



Harlem Elementary School faculty and staff members show off their yellow "Get On the Bus" shirts at a luncheon in their honor, organized by the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation and sponsored by PBK Architects for having the highest percentage of employees donate to the Education Foundation. View more photos [here](#).

## Harlem Donates Highest Percentage to the GCCISD Education Foundation

To say that the faculty and staff members at Harlem Elementary School are generous is an understatement! For the second year in a row, Harlem had the highest percentage of employees in Goose Creek CISD donate to the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation's "Get On the Bus" campaign.

To show appreciation for their generosity, the Education Foundation organized a luncheon for Harlem Elementary employees, sponsored by PBK Architects. No one at Harlem seemed surprised that they surpassed all the other GCCISD schools and buildings, based on the number of employees, with their giving.

"I'm very proud of them. Again, they never cease to surprise me with their generosity," said Matt Warford, Harlem principal. "They are a great group of people, and they think with their hearts."

Beth Banks, Harlem teacher and GCCISD's Elementary Teacher of the Year, thinks their success is two-fold.

"It's due to generosity on our part, but it's also about knowing that the money goes right back to the kids, which is what it's all about," said Banks.

Kathy Clausen, president-elect of the GCCISD Education Foundation, congratulated the faculty and staff.

"We're here today to celebrate Harlem Elementary for having the highest percentage of donations through payroll deductions. Seventy-seven percent of your faculty and staff contributed to the 'Get On the Bus' campaign," said Clausen.

Randal O'Brien, acting superintendent, expressed his appreciation to the Harlem faculty and staff. "We appreciate all that you do, and we know that the real work happens right here with you," said O'Brien.

Donations to the Education Foundation are used for innovative teaching grants for teachers to enhance classroom instruction. The Grant Surprise Patrol, including Education Foundation members, community members and GCCISD administrators, boards yellow school buses each year to visit schools, surprising teachers with these grants. More than \$461,000 in innovative teaching grants has been given to teachers to help them enrich the curriculum.

The Education Foundation also recognizes teachers, nominated by seniors for making a difference in their lives, at the annual Students Choice Awards. Seventy-five teachers have been honored in the past five years.

"We care about the cause, and we also have administrators who encourage giving," said Josh Goodgame, Harlem teacher. "They are enthusiastic about it, and it makes us enthusiastic!"

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