees.



Landingham



Herrmann



Brittain



Letterer

School Principals / Administrative Interns / Head Coach

Mike Landingham, Principal - Larry Guinn Special Programs Center

Mike has spent 28 of the past 30 years as an educator in Plano schools, having taught at Clark High School and Haggard Middle School (1978-1984). He taught for two years at Sherman High School then returned to Plano to teach at Clark and serve as its dean of students. He later served as assistant principal at Williams, Shepton and Jasper high schools and Armstrong Middle School. Since 1999, he has served as associate principal of student activities at Plano West Senior High School.

Carl Herrmann, Associate Principal for Curriculum & Instruction

Plano West Senior High School ~ Shepton High School Assistant Principal Carl Herrmann has served 23 years with Plano schools as a teacher and assistant band director at Carpenter and Hendrick middle schools and Clark High School. He also served for seven years as district fine arts coordinator before joining the staff at Shepton.

Katie Brittain, Administrative Intern - Hendrick Middle School ~ Hendrick Middle School seventh grade teacher Kathryn "Katie" Brittain has taught at Hendrick since 2005. Prior to joining Plano schools, she taught in Park Hill School District for two years.

Mark Letterer, Administrative Intern - Haggard Middle School ~ For nearly a decade, Mark has taught ESL (English as a Second Language) students. Since 2005, he has instructed intermediate and advanced ESL students and ESL social studies students at Carpenter Middle School. He formerly taught ESL students in Mesquite ISD.

Plano Senior High School Head Basketball Coach ~ Philip D. Parlin will serve as head basketball coach for the Plano Senior High School Wildcats. Coach Parlin has served as a teacher/coach since 1993 at Schimelpfenig and Haggard middle schools, Vines High School and Stinson Elementary School.



Coach Parlin

Student & Family Services Coordinators

James L. Thomas III, Coordinator

Guinn Special Programs Center Specialist James Thomas has been promoted to district coordinator for elementary summer school, district homeless liaison and support for schools regarding student management issues. The grandson of James L. Thomas Elementary School's namesake, he taught for 20 years at Wilson Middle School before joining the Guinn Center staff in 1999 as administrative intern.



Shuttlesworth



Thomas

Lynda Shuttlesworth, Coordinator

Lynda will coordinate the prek-fifth grade guidance program and family education services. Currently a counselor at Thomas Elementary School, she has also served as principal intern at Thomas, Wyatt, Davis, Shepard, Saigling, Aldridge and Carlisle elementary schools and as a counselor at Brinker and Forman elementary schools. Prior to joining PISD, she served as an assistant principal, counselor and teacher in Oklahoma's Jenks Public Schools and as a teacher in Tyler, Diboll and Pasadena school districts in Texas.

Plano ISD Employee Child Care Program

Stacie Kaeuper, Coordinator

PASAR After-School Care Program Zone Leader Stacie Kaeuper will serve as coordinator of the new Plano ISD Employee Child Care Center, which is opening August 18 at the southeast corner of Coit and Spring Creek in Plano. An educator in Plano ISD since the year 2000, Ms. Kaeuper has taught at Bethany and Wyatt elementary schools.



Kaeuper

AP Government Teacher to Attend Dirksen Summer Institute

Plano Senior High School Advanced Placement Government Teacher Maria Arena has been selected as one of 40 teachers in the United States to participate in the Dirksen Congressional Center Institute to be held in July in Peoria, Illinois. The Institute will focus on the exchange of ideas and information about Congress and the upcoming presidential and congressional elections. The "Congress in the Classroom" program, which has been implemented for 16 years, will include interaction with national experts and colleagues across the nation.



Maria Arena

Notable Notes...

Congratulations to these newlyweds and proud parents and grandparents:

❑ **Shari Stark**, Guinn Special Programs Center coordinator of therapeutic services, became the bride of **Mac McElree** on April 27; **Kelly Mosbarger**, Mathews Elementary fifth grade teacher, and her husband **Derek** welcomed daughter **Madison** (7 lbs 8 ozs) on February 20; and **Tera Clarkson**, Miller Elementary kindergarten teacher, and her husband **Jeff** became the proud parents of son **Trent Michael** on April 11.

❑ **Helen Jones**, Hightower Elementary FANS manager, welcomed granddaughter **Sarah Lillian** (8lbs 4ozs) on May 19; and **Leslie Allen**, deaf education secondary team leader, and her husband **James** welcomed son **Nicholas James** (7lbs 1oz) on May 19.

Sympathy is extended to the following employees:

❑ **Lynda Jennings**, Hightower Elementary gifted specialist, whose father-in-law **Lt. Gerald Hal B. Jennings, Jr., MD**, Retired Surgeon General of the United States Army, passed away on February 12; **Debra LaLande**, FANS floater manager, whose mother-in-law **Alice Casas** died on May 2; **Denise Ross**, Jackson Elementary second grade teacher, whose mother **Cyntheal Lee** of Beaumont passed away on May 9; and **Mike Roome**, Guinn Special Programs Center math teacher, whose wife **Sandy** died on May 14.

Thought for the Week:

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

~Japanese proverb

