Broad Foundation awards Aldine ISD $125,000 for student scholarships

Aldine ISD was one of five national finalists for the award. Garden Grove Unfied School District was named the national winner.

On hand for the announcement were Aldine ISD Board of Education President A.W. Jones, former Board President Dr. Viola M. Garcia, Superintendent Nadine Kujawa and other Aldine ISD administrators.

The Broad Prize for Urban Education is an annual award that honors the most outstanding urban school district in the United States that has made the greatest improvements in student achievement while reducing achievement gaps among ethnic groups and between high- and low-income students.

The Broad Foundation offered gold, silver and bronze levels to the five finalists. Aldine ISD was awarded $125,000 from the Broad Foundation for college scholarships.

“We want to thank the Broad Foundation for its generous gift and for recognizing the strides Aldine ISD has made in educating all of its children,” said Mr. Jones. “Aldine and her team of administrators, principals and teachers should be commended for all of the effort and energy they have put over the years in serving to it all children in Aldine receive a quality education.”

“The foundation of InvesTex was to prepare each student academically and socially to a degree that they may have a new name, but the spirit of cooperation and serving as a committed business partner in the community remains the same.

No bev, 12, ATG officially changed its name to InvesTex Credit Union. But the same change has not stopped the credit union, located at 995 Aldine Bender, from providing first-class service while remaining committed about its responsibility of giving back to the Aldine community.

When Aldine ISD approached InvesTex about assuring with a project the district had in mind, CEO Keith Kearney and his staff were receptive to helping out and were more than willing to step to the forefront.

The district wanted to thank its taxpayers and put their tax dollars being put to good use in raising academic achievement among students. The plan was to send a “thank you” flyer along with the annual newsletter to more than 72,000 taxpayers. The only problem was finding someone who would pay for the cost of printing the flyers.

InvesTex stepped up to the plate and covered the $2,600 printing tab that allowed AISD to say thank you to its taxpayers, who provide the district's financial resources.

The foundation of InvesTex Credit Union is the local educational community, and as such we will be remain committed and involved at various levels,” Kearney said. “Our objective is to provide a productive, corporate citizen while building relationships with all the ISD’s (independent school districts) in the MBMCD.

InvesTex helps district say ‘thank you’

The Aldine Teachers Credit Union may have a new name, but the spirit of cooperation and serving as a committed business partner in the community remains the same.

Aldine teachers Credit Union may have a new name, but the spirit of cooperation and serving as a committed business partner in the community remains the same.
Aldine Independent School District officials announced the district received a rating of "Superior Achievement" under Texas' new "Superior Performance Accountability System" (SuperPAS) accountability rating system.

This marked the second straight year in which the district received the "Superior Achievement" rating. The "Superior Achievement" rating is the state's highest accountability rating for the quality of Aldine ISD's financial management and reporting.

The primary goal of Schools FIRST, which was developed by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), is to achieve quality performance in the management of school districts' financial resources, a goal made more significant due to the complexity of accounting associated with Texas' school finance system.

The Schools FIRST accountability rating of "Superior Achievement" recognizes the district for its commitment to the continued flow of money to Aldine being accountable not only for student performance in the classroom but also for achieving these results cost-effectively and efficiently," said Superintendent Nadae Kujawa. "The information provided by the Schools FIRST system will guide us in our continued efforts to maximize each taxpayer dollar. Our goal is to always be good stewards of the taxpayers' money and this rating indicates that we are achieving excellence in educating our children while being cost effective and efficient."

The Schools FIRST accountability rating of "Superior Achievement" is one of four financial accountability ratings to Texas school districts, with district financial management reviewed according to each of the following criteria by the state AID: Superior Achievement; and "Substandard Achievement." Districts with serious data quality problems may receive the additional rating of "Suspended -- Data Quality." Districts that receive the "Substandard Achievement" or "Suspended -- Data Quality" rating under Schools FIRST must file a corrective action plan with the TEA. If the district does not file a corrective action plan, or is found not to be in compliance with the plan, the TEA can impose penalties.

InvesTex helps district say 'thank you'

Continues from page 1

Aldine Independent School District (AISD) and the district's employees, through the InvesTex Employee Stock Purchase Plan (ESPP), contributed over $40,000 to the United Way's "Thank You" campaign.

"Since 1952, the Aldine community has had a reliable and committed partner in InvesTex who has shown its support on our part only reaffirming their standing as an outstanding financial institution and more importantly, a great friend to this school district," said AISD Superintendent Nadae Kujawa.

"Jackson also emphasized the importance of being a partner in the Aldine community and the willingness to continue supporting the district in our endeavors." Dr. Keith Clark, assistant superintendent of finance.

New web-based student transfer system unveiled

Aldine ISD, along with other Houston-area school districts, unveiled a new web-based system to transfer student records electronically across schools and school districts recently at the Region IV Education Service Center.

AID introduced the Web Enabled Transfer System (WEST), which is being used by about 50 percent of the 1,016 school districts in the state. Currently, student records are paper transcripts that are mailed or hand carried between schools. This process can take up to six months to arrive.

WEST, which also automates the process of creating a web-based system to transfer student records electronically across school districts, allows the districts and schools to pass transcripts back and forth. The advantages of implementing WEST are numerous," said AISD Superintendent Nadae Kujawa. "This new system will give us immediate access to student records, which will help eliminate wasted classroom time, teacher time and counselor time, and make our school days more productive.

The advantages of implementing WEST are numerous," said AISD Superintendent Nadae Kujawa. "This new system will give us immediate access to student records, which will help eliminate wasted classroom time, teacher time and counselor time, and make our school days more productive. The Region IV Education Service Center agreed to house the system on one server, and pilot it in the four school districts. Aldine ISD was one of the first districts to implement WEST. IBM donated equipment needed to support operation of WEST. HISD immediately agreed to provide the majority of the funding for the one-year pilot.

Questions and Answers

- Do you charge fees on my account?
- Why do you ask for my social security number?
- Are there any special terms and conditions?
- Are there any fees related to the credit card agreement?
- How can I report my credit card to the card provider?
Aldine ISD officials meet with state lawmakers to discuss school finance

Aldine ISD officials hosted a breakfast in December to assist area state lawmakers in understanding how Aldine is affected by the state’s school finance system. The legislature will meet in January of 2005, and school finance reform will be one of the key issues lawmakers will debate.

The breakfast was attended by State Senator Mario Gallegos, Haa- ren Lamond, legislative aide and State Senator John Whitmire, Arlene Nich-ols, legislative aide to State Rep. Kevin Bailey, and Johanna Phillips, district assistant to State Rep. Debbie Riddle. State Representatives Peggy Hazanec and Sybester were unable to attend the breakfast due to scheduling conflicts, but both said they are willing to meet with AISD officials in the near future to address the school finance issue.

Let’s see what our legislators heard compared to the presentation from Aldine ISD Superintendent Nadine Kujawa, who is an overview of the district, including student demographics, stu-ent test scores, how the district is financially structured and how it allocates its funding. Aldine ISD board members Rick Ogden, Diane Oleson, Art Muttili also attended the event.

Kujawa told her guests that it is the goal of Aldine ISD to see that all of its students receive a quality education and graduate, despite the fact that the majority of the district’s students are economically disadvantaged.

“Two, equity means our children will have the same opportuni- ties as those from affluent districts,” Kujawa said. “We accept every child who comes through our doors and we’re going to see that that child graduates from high school.”

Kujawa pointed out that if it is crucial that lawmakers fix a fix for the current school finance system or Texas public schools and their students could be put in dire straits.

She added Aldine ISD has tightened its financial belt the last few years due to the loss of funding. “We monitor our budget month by month,” Kujawa said. “For exam-ple, when we were working on our budget for the 2003-04 school year, we told our departments if it’s a want, forget about it. It’s a need, we’ll consider it. We’re doing well (educating students), but how much better could we do with proper funding?”

Kujawa said a number of factors have contributed to the financial crisis in public education, including increases in employee health insurance, and remaining competitive in terms of teacher salaries to attract the best educators to Aldine ISD.

A quarter of this state’s school children are in the Gulf Coast area, which means we must be competi- tive with salaries (offered in the sur-rounding districts).” she said.

Kujawa stressed that through the state increase funding, she knows that money will put to good use in Aldine.

“Let’s see the state increases our revenue by 10 percent. We would do a needs assessment and prioritize our needs, but I can assure you that most of that money is going to go into the classroom.”

Gallegos said he expects school finance to dominate the upcoming session, and he predicted it would be a passionate debate on both sides of the aisle.

“I can tell you it’s going to be a tough session,” the senator said. “I’m proud of what Aldine ISD has done. You’ve done a lot with what you’ve been given.”

Phillips, a 1973 MacArthur High School graduate, said she would share her findings with colleagues and assured Kujawa that finding a solution to the school finance situation is of paramount im- portance to the representatives.

“This school district has come a tremendous way since 1973.” Phillips said. “I’m so proud of what’s been accomplished here.”

Six Aldine ISD schools were recently named Honor Roll schools by the Just for the Kids Foundation (JFTK) and the Texas Business and Education Coalition (TBEC). The six were Anderson Academy, Drew Academy, Thompson Elementary, Hambrick Middle, Oleson Element- ary and Worsham Elementary.

The six Aldine schools, along with 81 other Texas public schools, were honored December 9 at a re- ception and dinner at the Austin Hilton in Austin.

According to JFTK and TBEC, the six Aldine schools were named honor roll schools because they are the most consistent perform- ers in educating all student groups, including students of all ages. They spoke in the United States military.

AISD officials honored at the board meeting were members Rick Ogden, Diane Oleson, Art Muttili and Sybester.

Six Aldine ISD schools were recently named Honor Roll schools by the Just for the Kids Foundation (JFTK) and the Texas Business and Education Coalition (TBEC). The six were Anderson Academy, Drew Academy, Thompson Elementary, Hambrick Middle, Oleson Elementary and Worsham Elementary.

The six Aldine schools, along with 81 other Texas public schools, were honored December 9 at a reception and dinner in Austin at the Holiday Inn Town Lake.


The presentation was made during the 15th Annual Education Trust Conference, held Nov. 11-13 in the nation’s capital.

Hambrick Middle School was recognized for its success in raising achievement among all students. The school, under the direction of prin- cipal Mary Blackwell, was awarded a $5,000 grant from the Education Trust.

Hambrick MS earns Dispelling the Myth Award

Aldine ISD’s Hambrick Middle School was awarded the second annual Dispelling the Myth Award from the Education Trust at a ceremony in Western DC.

The presentation was made during the 15th Annual Education Trust Conference, held Nov. 11-15 in the capital.

Hambrick Middle School was recognized for its success in raising achievement among all students. The school, under the direction of principal Mary Blackwell, was awarded a $5,000 grant from the Education Trust.

The presentation was made during the 15th Annual Education Trust Conference, held Nov. 11-15 in the capital.

Hambrick Middle School was recognized for its success in raising achievement among all students. The school, under the direction of principal Mary Blackwell, was awarded a $5,000 grant from the Education Trust.

The presentation was made during the 15th Annual Education Trust Conference, held Nov. 11-15 in the capital.

Hambrick Middle School was recognized for its success in raising achievement among all students. The school, under the direction of principal Mary Blackwell, was awarded a $5,000 grant from the Education Trust.

The presentation was made during the 15th Annual Education Trust Conference, held Nov. 11-15 in the capital.

Hambrick Middle School was recognized for its success in raising achievement among all students. The school, under the direction of principal Mary Blackwell, was awarded a $5,000 grant from the Education Trust.
MacArthur High School cross country teams

The MacArthur High School boys cross country team won the District 18-5A title, while the Lady Generals finished third as each qualified for the Region III Cross Country meet earlier this fall. Pictured are members of both teams. From left (1-7): Jorge Castillo, Sade Brown, Tia Cerda, Jessica Rosales, Diamantina Gipson, Danny Aquino and Jose Aviles. Back row (1-7): Benni Collins, Jasmine Wyn, Andrew Rosales, Jessica Collins, Corry Upshaw and Francisco Maldonado. The most recent district title was the 20th at MacArthur for cross-country coach Larry Gnaztig.

Wade honored by Acres Homes Citizen Council

The Acres Homes Citizen Council honored Aldine ISD Director of Athletics Daryl Wade. Wade received the group’s Outstanding Community Service Award at the Council’s 111th Annual High Achiever Banquet.

Wade was honored for committing his time, service and knowledge toward building a better community in Acres Homes.

Wade said he was humbled with the award.

“ar is such a wonderful honor and it means so much to me because I grew up in this community,” Wade said. “I believe it’s important for all of us to give something back to our communities, be it volunteering, working with young people or some other worthwhile endeavor.”

Wade is currently in his second year as Aldine ISD’s director of athletics. Prior to his being named to head the district’s athletics department, he served as director of athletics and head football coach at the University of New Orleans.

Daryl Wade, Aldine ISD director of athletics, has worked 21 years for the district.

Wade joined Aldine ISD in 1994. During his 21 years in the district he has also served as a teacher, coach and assistant principal. Wade is one of only seven Certified Master Athletic Directors in the state of Texas and is a member of the Texas High School Coaches Association and the Texas High School Athletic Directors Association, where he serves on the board of directors as the vendor chairman.

Wade also serves on the board of the African American Foundation and is an advisor to the Acres Home Youth Sports Association.

Eisenhower, Nimitz earn playoff spots

Aldine ISD secured two of the three playoff spots during the 18-5A football season as the Eisenhower Eagles and Nimitz Cougars qualified for post-season action.

First-year head coach Larry Haynes led Eisenhower to a 6-5 season and a playoff berth. Haynes guided the Eagles to their first postseason appearance since 1997 with a 45-14 victory over Bellaire in the Region III-5A bi-district playoff.

Nimitz also made the playoffs for the first time in six seasons under new head coach Bob Brown.

First-year head coach Bob Jones led the MacArthur Mustangs to a 6-4 season. Aldine High was led by quarterback Terrance Anderson, wide receivers Chan-Guns Rose and Deswetrick Watson, offensive linemen Marcos Solas, defensive back Isaac Garza and defensive lineman Jeremy Pomeranz-Hollins.

The MacArthur Generals and head coach Jerry Dorsey were led by offensive lineman Michael Cantin, running backs Felton McWhorter and D’Anthony Kelly, quarterback Anthony Gibson, linebacker Alexander Johnson, and defensive back Janas Farrell.

Anderson led Aldine in rushing with 515 yards, while Rose was the leading receiver with 775 yards. Dan- nels led Eisenhower in rushing with 975 yards, while Princeton Craver was the leading receiver with 415 yards. Kelly led MacArthur in rushing with 945 yards, while Willie Vance was the team’s leading receiver with 352 yards. McIntosh led Nimitz in rushing with 945 yards, while Brandon Glenn was the leading receiver with 211 yards.

Aldine ISD hosts 4th annual Academy National Invitational

For the fourth consecutive year, Aldine ISD’s M.O. Campbell Educational Center is host to the Academy National Invitational, one of the premier high school basketball tournaments in the country. The tournament is scheduled for Dec. 28-30.

This year’s event is open to AISD students enrolling in grades 9-12 and features the top high school teams from across the country and Texas, and for the second year, the tournament features a National Division and a Texas Division.

The National Division consists of Westchester High School of Los Angeles, ranked No. 1 in the nation by USA Today, DeMatha Catholic High School of Hyattsville, Maryland; Christ the King High School of New York, Arlington Country Day School of Jacksonville, FL; Monteerde Academy of Florida, Mesquite Christian School of Mesquite, TX; and ATMUS Academy of Athletics, College Station, TX.

The Texas Division consists of Aldine Senior High School, Alief Taylor High School, Bellaire High School, Cresson Ridge High School, Fort Bend Marshall High School, Kingwood High School, South Garland High School and Westfield High School.

Tickets are $10 a day (eight games a day) and can be purchased at any Academy Sports and Outdoors store. For more information on the tournament, visit www.visionsports.com.

Aldine ISD Magnet School lottery scheduled

The Aldine ISD Magnet school lottery will be held on Saturday, March 5 at 10 a.m. at the M.O. Campbell Educational Center, located at 1865 Aldine Bender Road. The lottery is open to anyone who has a child enrolled in AISD schools. The application deadline is Jan. 28. For more information, contact AISD’s Magnet school department at (281) 985-6659.