



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Dedication for Hyland Learning Center on Nov. 16

Community members are invited to participate in a dedication ceremony for Goose Creek CISD's newly named and expanded Peter E. Hyland Learning Center on Tuesday, Nov. 16. The ceremony is set for 5:45 p.m.

The event aimed at highlighting the career of Peter E. Hyland and showcasing the facility at the corner of Garth and Decker roads will include remarks from Goose Creek CISD administrators and Hyland family members, and tours of the campus. Ceremonies will be held in the cafeteria/auditorium, with a reception to follow.

Shortly after Hyland died last July, the Goose Creek Board of Trustees voted unanimously to name the school housing the Alternative Learning Program to the Peter E. Hyland Learning Center.

For almost 25 years, Hyland passionately devoted his talents to the Alternative Learning Program (ALP) in Goose Creek CISD. Hyland was the inspiration behind the development of ALP in 1980.

Under his leadership, ALP grew from a small program of one student to one that has helped hundreds of students graduate through a student-centered campus with clear vision, flexible scheduling, and the employment of teachers and staff who shared the simple goals of helping students feel good about school, graduate, and become productive members of society.

While assuring students received the benefits of a traditional high school curriculum, Hyland also worked with the staff to provide social skills opportunities through Thanksgiving dinners and campus cookouts. He worked to provide opportunities for the co-enrollment of qualified ALP students to attend classes at Lee College to encourage them to "have a taste of college." He removed pregnant students from the isolation of self-contained classrooms and included them in the total ALP program. In later years, a self-contained classroom for pregnant junior high students was developed.

One of his greatest accomplishments was starting the summer graduation ceremony for GCCISD students from both Lee and Sterling. Prior to his insistence that this was important, there was no formal celebration for these students. ALP continues to plan and organize this activity each August.

Another major accomplishment was the writing of grants that have successfully funded childcare services for teen parents throughout the school district. His experience had been that teen parents often drop out of school after the birth of a child. According to ALP counselor Paula Ellis, he was passionate about the need for childcare to help keep these students in school and was extremely excited when his request for a Pregnancy Education and Parenting Grant was approved in the early 1990s.



Peter E. Hyland

Goose Creek CISD's Child Care Center is now nationally accredited, one of a few hundred centers in the state of Texas. After retirement in 2004, he continued in his efforts to help pregnant students and teen parents by overseeing the writing of grants and the receiving of funds for Pregnancy Related Services.

In a letter to the Board of Trustees, his faculty and staff credit him with keeping the program going. "The ALP program had to be nursed and cared for, sometimes picked up and carried, literally and lovingly nurtured, by Peter Hyland. Peter believed in the future of the program, and more importantly, the future of his students when others did not or would not. He did all of this ceaselessly and enthusiastically, because to him, the students were worth his time and effort."

In June 2009, Hyland was given a plaque by the Board of Directors of the Texas Association for Alternative Education that named him as a "Warrior for Alternative Education."

Approved by the Board of Trustees in 2009, additions to the existing facility included:

- 14 new classrooms and one science lab/lecture room for 240 students.
- Additional wing, accommodations for the day care facility.

Additionally, 16 parking spaces were provided and an extension of the existing fire lane was accomplished.

The original building is a one-story structure approximately 25,676 square feet built in 2002. This included gym, cafeteria, library, workroom, storage, reception, offices and restrooms. Additionally it included a mezzanine mechanical room and parking.

The new Hyland Learning Center was built for a cost of about \$5 million.

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