

Plano ISD Education Foundation/Plano ISD Press Release For Immediate Release

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Plano ISD Education Foundation Soars Past \$1 million Annual Fundraising; Donated Funds Benefit PISD Students, Staff, and Programs

Plano, Texas--The board of directors of the Plano ISD Education Foundation validated on Thursday (May 28, 2009) the nonprofit organization's importance to the Plano Independent School District, as Foundation Board President Ralph Stow proudly announced the group had raised more than \$1 million for the second year.

Mr. Stow said, "Plano public schools are the cornerstone to the quality of life in our community. Our community wants Plano ISD to remain one of the best public school districts in the nation. Our community is willing to invest in our schools through private donations as well as local taxes. Generating \$1 million this year, despite the economic turbulence, in critical private support for our schools and teachers is important to our schools and to our region. The Plano ISD Education Foundation has more than doubled its fundraising results over the last three years to help Plano ISD schools maintain their high standards of excellence. We plan to maintain the momentum and continue growing support for Plano schools. Investing in the education of our students continues to be a safe investment with guaranteed returns."

Plano ISD Superintendent Dr. Doug Otto says, "The Plano ISD Education Foundation is a critical partner with our school district. The Foundation engages thousands of donors each year, all to help Plano schools. Funds raised by the Foundation stay in Plano ISD and address important academic programs our school district has identified for which tax dollars are not available.

Many people don't know that Plano ISD remains subject to some recapture of local tax dollars by the state of Texas, needed to address inequities in school finance. This year our district will send more than \$87 million back to the state as a result of 'recapture.' The Plano ISD Education Foundation helps our district address funding gaps for priority needs. Meanwhile, our Plano educators keep the bar high for our graduates, while ever-mindful of closing any achievement gaps."

Approximately 150 attendees celebrated the \$1 million dollar milestone at a donor recognition event held at Gleneagles Country Club. Major donors of \$5,000 or more received special recognition and honorariums were made to Plano ISD libraries in their names.

The year's most significant donation was the collective contribution of \$114,080 made to the Plano ISD Education Foundation by more than 3,013 Plano ISD employees as a result of a Valentine's Day employee campaign chaired by Plano ISD former Deputy Superintendent Jeff Bailey. Individual employee gifts ranged from \$5 to \$1,500 and raised more than one-tenth of the Foundation's annual goal.

With the support of thousands of donors throughout the 2008-2009 school year, the Plano ISD Education Foundation funded:

\$260,000 in grants for schools and classroom teachers across the district to enhance student learning through instructional projects, professional training and other special needs. The Foundation's signature Grants to Educators program grows more important to teachers with every year – funding \$70,000 to over 55 teams of educators in 2008. In addition, the Foundation funded more than \$190,000 in special needs of the district, schools and departments, including: \$90,000 in professional development for school leadership, \$75,000 for after-school TAKS tutorials, \$10,000 in Wolf Trap pre-K performing arts curriculum and teacher

training, \$15,000 for expanded AVID program-equipping students with college readiness skills, and much more.

\$160,000 for programs that improve science, technology and mathematics instruction (STEM) for secondary students. Support includes funding for a middle school math specialist position and rewriting of pre-algebra and Algebra curriculum to support the dramatic improvement of all Plano students' performance in middle school and high school mathematics. Also funded was a Summer Physics Camp for Women and the Texas Instruments Foundation Innovations in Outstanding STEM Teaching Awards, recognizing exemplary PISD secondary STEM teachers.

\$100,000 for district initiatives that recruit, retain and recognize the very best teachers. Each year the Plano ISD Education Foundation sponsors the district's job fair; augments travel funds for district recruitment of tough-to-fill positions; offers moving loans to new teachers relocating to Plano; sponsors the district's new teacher orientation, all-employee Convocation; Teacher of the Year recognition; and funds the PISD Employee Crisis Fund that provides grants to employees with short term emergencies.

\$50,000 for student scholarships so that all Plano ISD fifth grade students can attend the fee-based Collin County Adventure Camp, a three-day instructional program for all fifth grade students. Currently more than 20 percent of Plano ISD students are economically disadvantaged. The fifth grade environmental overnight camp experience is a long-standing Plano ISD tradition. In recent years Collin County has experienced dramatic increases in economically disadvantaged families. The district is able to continue this fee-based, Plano ISD instructional program with significant scholarship support from the Plano ISD Education Foundation and local PTAs.

\$300,000 for initiatives that engage community and connect parents and families with schools. Supporting initiatives that engage all PISD parents in their children's learning, the Plano ISD Education Foundation facilitated private support of numerous services currently offered through the Plano ISD Student and Family Services division. In addition, the Foundation annually supports PISD Communications Department's activities with distribution of PISD student academic calendar magnets to all Plano ISD families and employees.

Major donors recognized at the event included:

Valedictorian - \$50,000 - \$100,000+: AT&T Foundation; Barbara Bush Fund for Family Literacy; EDS Foundation; Employees of Plano ISD; Texas Instruments Foundation.

Salutatorian - \$20,000 - \$49,999: AEGON Direct Marketing Services, Inc.; Capital One; Gay, McCall, Isaacks, Gordon & Roberts, P.C.; Medical Center of Plano; Park Place Lexus Plano; and Texas Instruments Inc.

Distinguished Achievement - \$10,000 - \$19,999: Baylor Regional Medical Center of Plano; City of Plano; Ebby Halliday Realtors; EDS Credit Union; ExxonMobil Corp.; THE HEART HOSPITAL Baylor Plano; Nortel; Plano Arts & Cultural Endowment, Inc.; and, Verizon.

With Honors - \$5,000 - \$9,999: Abernathy, Roeder, Boyd & Joplin PC; ATMOS Energy; Central Market of Plano; Innovative Solutions for Education; Plano ISD Council of PTAs and Local PTA units; SHW Group LLP and ViewPoint Bank.

Ninety-three additional donors will be recognized for gifts from \$1,000 to \$4,999

Ms. Webb praised Plano ISD Education Foundation past-president Ralph Stow for his outstanding leadership and the entire board of directors for their active role in the Foundation's success. Funds were raised through major gifts and sponsorships of corporations and foundations for key programs; the Ski Plano casual winter fundraiser chaired in 2009 by Lisa Raskin; a leadership drive of Foundation directors, former directors and school board members; and an annual fund drive for parents and community members. Ms. Webb announced the next parent and community campaign will kick off once again in August 2009 and looked to a great future with Michael Urtso as 2009-2010 President-Elect and Development Committee Chair.

The 2008-2009 Plano ISD Education Foundation board of directors responsible for moving the organization to the \$1 million annual fundraising goal are: Ralph Stow, President; Beth Webb, President-Elect and Development Chair; Mitch Bramlett, Treasurer; and Michael Urtso, Secretary, Directors: Bobby J. Baggett, Rebecca Egelston Caso, Danny Modisette, Joa Muns, and Olga Vargas-Lester, Keith Braley, Mark Ball, Liz Bonet, Jordan Case, Samir Deshpande, Judy Drotman, Richard Dunham, Debra Glassburn, Lori Heil, Marshall Johnson, Robin Joseph-Williams, Sue Dry Kay, Cathy Larson, Sharon McCall, Octavio Ortiz, Kelly Palmer, Lisa Raskin, Bart Ridley, Sam Stricklin, Mark Thornton, and Kyle Walters. PISD Superintendent Dr. Doug Otto, School Board Trustee Lloyd "Skip" Jenkins, Past Deputy Superintendent Jeff Bailey and Executive Director for Government and Community Relations Karla Oliver serve as advisors to the board of directors. Monica Shortino serves as executive director.

Officers for 2009-2010 are: Beth Webb, President; Michael Urtso, President-Elect and Development Chair; Bob Baggett, Treasurer; and Lisa Raskin, Secretary. New directors joining the board in 2009 are: Diane Gerstner, Sally Bane, Harvey Fishero, Windon Chau and Charlie Miller. Former directors who were instrumental in the formation of the Plano ISD Education Foundation in 1993 and installed on the Plano ISD Education Foundation Board of Honor in 2006 are Jim Boswell, Rutledge Haggard, Rebecca Morris, Joan Slater and John Wroten.

The Plano Independent School District continues to work closely with the Plano ISD Education Foundation to ensure academic success of all Plano ISD students. For further information or to make a donation, visit the Plano ISD Web site at <http://foundation.pisd.edu> or contact Plano ISD Education Foundation at 469-752-8091.

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