



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



LEFT: Kevin Foxworth, principal at Ross S. Sterling High School, and Julie McReynolds, academic dean, knock on a door during the Reach Out Walk.

BELOW: Acting Superintendent for Goose Creek CISD Randal O'Brien "high-fives" Gary the Gander, Robert E. Lee High School's mascot, before leaving with his group for the Reach Out Walk. More photos [here](#).



Volunteers Make a Difference at Reach Out Walk

More than 305 volunteers registered from Goose Creek CISD and from the community to help the district recover students who have not shown up for school this year and to encourage those whose attendance records showed numerous absences to stay in school during the recent Reach Out Walk. Volunteers included campus faculty and staff, members of the Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees, City of Baytown officials and Lee College Ambassadors.

The seventh annual event, held September 20, began at Ross S. Sterling High School with breakfast and a brief training session. Starbucks provided coffee, and Sonic donated water for the volunteers. The Keep Baytown Beautiful group handed out tree-shaped stress balls, and Waste Management home carts were used for recycling. A highlight of the morning was the presentation of awards to De Zavala Elementary School and Baytown Junior School by Dr. Precious Reimonenq, director of guidance and counseling for having the most volunteers in 2013.

Peer Assistance and Leadership (PAL) students and cheerleaders from Robert E. Lee High School, along with AVID students from IMPACT Early College High School and College Forward coaches, formed run-through lines for the sea of people in blue Reach Out t-shirts streaming out the doors of Sterling with their information packets. After meeting up with their designated groups, these participants knocked on doors, talked to students or former students and left packets of information when no one was at home.

Prior to the Reach Out Walk, campus administrators, counselors, registrars, attendance clerks, and Tricia Nesselrode and Sherry Bell of the PEIMS Department worked to obtain the names of students and to contact them in advance. Since one of the state records systems had technical difficulties this year, it was hard to obtain information about the students who were still showing on our rosters but were already enrolled in other schools in Texas. Finally, 168 students were placed on the master list along with 20 students who have had attendance issues.

"Thirty-five groups were created with an average of six volunteers per team," said Dr. Reimonenq. "Teams worked on contacting between three and 10 students."

Reimonenq; Travita Godfrey, college and career coordinator; and Elsa Rendon, guidance and counseling secretary organized the event. Suzanne Alimena, consultant and former GCCISD employee, set up the data base for registering and grouping the volunteers.

"The results of our efforts will not be clear until we see how many students from the lists actually come to enroll and until we verify how many students have already enrolled in a school in Texas," said Reimonenq. "We appreciate the enthusiasm of our volunteers, and we know that we have made a difference in the lives of at least some of these students."

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