



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation hosts luncheon for major vendors

Nearly 80 guests filled the Goose Creek CISD Administration Building Board room to attend the inaugural "Major Vendors Luncheon" hosted by the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation on Sept. 21.

Company representatives in attendance included Aramark, American Express, Xerox, Baytown Electric, Bartlett Cocke, Chatham Construction, KBR, Office Depot, VLK Architects, Hotchkiss Disposal, Start & Busch, Tremco, and many others.

Welcoming the business leaders was the foundation's president, Roger Elswick.

Elswick, who owns three successful auto dealerships in Baytown, told the audience that education changed his life and that he "is excited about what we are doing in the foundation."

Established in 2009, the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation aims to enhance community support and to expand resources that enrich teaching, inspire learning, and maximize opportunities for all students in the Goose Creek school system.

The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation is a charitable organization under the Internal Revenue Service section 501(c)(3), and contributions to the organization are tax deductible.

In its inaugural year, the Education Foundation awarded 16 grants totaling more than \$16,000 to 15 teachers at 11 different campuses. This year's goal is to raise \$100,000 of which \$75,000 will be used for grants to be distributed in the fall and spring semesters.

The Sept. 21 luncheon showcased the merits of supporting the education foundation that kicked off its fundraising campaign on Sept. 15. The theme of this year's fundraising drive is "Making Dreams Come True."

The featured speaker was Michelle Sulak, a Bowie Elementary School teacher who was awarded two grants from the Education Foundation last year.

Sulak received a \$1,200.98 grants for "Integrating Science to Benefit Students" project. This project will provide a language arts teacher with the science books that meet each individual fifth grade science TEKS. Sulak also received a grant for \$910.04 for "Literacy Launch." This project provides the necessary materials and opportunities for disadvantaged children to take home literacy activities and perform on grade level.

"The Foundation is making a difference for our students," she said. "Teachers provide all things they need, but anything a teacher can dream about to make our classrooms better, our students' lives better, that's where the Foundation steps in."

"I ask you to join this dream of ours," she said.

Behind the warm and inspirational moments, of course, is an ugly problem.

The state of Texas commits far less resources to its schools than most other states in the nation — and funding continues to fall.

*Making Dreams Come True*



Michael Chatham of Chatham Construction, center, donates a \$2,500 Silver Sponsorship check to the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation at the vendors luncheon on September 21. Also pictured, from left, are Foundation president Roger Elswick, Tiffany Fitzwater, Chatham, Rhonda Pyle, all of Chatham Construction, and Foundation vice president David Frazier.



Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation president Roger Elswick (left) accepts a \$2500 Silver Sponsorship check from Ronnie Hotchkiss of Hotchkiss Disposal. Hotchkiss was among major school district vendors who attended a vendors luncheon on September 21. Also pictured is Susan Hotchkiss. The Foundation's fundraiser, "Making Dreams Come True" is well underway, with a number of local businesses and individuals donating.



Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation president Roger Elswick accepts a \$1,000 Bronze Sponsorship check from Brian Royo of Bartlett Cocke, one of major school district vendors who attended a vendors luncheon on September 21. Also pictured in Foundation vice president David Frazier.



Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation president Roger Elswick accepts a \$1,000 Bronze Sponsorship check from James Nabers of Tremco, one of major school district vendors who attended a vendors luncheon on September 21. Also pictured, from left are Foundation members Gilbert Santana, David Frazier, Nabers, Elswick, and Mike Wilson.

It is the mission of the Education Foundation to bridge this gap, and to provide the money schools need to prepare students for success.

Some in the audience were clearly moved by Mrs. Sulak's eloquent testimony, responding with donations of \$7,000, and more than a few pledges of more support on the way.

This money will go toward innovative teaching grants in Goose Creek CISD, helping teachers bring bright ideas to reality.

"The luncheon demonstrated that, in these tough economic times, people are still willing to help sustain the core elements of our community," said Kathy Clausen, Goose Creek CISD director of communications.

Goose Creek CISD Board President Ken Martin also touted the merits of supporting the Education Foundation, highlighting one of the grants awarded last year to Lee High School.

Lee High School teachers Sheila Gruver and Brooklyn Anson were awarded a \$1,000 grant for "Shattered Dreams."

This program is an alcohol awareness program that shows, in a meaningful and memorable way, how alcohol abuse can directly affect students and their peers.

It is an experiential program that teaches the students that the irresponsibility of drinking and driving can end all their dreams.

The "Shattered Dreams" program should be ready for Lee students this spring.

Thirty-two volunteers serve on the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation Board of Directors and represent many areas of community, corporate, parental, and educational interests.

The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation is totally supported through the donations of businesses and people who care about Goose Creek schools and desire to participate by financially supporting it.

Contact the GCCISD Education Foundation office at P.O. Box 8081, Baytown, Texas, 77522; by phone at 281-839-7700; or check out its [website](#).



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