



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

GCCISD Education Foundation Hosts Vendors Luncheon

Vendors from Baytown and the surrounding area were treated to an early Thanksgiving dinner, sponsored by ARAMARK, at the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation Vendors Luncheon.

Acting Superintendent Randal O'Brien welcomed guests and introduced Education Foundation President Gilbert Santana. Jenice Coffey, member of the GCCISD Board of Trustees, led the prayer.

A video highlighted Education Foundation events, such as the Grant Surprise Patrol, comprised of Education Foundation members, community representatives and GCCISD administrators, awarding grants to teachers throughout the district, and the Students Choice Awards, featuring senior students and the teachers they nominated for making a difference in their lives.

The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation, established in the fall of 2009, is a charitable organization that exists solely to support Goose Creek CISD and its students, teachers and staff. The 32 members of the Foundation Board of Directors are dedicated to the community and to educational excellence.

"In just five short years, the Foundation has awarded over \$460,000 in grants to teachers. This would not have been possible without your support and dedication," Santana told the donors and prospective donors.

Debbie Himsel, health science teacher at Goose Creek Memorial High School and former grant recipient, expressed her appreciation to the Education Foundation and stressed how important the grants are to teachers.

"Teacher grants from the Education Foundation are truly gifts that keep on giving - whether for first graders to observe with wonder the life cycle of a butterfly to seniors using titanium calculators to discover relationships in calculus. The innovative ideas of our teachers are endless, and these grants allow them to instill the love of learning, a lifelong gift, in their students," said Himsel. "Our Health Science grant, received in December 2010, was to purchase curriculum for a Certified Nurse Aide Program. To date, we've had just over 150 students benefit, many who are employed in hospitals and rehab centers as they continue their education in health care. Thank you for investing in our students as there is no better investment for the future of all."

Jim Wadzinski, vice president of development, encouraged the guests to become Foundation partners.



Hotchkiss Disposal donates to the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation at the Gold Level of sponsorship during the recent annual Vendors Luncheon, sponsored by ARAMARK. Pictured are (l to r) Gilbert Santana, Education Foundation president; Jimmy Smith, GCCISD Board of Trustees president; Sammy Hotchkiss; Jim Wadzinski, Education Foundation vice president of development; Daphna Hotchkiss; Ronnie Hotchkiss and Kathy Clausen, president-elect of the Education Foundation.

"The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation believes that schools are critical to the success of a community and impact everyone within it," said Wadzinski. "The Education Foundation's goal for this year is to raise \$200,000 for innovative teaching grants for classroom teachers with the purpose of enhancing education across Goose Creek CISD."

Jimmy Smith, president of the Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees, thanked the guests for attending and for being friends and patrons of the district.

"This kind of event makes it clear to me that there is a special kind of support for our schools within this community," said Smith. "Again, we thank you for your support and look forward to continuing and extending our relationship with you and your company."

Several businesses donated to the Education Foundation at the luncheon, and others pledged to contribute to the Education Foundation's work to benefit teachers and students in Goose Creek CISD.

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