



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

GCCISD Educators Attend National AVID Conference

Laura Yepez-Reyes, academic dean at Lee High School, and Donna Hall, AVID coordinator and teacher at Goose Creek Memorial High School, attended the recent National AVID Conference in Dallas.

AVID, "Advancement Via Individual Achievement," is an international student success initiative founded in 1980 in California by Mary Catherine Swanson.

Swanson refers to herself regularly as "just an English teacher," but her personal determination to motivate and inspire middle-achieving, first generation college-capable students led to her being the first teacher in history to receive the prestigious Pioneering Achievement in Education Award, presented by the Charles A. Dana Foundation, in 1995.

The Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees and district administrators approved the AVID program in 2003 and the district got on board with what is statistically proving to be the most successful and widespread college readiness program in history.

Students who are selected for the program are fortunate to have the opportunities that the district is providing.

These opportunities include learning how to be ready for college in the areas of organizational and study skills, how to fill out college applications and scholarship applications, visits to colleges, and participation in an elective class that provides the academic, emotional, and practical support they need to maintain success in higher level courses.

Both Reyes and Hall came home from the conference with a newfound appreciation for what this initiative can provide for all students who have a desire to attend college.



Attending the National AVID Conference in Dallas, from left, are Laura Yepez-Reyes, academic dean for Lee High School, Mary Catherine Swanson, founder of AVID, and Donna Hall, coordinator/teacher of Goose Creek Memorial High School AVID initiative.

These ladies not only attended conference workshops led by business executives and national AVID leaders, but heard from Mary Catherine Swanson herself.

Though she was a very inspiring speaker with an awesome story to tell, the people who most impressed Reyes and Hall was a panel of AVID high school students. Each of these students had his or her "story" and all gave AVID credit for the life-changing effects that AVID has had on each of their lives. .

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