

Kudos!

Aldine ISD Wins Broad Prize; Socorro ISD Named Finalist

Aldine ISD, where four out of five students qualify for free and reduced-price lunches, won the 2009 Broad Prize for Urban Education, the largest education award in the country. The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation announced September 16. Socorro ISD was named as one of the finalists.

Aldine ISD, which received \$1 million in scholarships, has shown some of the most consistent student achievement gains nationally in the last decade and has been recognized as one of the top five most improved urban American school systems in four of the last six years.

This marks the third time in just eight years since The Broad Prize was started in 2002 that a Texas district has taken home the top honor. Houston ISD won The Broad Prize in 2002, and Brownsville ISD took home the award last year.

Four Texas School Districts Earn Magna Awards

Four Texas school districts were selected for recognition in the *American School Board Journal's* (ASBJ's) 15th annual Magna Awards program, the magazine announced in March.

Houston ISD and Richardson ISD each won their second Magna Awards, which were presented with the support of Sodexo School Services. Houston ISD, which won first place in 2007, earned a first place award for the ASPIRE Educational Improvement Model in the over-20,000 enrollment category. Richardson ISD, a first-place winner in 2002, was recognized for its Enterprise City project.

Hidalgo ISD won first place in the under-5,000 enrollment category for its Early College High School. Mesquite ISD received an honorable mention award in the over-20,000 enrollment category for its A.L.I.V.E. Program, which stands for Active Leaders Inspired by a Vision of Excellence.

Devine ISD Earns Good Governance Recognition

Devine ISD this year joined a select cadre of public school districts that earned distinction for highly effective district governance by meeting specific criteria to be recognized in TASB's Good Governance Program.

Devine ISD Superintendent Linda McAnelly noted that the district's new strategic plan was created as a result of working through the TASB Audit. "We are so honored by our TASB award. We have worked long and hard on this project," McAnelly said. "We have all learned a great deal. It was an arduous but enjoyable project. We have not completed our work—it is ongoing, and we will continually update, review, revise, and seek to better our documents that supported the Audit. We developed a DISD Board Strategic Plan during the last 15 months. That strategic plan is an outgrowth of the TASB Audit and a compilation of our work, along with many other documents that we refined or developed in the process."

TBEC Names 254 Schools to 2009 Honor Roll

The Texas Business and Education Coalition's (TBEC's) Honor Roll for 2009 recognized 254 of the state's outstanding public schools. The list, representing less than 4 percent of all public schools in Texas, includes 13 high schools, 35 middle schools, and 206 elementary schools. In analyzing every public school in Texas, TBEC considers each school's performance against the highest standards for academic achievement and sets specific targets for schools based on grades served and student demographics.

TBEC recognized Honor Roll schools November 9 at an awards reception and dinner in San Antonio. For the complete Honor Roll list, visit www.tbec.org.

TASB Presents More 'Proud Products'

Sixteen new "Proud Products of Texas Public Schools" were featured in the June 2009 special edition of *Texas Lone Star*, which showcased successes and achievements in our public schools. Graduates from Texas public schools who've made notable contributions in their fields—deemed "Proud Products"—have been presented by TASB since 2001.

This year's group of outstanding grads included such renowned figures as race driver and auto designer Carroll Shelby, television producer Don Mischer, broadcaster Neal Spelce, actor Pepe Serna, and "Paul and Paula" singer/songwriters Ray Hildebrand and Jill Jackson Landon.



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