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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PLANO ISD TO STRENGTHEN BENCH OF PRINCIPALS &  
SUPPORT SUPERINTENDENT THROUGH NEW  
LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE  
HOLDSWORTH CENTER**

**PLANO, TX, September 17, 2021** – Plano Independent School District will partner with The Holdsworth Center, an Austin-based nonprofit, to strengthen its bench of great aspiring principals through a new, 18-month program called the Holdsworth Leadership Collaborative. In addition, Plano ISD will participate in the organization’s inaugural Superintendent Leadership Program.

“In Plano ISD, we’ve been fortunate to have a history of strong principal leadership,” stated Plano ISD Superintendent Sara Bonser. “The strong leadership provided by principals enables our schools to build welcoming learning environments and fosters high student achievement. At the same time, being a principal is a demanding job so it is critical to build systems and structures to ensure continuity of a strong principal pipeline so we can develop our leaders’ capacity to effectively step into those critical roles. Participating in the Holdsworth Leadership Collaborative will strengthen the districts’ efforts in pipeline development as we continue to grow leaders in our district.”

Plano ISD is among the first 14 districts across the state invited to take part in the Leadership Collaborative, which is designed to help district leaders create systems that ensure a strong pool of aspiring principals who are truly ready to step into the role when a position arises. As demands on schools evolve and heighten, principals must be more prepared to respond with creativity.

“Because principals influence the working conditions and skill level of every teacher in the building, they have a huge—and often unseen—impact on students in the classroom,” said Dr. Lindsay Whorton, president of The Holdsworth Center. “Plano ISD recognizes this and is committed to ensuring its students benefit from outstanding leadership.”

Over the 18-month program, a team of three—the Chief Operating Officer and two district leaders—will attend learning sessions at The Holdsworth Center’s Campus on Lake Austin. They will learn best practices from organizations inside and outside of education that have built high-performing talent management systems, then work to design systems and structures to sustain Plano ISD’s school leadership pipeline.

In addition to the Leadership Collaborative, Plano ISD Superintendent Bonser will be part of the 18-month Superintendent Leadership Program, which is designed to support superintendents as they navigate unprecedented challenges at a critical point in their career— either in the first five years of their superintendency or new to a large district.

Superintendents in the cohort will attend learning sessions at the Campus on Lake Austin to dig into not only essential leadership skills, but content that addresses the unique challenges and opportunities of the superintendent role. They will also receive executive coaching from Holdsworth Superintendents-in-Residence, Dr. Thomas Randle and Dr. Art Cavazos.

For these inaugural programs, The Holdsworth Center will cover the costs of programming, thanks to the generosity of its founder and other philanthropic supporters. Founded by H-E-B Chairman Charles Butt in 2017, the center’s mission is to improve the quality of public education by supporting and developing educational leaders.

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#### **About Plano Independent School District**

The Plano Independent School District (Plano ISD) ([www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu)) endeavors to foster the highest level of student learning. Plano ISD is located 20 miles north of Dallas, Texas and serves the residents of approximately 100 square miles in southwest Collin County, including 66 square miles in the city of Plano, northern portions of the cities of Dallas and Richardson and parts of the cities of Allen, Parker and Murphy. Plano ISD employs more than 7,000 staff members who serve more than 50,000 students in 72 schools and 11 service facilities. Mission: Our Plano ISD learning community will educate, inspire and empower every student to activate their unique potential in a dynamic world.

#### **About The Holdsworth Center**

Driven by the belief that great leaders can push student achievement levels to new heights, The Holdsworth Center partners with Texas public school districts to help educators become experts at leadership, then grow stronger leaders within their own systems. Founded in 2017 by H-E-B

Chairman Charles Butt, the Austin-based nonprofit works with partner districts for five years and makes a deep investment in leaders at both the district and campus levels. For more information, visit [Holdsworthcenter.org](http://Holdsworthcenter.org)