

A message from the Superintendent . . .

Post Secondary Push and Passion is Collective Effort

I just returned from a Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting where BISD staff and students, Bastrop citizens and the business community came together to roll out the Bastrop ISD and Bastrop Community “Post Secondary Push” campaign. The question was asked, “What is your Post Secondary Passion?” Meaning, what is it that you wanted to achieve after high school (for those of us far removed from that stage in life), wish to achieve - for those students most immediately impacted by such (including three very eloquent and confident BHS Senior student speakers at the event - Ryan De Franco, Anna Waxman and Andrew Peterson), and vitally important – those thousands of students that might need our assistance in the coming years to prepare and motivate them as they seek out their Post Secondary Pathway or Passion.

Attendees not only heard inspiring accounts from these three wonderful students, they also heard from Lori Tuggle (Co-Chair for the PSP / Post Secondary Push) and Marissa Graham, BISD’s P-16 Coordinator, as they talked about the great work already done, and urged the

audience to get involved. I was able to tell a brief version of a story that I share with students all the time. The story is about a young man who supposedly had every reason to believe that he would not (and could not) go to college and follow his post secondary passion. His circumstances would possibly suggest that he look at another path or redirect his passion to succeed at a higher level. A level that others perceived he should possibly alter as well. But, through self-determination and an “internal” post secondary push, he chose to overcome those obstacles and succeed in spite of his circumstances or what others may have perceived. We asked the chamber members to be part of a team of people that would step forward and connect with students to help them believe and achieve. Asked them to be a part of that “external” or community-wide Post Secondary Push; to ignite and help make a reality, many of our students’ Post Secondary Passion or Dreams.

The reaction to our presentation was great! Most of the audience members took yard signs with them and pledged

to place them at their residence or place of business (or both). The PSP campaign will soon have a very prominent billboard as part of the overall promotional approach as well.

We invite you to request a yard sign and get involved with the Post Secondary Push promotional campaign in Bastrop ISD. Together, we will make a tremendous difference in the lives of thousands of Bastrop ISD students. Thanks for your help in this great endeavor, as well as for the vital part you already play with our students daily. We appreciate it – and you.

Thanks,

Steve Murray

Steve Murray
Superintendent of Schools



Steve Murray
Superintendent

Outstanding BHS Alumni honored

The Bastrop High School Alumni Association and the Bastrop High School Presidents’ Board honored outstanding graduates at a special ceremony on Feb. 25. The event recognized graduates of Bastrop High School who have distinguished themselves in their careers and in service to their community.

Dr. Neil Gurwitz and Reid Sharp were announced as the first recipients of the Outstanding Bastrop High School Graduates Award. Gurwitz is a retired Optometrist and Sharp is the President of First National Bank of Bastrop.

The event was conceived as an effort not only to celebrate the accomplishments of graduates but also to inspire current students.

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Upcoming Events

BISD School Board Meeting:
March 9, 6 p.m., PAC

Spring Break: March 15-19

Student Holiday/Staff Development:
March 22

**PAC-Jerry Fay Wilhelm Center for the Performing Arts*

Perkins and Reimers bring home TCEA awards

At a special reception during the Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA) held at the Austin Convention Center in Austin, Peggy Perkins and Peggy Reimers were both presented with a prestigious award.

In Texas, there are more than 360,000 professional educators and only 8 received an educator award.

Peggy Reimers won the Instructional Technology Specialist of the Year award. Currently, Reimers is a tech for all six elementary campuses. She splits her time between these campuses sharing the power of interactive whiteboards, distance learning, Web 2.0 tools, and staying on top of three grant programs.

Her additional time is devoted to other district programs such as LEGO NXT Robotics, Palm Handhelds, Discovery Education Streaming, updated the BISD portal, posting resources on wikis and yammering on the BISD micro blogging network.

Bastrop ISD receives communications awards

Bastrop ISD received multiple 2009 TSPRA awards for excellence in school communications including one Best of Category, five Gold Stars and one Silver Star awards. The awards were announced at the Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) Star Awards Celebration on Feb. 23 during the association's annual conference in Austin.

Each year, the Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) recognizes communicators in school districts, education foundations, education associations and organizations for their outstanding work in both print and electronic media. This year, over 1,000 entries were received.

Entries selected as best in the state were honored with Silver Star, Gold Star and Best of Category Awards. Also, Crys-

ta has twenty-six years invested in K-12 education - 13 of those spent teaching in elementary, 11 years teaching technology and with Bastrop ISD as a technology specialist for two.

Reimers was presented a plaque and \$1,000 from TCEA.

Peggy Perkins, Mina Elementary, won the Professional Educator Grant. This \$500 grant is for Perkins to use in attending professional development activities that will increase knowledge of technology in education.

Perkins believes technology is an important tool that facilitates and enhances instruction at all levels. She continually seeks new avenues to increase her knowledge to be an effective 21st century teacher.

tal Commendations were presented for outstanding entries that featured special programs and events, and a Platinum Award, the highest award, was given for the best comprehensive communication program.

Bastrop received a Best of Category award for the Annual Report/Calendar. This entry also received a Gold Star. Other gold stars were awarded for the published news release titled 'Senior scores rare double', the Helping Hands Mentor Program Training Manual, the invitation for the Partners in Education



Peggy Perkins (left) and Peggy Reimers (right) were both honored with an Educator Award during the annual Technology Computer Education Association (TCEA) conference.

She wears many hats from Technology Integration Guide (TIG) to UIL coordinator to science fair chairperson.

She is a certified teacher (grades 1-8), health and physical education certified and ESL certified. Currently, she is the Mina Elementary GT teacher.

For more information about TCEA, visit www.tcea.org.

Appreciation and Awards Ceremony and the Just the Facts brochure. A Silver Star was awarded for a photograph titled 'A Rockin' Homecoming Parade'.

TSPRA, based in Austin, is a professional organization whose members are dedicated to improving public education in Texas by promoting effective public relations practices, providing professional development for its members, and improving communication between Texans and their public schools.

HELP WANTED

Bastrop ISD is always looking for qualified candidates to fill open positions within the district. To view a complete list of openings with job descriptions or to complete the online application, visit www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu.

For more information, contact BISD Human Resources at (512) 321-2292.

Murray and Womack named to Leadership Texas Class

Allison Murray, Partners in Education Coordinator and Jennifer Womack, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, both for Bastrop ISD, have been selected to join an elite network of more than 2,500 women as members of the Leadership Texas Class of 2010.

“Allison and Jennifer are two of 120 outstanding women leaders competitively selected from across the state to participate in the longest-running women’s leadership development program in the US. Throughout the year-long program, they will have the opportunity to broaden their perspectives on our state by exploring five Texas cities and receiving cutting-edge information from renowned experts, government officials and other leaders to positively inform her work and community for years to come,” said Candace O’Keefe-Mathis, CEO of the Foundation for Women’s Resources. Leadership Texas, now in its 28th consecutive year, is the flagship program of the Texas-based foundation headquartered in Dallas.

Launched in 1983 as the first statewide program for women’s leadership development, Leadership Texas is patterned after, though not affiliated with, the co-educational civic programs that have found success in a number of cities throughout the state and nation. “Our founders decided to create Leadership Texas to help women become better, more informed leaders in our state’s communities, organizations

and corporations,” O’Keefe-Mathis added.

The theme for the 2010 program year is ‘Leading with Strength into the Future’ “Participants will visit Dallas, Laredo, Lubbock, Waco and Austin where each city’s opportunities and challenges will help to illuminate the participants’ knowledge of our rapidly evolving state across three common themes—the economy, education and the environment,” O’Keefe-Mathis said.

“We consider it a privilege to offer these influential women leaders from a broad diversity of professional and personal backgrounds some new perspectives, opinions and validation on some of the issues, people and places they might not otherwise encounter outside of the program. We recognize that it is necessary for today’s successful leaders to understand the cultural, social and economic shift before us and the programming of Leadership Texas provides opportunities and access to help the women impact the future of our evolving state.”



Allison Murray



Jennifer Womack

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The public was invited to nominate candidates who were evaluated based on their professional success, contributions to their communities, character and “Bear Factor.”

The finalists for the award included:

- Deion Christophe, Coordinator of Impression Evidence & Training, University of Central OK Forensic Science Institute
- Roderick Emanuel, Director of Employee Relations, Bastrop ISD
- Sonta Henderson, Government & Community Relations Specialist for AAA (TX & NM)
- Michael Hosford, Owner, Synergy Financial Group
- Mark Pape, NASA, Space Shuttle Flight Controller
- Rico Reyes, Assistant District Attorney for Travis County
- Michele Lehman Glaze, Marketing/Communications for Corporate Responsibility Dell, Inc.

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About the Staff Update

The Staff Update is published electronically every month for staff by the BISD Community Services/Communications department to share information and recognize staff and students. Send news items to Lauri Anzaldua, Communications Coordinator at lanzaldua@bastrop.isd.tenet.edu or call (512) 321-2292.

Self-Reliance

Show it.

*Building Good Citizens for Texas
 Character Education program*