



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Members of the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation accept a check for a gold level sponsorship from Hotchkiss Disposal Services. Pictured are (l to r) Gilbert Santana, Education Foundation immediate past president; Sammy Hotchkiss; Daphna Hotchkiss; Jim Wadzinski, vice president of development; Jenice Coffey, Foundation member and president of the GCCISD Board of Trustees; and Ronnie Hotchkiss.



Rebecca Estrada, counselor at De Zavala Elementary, describes the two grants she has received from the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation and expresses her appreciation at the annual Vendors Luncheon.

## GCCISD Education Foundation Hosts Vendors Luncheon

The rain didn't dampen the spirits of those in attendance at the recent Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation's Major Vendors Luncheon, especially when grant winner Rebecca Estrada spoke about the two grants she had been awarded by the Foundation and how they had benefitted her students.

Estrada, counselor at De Zavala Elementary, received a grant for 2014 to bring the Houston Texans program – Toro Takes Bullying by the Horns – to De Zavala to kick off the Olweus anti-bullying program. In 2015, she received her second grant from the Education Foundation for an innovative idea to enhance the character education program at De Zavala with Rock Solid Character, a 25-foot rock wall.

In her UFC Ronda Rousey outfit, complete with an almost authentic belt borrowed from Awards and Engraving – after all, it was Dress Like a Possible Career Choice Day at De Zavala - Estrada was a ray of sunshine as she described the excitement of the students and teachers when they saw some of the Houston Texans players and Toro last year. Her students were thrilled this year with setting goals for the challenge of the rock wall and working to achieve those goals. Even Randal O'Brien, superintendent of schools, was unable to resist climbing the wall.

These grants from the Education Foundation were just two of the numerous innovative teaching grants, totaling more than \$580,000, awarded to teachers since 2010.

"If a teacher has a creative idea, but the district cannot fund it with the regular school budget, the teacher applies to the Foundation for a grant," said Jim



Sanitary Supply Company is recognized for its silver level donation to the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation at the recent Vendor's Luncheon. Pictured are (from left) Alex Rodriguez of Sanitary Supply Company; Barbara Wilson, Education Foundation member; John Frederick of Sanitary Supply Company; Jim Wadzinski, vice president of development and Randal O'Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent.

The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation also sponsors the Students Choice Awards. Each year, senior students write essays about teachers who have had an impact on their lives, and 15 are selected to be honored at the event. In the past six years, 90 teachers have been honored for making a difference in the lives of students.

To fund these important projects, the Education Foundation relies on donations from local businesses and industry as well as from the Goose Creek CISD staff. The Education Foundation Grant Surprise Patrol buses will once again visit the schools to award grants in the spring, and the Students Choice Awards is scheduled for June.

Wadzinski, vice president of development for the Foundation. "The Education Foundation's goal for this year is to raise \$200,000 for teachers to enhance education across Goose Creek CISD."

Established in the fall of 2009, the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation is a charitable organization that exists solely to support Goose Creek CISD, its students, teachers, staff and the community. The Board is comprised of 32 members from the community who generously donate their time to help the district enhance learning opportunities and recognize excellence in education.

"Our collective mission is to generate and distribute resources exclusively to our school district for the implementation of innovative programs and continued momentum toward excellence," said Kathy Clausen, president of the Education Foundation. "It is the Education Foundation Board's pleasure to help strengthen the learning experiences of public school children in Goose Creek CISD."

Thanks to our generous donors, the Education Foundation hopes to continue these events and more for years to come.

"Because of your committed partnership, the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation is providing tools to transform our schools, provide greater opportunities for our students and increase the pipeline of talented graduates to the community," said Wadzinski.

Anyone wishing to donate to the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation should visit the website at [www.gccisd.net/educationfoundation](http://www.gccisd.net/educationfoundation), contact Kathy Minter at 281-707-3629 or see Jim Wadzinski or Kathy Clausen.

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