

Harmony Public Schools' North District wins JET grant to bolster engineering

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Harmony Public Schools - Houston North District has been awarded a \$233,225 Jobs & Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program, the charter school system announced in a December 19 press release. The funding will support the training of 125 students as Civil Engineers addressing the growing demand for professionals Engineers in Texas.

The JET program is part of a \$15 million initiative announced by Governor Greg Abbott, designed to enhance career and technical education (CTE) programs across the state, the press release said. The \$233,225 grant awarded to Harmony Public Schools - Houston North will support innovative educational programs and resources designed to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world application.

Students will benefit from access to state-of-the-art technology, project-based learning, and mentorship opportunities from industry professionals, ensuring they are equipped for immediate success in the engineering field.

"As Texas' economy grows, so does the demand for a highly skilled workforce," said Governor Abbott. "These career training grants help prepare students for high-demand, good-paying careers, ensuring they have opportunities that lead to a better job and a brighter future."

"We are honored to receive the JET grant, which will create new opportunities for our students to pursue meaningful careers in healthcare," said Selcuk Bakir, Superintendent of Harmony Public Schools South Texas District. "This funding supports our mission to prepare students for college and career, shaping the next

generation of skilled professionals."

In the first year, this grant will help Harmony Public Schools South Texas train 125 students, contributing to the state's goal of equipping more than 6,900 students with career-ready skills through the JET program.

Harmony Public Schools are 60+ high performing PreK-12 college preparatory charter schools throughout Texas. Harmony blends the highest standards and expectations, with a rigorous math- and science-centered curriculum and dedicated and engaged teachers and families to cultivate excellence and prepare students to succeed in college, careers and life. At Harmony Public Schools, the team believes every child can succeed and is committed to helping them realize their full potential. To learn more about Harmony Public Schools and its 62 campuses across Texas, please visit: www.harmonytx.org.

WEDDING

Dunham-Johnson



Miss Margaret Macon Dunham and Mr. Scott Edward Johnson were united in marriage on Friday, October 11, 2024, at half past five o'clock in the afternoon. The ceremony was performed by Don Carman at the Wool Factory in Charlottesville, Virginia. A dinner reception and dancing followed.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Dunham III, and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Brugh, all of Charlottesville, Virginia.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Johnson of Magnolia, Texas.

The bride was given in marriage by her father. Maid of Honor was Angela Leal of Houston, Texas. Bridesmaids were Brandi Tyree of Anchorage, Alaska, Jeanne Lahrson of Wasilla, Alaska, Carolyn Heine of Riverside, California, Sherri Mai, sister of the groom, of Calgary, Canada. Evelyn Mai and Alexandra Leal were flower girls.

Groomsmen were Nick Adair Best Man of Guatemala, Michelangelo Hardy of Austin, Texas, Joe Mather of Houston, Texas, Robert Dunham, brother of the bride, of Charlottesville, Virginia.

The bride is a graduate of Kent State University (Bachelors) and Western Governors University (Masters) and is a registered nurse at Houston Methodist Hospital.

The groom is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin and is a consultant at Capco and a realtor with eXp Realty.

The couple reside in Katy, Texas.



Apply for Fort Bend County Fair scholarship by Jan. 16

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Fort Bend County Fair is now accepting applications for its scholarship program, the fair announced in a December 17 press release. The opportunity to be awarded a \$5000.00 Fair scholarship is open to many qualifying students, but an application is required.

The deadline to submit a scholarship application is Thursday, January 16, 2024.

All recipients must be high school seniors graduating in spring 2025 from a recognized Fort Bend County

private, public, or home-schooled program.

To be eligible, students must have participated in the Fort Bend County Fair Livestock Shows, art programs, rodeo events, FCCLA, ag mechanics competition, horticulture contest, Queen contest, or have been Fort Bend County Fair volunteers. Scholarship recipient selections are based on Fair involvement, school activities, community involvement, and academic achievement.

Since 1979, the Fort Bend County Fair has been giving back to the county's youth through its schol-

arship program. In 2024, the Fair awarded over a quarter of a million dollars to deserving youth.

"These scholarships are supporting our youth in achieving their educational goals. We aim to assist our kids because they represent our future. We encourage students to submit their applications," says Keith Smith, Executive Manager of the Fort Bend County Fair.

For more information on the 2025 scholarship requirements and application, visit fortbendcountyfair.com or call the fair office at 281-342-6171.

KISD to host 'Men Who Mentor' on Jan. 24

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Calling all men to bring a friend and join Katy ISD for the "guys only" KEYS Mentor event!

KISD invites men of the community to join the KEYS mentoring program (Keep Encouraging Youth toward Success) in order to provide strong role models for students. "Men Who Mentor" is an informative session which describes the role of community volunteers who work with assigned students.

The event will be held on January 24 from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. and will include a free breakfast.

Festivities will take place at the district's Professional Development Annex, 6361 S. Stadium Lane in Katy, located across from the Merrell Center.

RSVP at docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeRqUoi7_ai-2OIlFYWY-iamQtd98SmznJzIXi-FQKkEOshOdA/viewform.

Offered at every campus at every grade level, the KEYS Mentor Program's primary focus is on relationship building, rather than tutoring, according to the district's website. Teachers, counselors and school administrators identify students who are good candidates for the program, while Katy ISD Partners

in Education recruits mentors from the community.

KEYS mentors come from varied backgrounds, experiences and age groups. Each KEYS mentor must make a one school year commitment to the program, apply and pass the same criminal background check used for Katy ISD employees and attend a campus orientation. Mentors are placed with a student by the KEYS campus liaison who will support and supervise the relationship. Mentors and their mentees meet each week on campus in an open, monitored environment such as the library.



Members of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc Fraternity Inc., shown at a December 4 event where they read aloud to students at Rhoads Elementary, 19711 Clay Road in Katy, are among the "Men Who Mentor" at Katy ISD.

PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

TCEQ offers Mickey Leland environmental internship program

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Let the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Mickey Leland Environmental Internship Program (MLEIP) help with summer staffing or staffing shortages you may have. Now entering its 34th year, the program is currently accepting sponsor requests for summer 2025.

Businesses and organizations with a presence in Texas may sponsor a paid summer intern. Sponsors will interview, select, and provide internship placement and compensation for these motivated interns. They also set internship dates, pay rate, duties, and work hours.

The MLEIP places undergraduate and graduate college students pursuing a wide range of disciplines at TCEQ, other participating state agencies, within city and county government, and with participating private sector companies from across Texas. While the program primarily attracts STEM majors, those pursuing public health, law, accounting, criminal justice, communications, and other degrees apply as well.

For more information on how to become a summer internship sponsor, visit TCEQ's MLEIP sponsor webpage at tceq.texas.gov/jobs/mickeyleland/sponsor. Potential sponsors may also contact Juanita Baldwin, MLEIP education and outreach coordinator, at juanita.baldwin@tceq.texas.gov.

The program honors the late U.S. Congressman George "Mickey" Leland, a strong advocate of public health and environmental issues. According to the TCEQ program website, Congressman Leland is best known for:

- Serving as a member of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment.
- Consistently addressing public health issues related to minority communities.
- Demonstrating a passion for growing future leaders by advocating for the education and professional development of students, particularly those in underserved and underrepresented regions.

Congressman Leland was killed in a plane crash on August 7, 1989, enroute to Ethiopia on a mission as Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Hunger.

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Annual Report Hearing Scheduled January 21st, 2025

The Katy Independent School District will conduct a public hearing for the 2023-2024 Annual Performance Report on January 21, 2025. The hearing will be held during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Katy ISD Board of Trustees at 5:00PM in the Katy ISD Administration Building at 6301 South Stadium Lane.

Texas Education Code (TEC) § 39.306 requires each school district's board of trustees to publish an annual report that includes the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR), PEIMS, Financial Standard, accreditation status, campus performance objectives, special education determination and intervention policies, student performance in post-secondary institutions, and progress towards meeting early childhood literacy and math proficiency as well as college, career and military readiness.

Katy Times

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