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Goose Creek CISD honors retiring employees at May 24 Gala

Goose Creek CISD honored 31 of its retiring employees at the annual Gala on May 24. A "Hats Off" event was held at Ross S. Sterling High School, where colleagues, family members and friends paid tribute to these individuals for their combined 700 years plus of service to the district.

"One of the wonderful things about this district is that we have so many people who have devoted so many years to the children of Goose Creek. Thanks to all of you for your continued commitment to our district," said Dr. Toby York, Superintendent of Schools, who was also a member of the 2012 group of retirees.

"And as we talk about commitment, I'd like to point out that our retiring employees represent a wide range of areas that contribute to the successful operations of our district — we have teachers; administrators, central office personnel; food service, custodians, and special education staff members . . . each one is so very important to our core purpose, 'Success for all Students,' " York said

Gala participants and their years of Goose Creek CISD service included Donna Bernard, Highlands Junior teacher, 20 years; Melanie Blanks, special ed teacher, 36 years; Mirtha Cartaya, San Jacinto teacher, 30 years; Cindy Creel, Highlands Elementary teacher, 27 years; Kathryn Dunlop, Highlands Junior teacher, 19 years; Rebecca Ann Duvall, Harlem teacher, 36 years; Stan Edmondson, Lamar teacher, 31 years; Stuart Eisen, Sterling and Cedar Bayou orchestra teacher, 9 years; Mary Elms, Ashbel Smith speech therapist, 32 years; Terry Gaines, special education teacher, 28 years;

Martha George, school bus driver, 19 years; Elizabeth Gilbert-George, Stuart Career Center custodian, 22 years; Rebecca Lynn Griffin, Ashbel Smith teacher, 24 years; Eddie Guice, Highlands Junior custodian, 18 years; Brenda Hastings-Gongora, Hopper Primary Principal, 26 years; Roseanna Henrichsen, Austin teacher, 31 years; Jane Larson, deaf education counselor, 36 years; Millicent Lewis, Lamar custodian, 20 years; Donna Mohlman, Highlands Elementary librarian, 21 years; Linda Myrick, Ashbel Smith teacher, 34 years; Lindy Orr, Highlands Elementary teacher, 27 years; Delbert Pape, SCGC teacher, 3 years; Al Richard, Goose Creek Memorial Principal, 29 years; Refugia Maria Rodriguez, Carver cafeteria worker, 12 years; Sofia Rodriguez, Sterling custodian, 35 years; Michelle Root-McDaniel, lead licensed specialist in school psychology, 32 years; Rebecca Sanders, Travis teacher, 9 years; Karen Swart, Goose Creek Memorial teacher, 36 years; Gregory Thomas, Stuart Career Center teacher, 23 years; Rubin White Jr., maintenance department, 25 years; and Toby York, Superintendent, 11 years.

The gala also included the recognition of Roseanna Henrichsen of Austin Elementary School, District Elementary Teacher of the Year; Debbie Himsel of Goose Creek Memorial High School, District Secondary Teacher of the Year; and Jennifer Malpass of Sterling High School, winner of the James Becker Thomson Award for excellence in Special Education.

The Ross S. Sterling High School Orchestra under the direction of Stuart Eisen provided entertainment.

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