



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Students from Goose Creek Memorial High School honor their teachers at the recent Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation Students Choice Awards. Pictured are (front, l to r) Hiral Waghela, Hannah Alfred, Lori Yarbrough, Connor Clegg, Scott Griffin, (back row, l to r) Sharron Carroll, Shelby Schlesselman and Tim Fox. Photo gallery [here](#).



IMPACT Early College High School students honor their teachers at the Students Choice Awards hosted by the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation. Pictured are (front, l to r) Gicela Trejo, Ashley Mehrens, Pablo Chavez, Carlos Zelaya, Susan Hillin, Shelby Sylvester, Wendy West and April Watkins. Photo gallery [here](#).



Robert E. Lee High School teachers Jennifer DeHart (second from left) and Sherry Burr (second from right) were honored by their students Rosa Dominguez (left) and Asucena Melendez (right) at the annual Students Choice Awards, an event sponsored by the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation. Photo gallery [here](#).



Teachers from Ross S. Sterling High School receive recognition from their students at the recent Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation Students Choice Awards. Pictured are (front, l to r) Alfredo Guerrero, Sandra Cole, Anissa Cantin, Savannah McDaniel, Karli Ramirez, Kelley Start, Jason Sartor, Candice Dotson, Betty Benskin and Eric Valverde. Photo gallery [here](#).

Education Foundation Students Choice Awards Fifteen Teachers Honored at GCCISD

Fifteen Goose Creek CISD teachers across the District were honored at the fifth annual Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation Students Choice Awards Banquet. The event took place at the Woodforest Bank Tower Club at Royal Purple Raceway Park and included dinner as well as entertainment by the Goose Creek Memorial High School Orchestra under the direction of Reuben Chance.

Earlier in the year, seniors from Goose Creek Memorial, IMPACT, Robert E. Lee and Ross S. Sterling high schools submitted letters to the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation nominating teachers who had made an impact on their lives. Fifteen teachers were selected to attend the Students Choice Awards. Each teacher received a plaque and a gift card, along with a video by Carrie Pryor-Newman in the GCCISD Communications Department commemorating the event. The nominating students also received gift cards and a video.

"This is one of my favorite school events every year," said Sandra Bell, vice president of marketing/events for the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation. "Teachers deserve to be recognized for making a difference in the lives of their students."

Many students nominated their high school teachers, but several wished to honor elementary and junior school teachers who had helped them on the road to success. Pablo Chavez, who recently graduated as salutatorian from IMPACT Early College High School, receiving an associate degree from Lee College his junior year, expressed his gratitude to Cedar Bayou Junior School's Carlos Zelaya, former language arts teacher at Lamar Elementary School,

"This is quite a feat, accomplished only with Mrs. Dotson's help, for a boy who did not really speak at all until age eight," said Sartor.

Many of the students' stories pulled at the heartstrings of the more than 200 in attendance.

Shelby Sylvester, the 8th academically ranked student graduating from IMPACT Early College High School this year, honored her kindergarten teacher Susan Hillin from Stephen F. Austin Elementary School. Hillin provided support and encouragement for Sylvester when her father lost his battle with pancreatic cancer. Sylvester's mother died as a result of breast cancer when she was in fourth grade, and she credits Hillin with once again standing by her and letting her know that she cared about her.

"Even though I went through some rough times, my kindergarten experience was positively impacted by Mrs. Hillin," said Sylvester. "She will always have my utmost respect, and I will forever be thankful for all she has done and continues to do in the lives of children every day."

Over the past five years, 75 teachers have been celebrated at the Students Choice Awards.

Goose Creek Memorial High School students and their teachers were Hannah Alfred and teacher Lori Yarbrough from GCM, Connor Clegg and teacher Scott Griffin from GCM, Shelby Schlesselman and teacher Tim Fox from GCM, and Hiral Waghela and teacher Sharron Carroll from Lorenzo De Zavala Elementary School.

for helping him overcome his language barrier and encouraging him to pursue his interest in math.

"He is one of the people who has impacted my life the most. When I began his class, it had only been a year since I migrated from my home country, Mexico," said Chavez. "He pushed me to the limit some days where I wanted to just quit and go back. But he was always there to help me finish whatever I did not understand."

Jason Sartor, who graduated fourth in the Class of 2014 from Ross S. Sterling High School, nominated Candice Dotson, speech therapist at Stephen F. Austin Elementary School, for helping him overcome his speech problems.

"Speech was my constant battle as an elementary student. I was able to be successful and overcome this struggle through the help of Mrs. Dotson," said Sartor.

Sartor has had the opportunity to serve as a delegate to the NRA's Texas Youth Education Summit (YES) at the State Capitol, presenting speeches and debates. He is an ambassador for YES and has spoken before more than 500 people.

Students from IMPACT Early College High School and their teachers were Pablo Chavez and teacher Carlos Zelaya from Cedar Bayou Junior School, formerly from Lamar Elementary; Shelby Sylvester and teacher Susan Hillin from Stephen F. Austin Elementary School; Gicela Trejo and teacher Ashley Mehrens from IMPACT, and April Watkins and teacher Wendy West from IMPACT.

Robert E. Lee High School students and their teachers were Rosa Dominguez and teacher Jennifer DeHart from Lee and Asucena Melendez and teacher Sherry Burr.

Ross S. Sterling High School students and their teacher honorees were Alfredo Guerrero and teacher Sandra Cole from David Crockett Elementary School, Savannah McDaniel and teacher Anissa Cantin from Cedar Bayou Junior School, Karli Ramirez and teacher Kelley Start from Sterling, Jason Sartor and teacher Candice Dotson, and Eric Valverde and teacher Betty Benskin from Sterling.

"Teachers play an important role in the lives of their students. We appreciate the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation for allowing our students to honor these deserving teachers who have helped prepare them for the future," said Dr. Salvador Cavazos, GCCISD superintendent.

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