



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Maggie Jean (third from right), general manager for Best Buy, is surrounded by her student workers (l to r) Kristen Bomar, Goose Creek Memorial High School (GCM), 12th grade; Laura Arredondo, Robert E. Lee High School (REL), 11th grade; Jasmine Rocha, REL, 12th grade; Andrew Johns, Ross S. Sterling High School (RSS), 12th grade and Blake Jackson, RSS, 12th grade. Jean received a certificate of appreciation at the Student Workforce Connection 2015 Employer Appreciation Luncheon for Best Buy's partnership with Goose Creek CISD through the Student Workforce Connection.

## Student Workforce Connection 2015 Employer Appreciation Luncheon

A full house, including students, teachers, administrators, and employers, attended the recent Goose Creek CISD Student Workforce Connection 2015 Employer Appreciation Luncheon at the Baytown Community Center. Guests viewed a slideshow, featuring students and their employers, during the luncheon, which was prepared by Stuart Career Center (SCC) Culinary Arts students, under the direction of Tina Andrade. Desserts were provided by Ross S. Sterling High School Art of Baking students, supervised by Quindetta Thomas. The Robert E. Lee High School Floral Design classes, taught by Canace Morton, created the table arrangements.

Renee Dillon, director of career and technical education (CTE), introduced GCCISD Board of Trustees members Jenice Coffey and Ken Martin. She thanked the employers for partnering with Goose Creek CISD to provide employment, practicum and mentoring opportunities for Goose Creek CISD students. Dr. Melissa Duarte, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, provided an overview of the Student Workforce Connection.

"Due to the complexity of the world and the increasing demands of the 21st century workforce, there is little question that all students should graduate from high school fully prepared for college and careers," said Duarte. "The district has been blessed to have built amazing partnerships with the community, local businesses, industry and Lee College aligned to our career pathways."

Dr. Tom Kelchner, director of special education, explained that the Student Workforce Connection provides opportunities for all students.

"We are very proud that at Goose Creek CISD we support all of our students, regardless of program, through the Student Workforce Connection," said Kelchner. "It's wonderful that we predicate our Workforce Connection on abilities, not disabilities.



Tim Bailey (middle), kindergarten teacher at Crockett Elementary, displays the certificate he received at the Student Workforce Connection Employer Appreciation Luncheon. Mariah Vasquez (left), senior from Ross S. Sterling High School works in Bailey's classroom, and Rubi Borunda (right), also a senior from Sterling, works in Jill Cole's classroom through the Ready, Set, Teach! program.

[View photo gallery here.](#)

Also partnering with GCCISD are Kenneth's Paint and Body, Kroger, Marshalls, McDonald's, Old Navy, Outback Steakhouse, Pennington Concession, Pier One, Pilot Flying J, Pipeline Grill, Red Lobster, Remington Park, Rock Hard Gym, Rue 21, Samson Controls, Inc., Sonic, Sonic Drive In, Starbucks, Texas Roadhouse, The Alamo Mexican Restaurant, The Building Block Foundation Corp., The Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center at Baytown, Tony's Barbeque and Steakhouse, Toys "R" Us, Tuscany Italian Restaurant, Walgreens, Walmart, Wendy's and WOWCO Equipment Company.

Over the past four years, Special Education and CTE have collaborated to create a seamless program that supports all students at GCCISD.”

The event committee and work-based learning instructors for Goose Creek CISD are Tameka Mills, CTE coordinator; Linda Rye, VAC coordinator; Carla Anderson, Health Science Practicum (REL); Steve Barron, Transportation Career Practicum (SCC); Misty Calhoun, Career Preparation (GCM); Jennifer DeHart, Ready, Set, Teach! (REL); Debbie Himsel, Health Science Practicum (GMC); Whitney Lowery, Career Preparation (RSS); Henriella Riley, Career Preparation (REL); Shannon Rogers, Ready, Set, Teach! (RSS); Kelly Start, Career Preparation (RSS); Ian Sobczak, Computer Maintenance/Technician Practicum (SCC); Donna Truncale, Health Science Practicum (RSS) and Deborah Turner, Ready, Set, Teach! (GCM).

Student Workforce Connection partners in attendance received certificates or plaques in honor of their support of the program. Partners are A+ Construction, Animal Medical Center of Baytown, Archer Road Animal Hospital, Asthetic Family Dentistry, Austin Elementary, BARC – Opportunity Center, Bayou City Wings, Baytown Animal Hospital, BEEMC Import and Export, Best Buy, Blue Beacon, BreWingz, Buc-ee’s, Burger King, Callaway Collision, Cedar Bayou Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, Chicken Express, Chick-Fil-A, Chipotle, CiCi’s Pizza, Community Toyota, Cracker Barrel, Crawfish Shack, Dairy Queen, David Crocket Elementary, El Toro, Food Town, Goodwill, Hobby Lobby, Home Depot, Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital, Jason’s Deli and Johnny Carino’s.

Participating Goose Creek CISD workplaces include Alamo Elementary, Austin Elementary, Crockett Elementary, Facilities Management, Special Education Department, Technology Management Systems, George Washing Carver Elementary and Food Services, Goose Creek Memorial High School (office, athletics and special education), Horace Mann Junior School, Bowie Elementary, Stuart Career Center, De Zavala Elementary, Lamar Elementary, Peter E. Hyland Childcare Center, Robert E. Lee High School and REL Special Education Department, Ross S. Sterling High School (office, library and Food Services), Victoria Walker Elementary and Travis Elementary.

The Student Workforce Connection sets goals to help students build employability skills through internships, collaborating with worksite supervisors and district faculty members. In turn, businesses receive assistance in recruiting highly motivated student employees who have training and/or an interest in a related career. The successful program is expanding, thanks to the willingness of the businesses to work with Goose Creek CISD students.

“When we created the Student Workforce Connection, we had the vision that our students, prepared through a workforce partnership between GCCISD and local businesses, will graduate college and career ready with work experience and employability skills that will enable them to seek and maintain employment in our community,” said Dillon.

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Physical Address:  
Goose Creek Consolidated  
Independent School District  
4544 Interstate 10 East  
Baytown, Texas 77521  
281.420.4800

Mailing Address:  
Goose Creek Consolidated  
Independent School District  
P.O. Box 30  
Baytown, Texas 77522  
281.420.4800

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