



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Goose Creek CISD Welcome Employees to the 2015-2016 School Year

Greeted by the combined high school drum lines and cheerleaders, Goose Creek CISD employees disembarked school buses at the Lee College Sports Arena for the annual Convocation to welcome them to the 2015-2016 school year. The morning session included faculty and staff members from the elementary schools and the Special Education Department, and the afternoon session was primarily for secondary campus employees.

The ROTC Color Guard from Robert E. Lee High School and Goose Creek Memorial High School presented the flags, and Trevor Thibodeaux, Nayeli Moreno and Sophia Pacheco led the pledges. Hannah Noel from Goose Creek Memorial sang the national anthem. Student body presidents Josh Hockless from Robert E. Lee High School, Kerri Russel from Ross S. Sterling High School, Marissa Garcia from Goose Creek Memorial High and Siavash Zamirpour from IMPACT Early College High School assisted with introductions and transitions.

As part of the Celebration of Excellence, the GCCISD High School Robotics Team, FRC 1255 Blarglefish, coached by Keith Cummings and Misty Coyle-Jacobs, demonstrated its robot by shooting t-shirts out into the audience. The team's alliance placed 7th in the 2015 Robotics World Championship.

Gilbert Santana, past president of the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation, highlighted the GCCISD Education Foundation's contributions to excellence in teaching. More than \$579,000 in innovative teaching grants has been given to district teachers since the Foundation's inception in 2009. The Education Foundation also recognizes 15 teachers each year, nominated by seniors as having positively impacted their lives, at the Students Choice Awards Banquet. A heartfelt video of the 2015 teachers and students was shown to the group.

The combined high school choirs, under the direction of Nikki Thompson, performed two lively numbers. After remarks by Jenice Coffey, GCCISD Board president and former teacher, highlighting examples of excellence through the district, Randal O'Brien, superintendent, reflected on his summer family road trip and praised numerous GCCISD schools and programs for helping GCCISD move in the right direction. He also thanked employees for accepting the challenge of charting a course for excellence in education, asking them to give a little more during the upcoming school year.



Mike Smith (left), Macie Schubert (right) and Cynthia Wood (middle) from Community Resource Credit Union, present iPads to Rebekah Banks (second from left) from Harlem Elementary and Monica Findlay (second from right) from Ashbel Smith Elementary at GCCISD's Back-to-School Celebration at the Lee College Sports Arena. View the Back-to-School Celebration photo gallery [here](#).

"I believe you have proven and will continue to prove that GCCISD is providing a great education for our students, a great environment for us to work together in and a school district our community can be proud of," said O'Brien.

Keynote speaker Jonathan Sprinkles energized the crowd with his motivational stories and words of wisdom. Door prizes, donated by Carls Jr./Panera Bread, Challenge Office Products, Chatham Construction Company, Chick-fil-A, Community Resource Credit Union, GCCISD Athletic Department, Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union, JMB2 Architecture Cooperative, Krisher McKay, Inc. Realtors, Marshall Construction Company, Patients ER, PBK Architects, The Baytown Sun and Xerox Corporation, were given out. Special thanks goes to Lee College for use of the Sports Arena.

Community Resource Credit Union presented iPads to two GCCISD employees during each session. The finale included Chick-fil-A cows dancing through the Sports Arena, with other employees giving out cookies.

The first day of school for Goose Creek CISD students is Monday, August 24.

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