

GOOSE CREEK CISD
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

STUDENTS
Choice

A W A R D S B A N Q U E T

Tuesday, April 4, 2023
IMPACT Early College High School

Thank You

A very special thank you to our sponsors:

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Awards & Engraving

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PROGRAM

AGENIDA

Introduction Erika Foster

Welcome Ashley Shibley

Pledge Preslie Cox Lastovica

Invocation Meryl Edmeade

DINNER

Superintendent's Remarks Dr. Randal O'Brien

Student and Teacher Video Community Engagement Team

Recognition of Students and Teachers Michelle Bitterly
Ashley Shibley
Erika Foster
Dr. Randal O'Brien
Education Foundation Board

Closing Erika Foster

*Ross S. Sterling HS Reverb Show Choir
under the direction of Dylan Fornshell*

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OVER
\$1.7 MILLION AWARDED
IN INNOVATIVE TEACHING
GRANTS AND
DESIGNATED DONATIONS
FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS

\$222,830
AWARDED FOR
INNOVATIVE
TEACHING
GRANTS IN 2022



2

791 GRANTS
TO MORE THAN
1,137 TEACHERS
GRANT SURPRISE
PATROL
AWARDED
SINCE INCEPTION

3



\$758,674
IN-KIND
DONATIONS
SINCE INCEPTION



4



\$122,970
RAISED FROM
GET ON THE BUS
CAMPAIGN
FOR 2021-2022
SCHOOL YEAR

1,489
GET ON
THE BUS
PARTICIPANTS
FOR THE 2021-2022
SCHOOL YEAR

6



5

\$102,280
RAISED FROM
ALL-STAR
GALA



8

195
TEACHERS
RECOGNIZED
AT THE STUDENTS
CHOICE AWARDS
BANQUET
FROM 2010-2022

7



GOOSE CREEK CISD
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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- Ashley Shibley – President
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MORE THAN \$1.7 MILLION BENEFITING GOOSE CREEK CISD

The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation is proud to honor our 14th Annual Students Choice Awards winners.

We are once again showcasing 15 Goose Creek CISD teachers who have made a difference in the lives of students during their school careers.

Seniors from each Goose Creek CISD high school were asked to write a letter nominating one teacher who has impacted their school experience in a positive way.

After more than 200 entries were carefully reviewed, 15 students from across the District were chosen for the 2023 Students Choice Awards.

Established in 2009, the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation aims to enhance community support and 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.

Since its inception, the Education Foundation has awarded more than \$1,597,684 for innovative teaching grants to more than 1,100 teachers across the district to enrich the curriculum for their students. Along with designated funds for additional projects, the Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation has donated more than \$1.7 million to the benefit of Goose Creek CISD over the past 14 years.



If you would like to be a part of the Foundation, contact Erika Foster, Goose Creek CISD Foundation Director, at P.O. Box 8081, Baytown, Texas, 77522; by phone at 281-707-3610; or check out its website at <http://www.linktr.ee/gccisdedfo> or by scanning the QR code on the left.

MISSION

The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation will partner with the community to provide resources to enrich teaching, inspire learning, and provide opportunities for excellence in education for all students in the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District.

PURPOSE

Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation will support educational excellence to enhance student achievement, to recognize exemplary staff involvement, and to foster community support.

In addition, this Foundation is organized independently and exclusively for charitable and educational purposes to benefit the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District.

To this end, the Foundation shall at all times be operated exclusively for charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

GOALS

The Goose Creek CISD Education Foundation will achieve its mission by directing resources toward the following initial goals:

- Involve the community in assuring a quality education for the leaders and workers of tomorrow
- Support staff for innovative efforts
- Recognize staff for exemplary teaching
- Encourage all students to work at their highest potential

AWARD WINNERS

TEACHER-STUDENT

| |
|--|
| Keith Brown – Debany Gomez <i>IMPACT Early College HS</i> <i>IMPACT Early College HS</i> |
| Kelly Congdon – Hector Rangel <i>Stuart Career Tech HS</i> <i>Stuart Career Tech HS</i> |
| Anna Faina – Anh Nguyen <i>Ross S. Sterling HS</i> <i>Ross S. Sterling HS</i> |
| Clym Gatrell – Cassie Rogers <i>Ross S. Sterling HS</i> <i>Ross S. Sterling HS</i> |
| Crystal Grabill – Karen Del Real <i>IMPACT Early College HS</i> <i>IMPACT Early College HS</i> |
| Eric Henrichsen – Jordan Estrada <i>Stephen F. Austin Elementary</i> <i>Ross S. Sterling HS</i> |
| Yoanna Isas – Sofia Cantu <i>Ross S. Sterling HS</i> <i>Ross S. Sterling HS</i> |
| Angela “Angie” Johnson – Sophia Leyva <i>Goose Creek Memorial HS</i> <i>Goose Creek Memorial HS</i> |
| Amy Kaminski – Kyla Gijan <i>Baytown JS</i> <i>IMPACT Early College HS</i> |
| John Lowrance – Jorge Granados <i>Baytown JS</i> <i>IMPACT Early College HS</i> |
| Terri Marrs – Allison Helm <i>Ross S. Sterling HS</i> <i>Ross S. Sterling HS</i> |
| Timothy McCarty – Brianna Caballero <i>Stuart Career Tech HS</i> <i>Stuart Career Tech HS</i> |
| Ronald McDowell – O’Rian Bell <i>Ross S. Sterling HS</i> <i>Ross S. Sterling HS</i> |
| Ilija Milovanovic – Samantha Perez <i>IMPACT Early College HS</i> <i>IMPACT Early College HS</i> |
| Tiffany Silverthorne – Xitlaly Ruiz <i>George H. Gentry JS</i> <i>IMPACT Early College HS</i> |



KEITH BROWN
IMPACT Early College HS



DEBANY GOMEZ
IMPACT Early College HS

Mr. Keith Brown, my 11th grade U.S. History teacher is one of those teachers that I consider to be a friend. I had him for two semesters and he helped me tremendously. He was very honest with his lectures and passionate about the subject, but yearbook class was a different story. I chose to be on the yearbook staff during one of our assignments and stayed in it with a few other classmates. We were directly involved in making the yearbook and designing it.

Throughout the entire journey, Mr. Brown would give us suggestions and examples, while supporting us all the way. One thing in particular that he did that helped not only the yearbook staff, but me personally was when he brought his personal iPad so I could design and personalize picture covers to match the theme of the yearbook; which was streaming shows. I needed an iPad to personalize the streaming shows to fit the grade levels, but the school had announced that they needed to take up iPads in a couple weeks because of the summer break. Mr. Brown offered to bring his personal iPad so I could keep working on the covers and not lose the progress I made.

He helped me so much and it felt amazing to see it come to life on the yearbook website and in hardcover. This was also the first time I practiced my art skills and if Mr. Brown didn't believe in me, it probably wouldn't have come out as good as it did. I am glad I had him as a teacher and for the bond we created. Having a strong teacher-student bond helps ease the anxiety of asking questions and makes the class more fun. I still go to his class to talk to him. He also took over the Student Council and was a big reason why I ran for representative of the senior class because I know with his help, school events sponsored by the club will be executed properly.

Honestly, it's easy to build those relationships with teachers at IMPACT, but Mr. Brown has stood out to me the most. I know he can make as much of an impact on other students as he did with me.



KELLY CONGDON

Stuart Career Tech HS



HECTOR RANGEL

Stuart Career Tech HS

It is my great pleasure to nominate Mr. Congdon for the student choice awards. He has greatly changed my perspective on literature and life in general. Mr. Congdon always has a “happy go lucky” attitude, which is infectious to everyone in the classroom. He keeps a smile on face and his positive attitude reflects onto every one of his students. If I had a bad day, I knew seeing Mr. Congdon would automatically cheer me up. He has an aura around him that just makes you want to smile when you’re in his class. He always helped students in need; even if they didn’t show it. I would often struggle writing four-page essays, and because of this plight, I would struggle with deadlines. Mr. Congdon noticed this and helped push me in the right direction to complete my essay before it was due.

I would always share my comic books and manga with Mr. Congdon. He wouldn’t shun me or say “picture books are for kids;” he would actually read the books I gave him and shared his honest thoughts. He would often give his interpretation of the literature we were reading; whether it was one of my books or a story he was teaching about. These interpretations often made me think about things through a different lens. Mr. Congdon has changed the way I view the classroom, teaching as well as literature and life.



ANNA FAINA

Ross S. Sterling HS



ANH NGUYEN

Ross S. Sterling HS

If I could summarize Miss Faina in one word, it would have to be that she is driven. She is driven for the success of her students, driven to make sure her students get the help they need and driven to make sure that we know how proud she is of us.

I still vividly remember walking into her class on the first day of junior year; almost shivering in fear of what was to come and being handed a worksheet that horrified me. However, it didn't take long for me and the rest of my classmates to become comfortable in her class. She always kept us on our toes about what was to come next in class; frequently challenging us to think and do beyond what we thought we could do. But beyond that, she became my comfort zone in school; always ready to hear my problems and offer a solution, always there to make sure I was all right, and always prepared to answer questions, no matter how insignificant they were. For the two years I've had her, she was always there to help us when we needed it. Her classroom became my refuge when I needed time away from others and a place to destress. I could always depend on her to be her. When I mentioned that I wanted to take a math class that wasn't offered then, she advocated for me, going above and beyond to ensure that I got the class I wanted and that the goals I set for myself were met. She is one of the most understanding teachers I've had, as she always ensures our mental health is put above work; paying attention to every one of her students.

Miss Faina was always there to celebrate her students' successes, no matter how minor. When we shared our small achievements with her, she was always ready to congratulate us and tease us for stressing over the small things. But beyond that, she was almost always armed with answers to our questions, whether that be about higher education, math problems, or even personal problems. If she didn't know, she would always do her best to find the answer for us. There was never a dull moment in her class. Her small jokes made the class a little lighter, and she never took our pranks to heart; she just laughed them off and then cracked a small joke to make the class laugh. I greatly admire her work ethic, as she's teaching the pre-calculus and calculus classes at Sterling and multiple math classes at Lee College, from statistics to business math.

Her faith in our success has always made me strive to do better, as I know she will always have her students' backs when we need it the most. To say there is never a dull moment in her class would be an understatement, as we always seem to be learning at a scary pace. However, we've learned much more than just integrals and derivatives in her class. We've learned perseverance, patience, and how to sit in our seats for more than 80 minutes. Through her class, I've learned that math doesn't always have an exact answer or any answer, and sometimes that's all right, just as long as I can explain it adequately in the FRQ section. There is always room for improvement in math, and the answer may come in an upper math class. She's pushed us to have the confidence to take other math classes that will challenge us, even if sometimes it seems impossible.

As I leave the comfort of her class to go to university, Miss Faina will always be someone who will keep me motivated to move forward, as I know she is there rooting for me. From the bottom of my heart, thank you, Miss Faina, you've made my high school experience memorable, and you're a hero to me. Thank you for all the extra hours you've stayed behind after school to ensure I understood my assignments. Thank you for advocating for me. But most of all, thank you for being my teacher. I don't think my high school experience would be complete without you and your class.



CLYM GATRELL

Ross S. Sterling HS



CASSIE ROGERS

Ross S. Sterling HS

I will never forget the moment that I entered my AP Environmental Science class during my junior year of high school. I remembered thinking, “Gosh, not another science class,” but little did I know that this class and teacher would change my life in an instant.

Coach G has a way of teaching unlike any teacher I have ever had in my life. You could instantly tell that he truly cared about his students, as well as the growth in their learning. Every single day that I entered his class and heard his stark, Irish accent with his seven-foot-tall looming stature, I knew that I would learn something interesting, something new; that would foster my current love for science.

My junior year was probably the hardest of my life. There was one day, in particular, that was extremely rough for me. I needed someone to talk to. Someone who would listen. The fact that he would take time out of his day to attempt to understand my situation shows how much he cared as a teacher. Without refrain, he would offer me amazing, thoughtful advice, which always led me in the right direction. He was an amazing support through a tumultuous year, and for that, I will always be grateful and considerate.

Not only was Coach G a phenomenal support, he was also a phenomenal teacher. AP Environmental Science completely changed my point of view on global warming. I am now much more cautious about the care of our earth, and Coach G promoted these beliefs. His background in research at the University of Georgia also caused me to consider different types of degree plans after college. Because of his influence, I am now majoring in molecular and cellular neuroscience at Texas A&M University. If he would not have shared his experiences in research with me, I probably would not be on the career path that I am.

Never will I forget the changes and encouragement that transpired that year during my fifth period AP Environmental Science class. The memories and influences I had changed my life forever, and with that in mind, Coach G, you are the most memorable teacher I have had in my life.



CRYSTAL GRABILL
IMPACT Early College HS



KAREN DEL REAL
IMPACT Early College HS

Teachers prepare the future of our generation and pave the way for their students. They deal with the good and the bad. Some teachers enjoy it and some teachers don't. My definition of a teacher is a person who teaches and creates a positive impact on their students each and every day.

I first met Mrs. Grabill at Cedar Bayou Junior School in 2016 and from our very first interaction; I felt seen. Walking into my sixth grade Theatre Arts class, I was greeted by a friendly, smiling face. I remember feeling wanted in the classroom compared to my other teachers at the time who seemed like they didn't care about making connections with their students. From day one, Mrs. Grabill appeared to be making connections with each and every one of her students.

Middle school is when my mental health started to decline and became a daily struggle. Everyday was a hard day to get through and going to school was not something I looked forward to doing. During these tough times of my adjustment to a new school and new friends along with my mental health declining, I knew that every time I would walk into Mrs. Grabill's class, she would be there to cheer me up and ask me how I was or just simply have a conversation with me. Her classroom, along with her loving and positive attitude, became my safe environment that year. Any time you would see her, she would have a smile on her face. This smile is one that let me know she was always there for me. Every time I was in her classroom, I could feel that she was teaching because she loved her students like they were her own. Her lesson plans were interactive and she encouraged everyone to do their best. Mrs. Grabill was and is my favorite teacher to this day. She was only at Cedar Bayou Junior for a year and left after that school year. I remember feeling down when she told us she was leaving because she was the reason I started to enjoy going to school everyday. I cried on the last day of school and we even took a picture together.

Flash forward to my senior year of high school at IMPACT ECHS. I was scrolling on my phone when I came across the IMPACT Instagram and I saw a familiar face: Mrs. Grabill. When I came to IMPACT on the day of our senior college fair, she recognized me. It felt like a bittersweet moment. I was excited to see her because she was my favorite teacher, but I was also feeling ambivalent because It had been six years since I saw her.

Since this school year began, she has been one of my biggest supporters; just as she was during my sixth grade year. She's shared how proud of me she is and how she wants me to succeed. More than anything, she has been what a teacher is supposed to be. Although she's not my teacher anymore, she once was and I'm so grateful to not just have had a teacher who taught and created a positive impact on her students each and every day, but also a counselor who does the same six years later.



ERIC HENRICHSEN

Stephen F. Austin Elementary



JORDAN ESTRADA

Ross S. Sterling HS

I am currently in my high school's education academy, and as I prepare for my future career as an elementary school teacher, I know the type of teacher I want to be because I've already had the best. Mr. Eric Henrichsen was my elementary school teacher and was the first person to see potential in me; pushing me to be and do my best everyday.

I remember being placed in dyslexia classes and being really bothered by it. I felt dumb, but he never treated me like I was lesser than. He is the kindest, most caring teacher I have ever had. He cares about his students' problems. I remember I was having a pretty bad day and he pulled me out of class to talk to me. I told him what was wrong and he listened, cared, and tried to help. I was so used to teachers dismissing my problems, but he never did that; he always made it comfortable to confide in him.

When I travel to other campuses, I'm reminded that as a child, it meant the world to me that a teacher cared that much about my problems; so I always do the same for my students.

He continued to impact my life, even after elementary school. To this day, I still think about how much his presence in my life meant to me. He made me feel special when I felt anything but. I still see him to this day and no matter how old I get, he still remembers and cares about me. I truly felt like I was important and he helped me see that if teachers were more like him, then they can help kids and truly impact their lives. I want to be a teacher because of him, because I know just how much it means to have a teacher care for you. He was the best teacher I have ever had and I hope that when I become a teacher, I can be half as amazing as him. I hope that one day I can help a kid who is going through something similar to what I was going through the same way he did with me. I hope to thank him one day for helping me, for seeing me when I did not even know what I looked like anymore; for thinking that I was smart when no one else did, and most of all, for teaching me how to help other kids.



YOANNA ISAS

Ross S. Sterling HS



SOFIA CANTU

Ross S. Sterling HS

Yoanna Isas is so much more than great. She is my reason for many things. She is the reason I am where I am today. She has been in my life since my eighth-grade year. At that time, I just took dance class so I wouldn't have to do PE. As the year went by, I realized how much she stood out. She was very funny; but a different kind of funny. I like to call it dry humor. She's funny on accident.

As the year went on, she began encouraging us to try out for the high school dance team. It was a no for me at the time. I was a cheerleader and that was my main focus. I danced in the past, but it was just something to keep me busy. It wasn't a passion yet. She eventually convinced me to do it saying, "If you make it, yay, but if you don't, you'll still have cheer."

As time went on, I made the JV Sapphires where Yoanna was my director. Our bond continued from there. She loves what she does and she believed in me. That's what stood out the most. Years later, I tried out for an officer position, and with her words of encouragement in my head, I did my best and I made it! The next time I saw her, I gave her a huge hug. She smiled proudly and congratulated me. I take compliments differently from different people, but from Yoanna, it meant the world.

Fast forward in time, it's summertime and it's officer camp. Officer camp is where officers learn to be officers and develop new skills. On the last day of camp we danced, I was super excited because it was my first performance as an officer my parents will see. Well, they didn't show up, but it was all okay I was just kinda upset. After we performed we got to see our parents and mine weren't there as I said. So I was just on the side waiting and Yoanna came to me and hugged me and told me I did well. To some, it doesn't sound like much, but to me, it meant a lot because it made me feel better. One more favorite touching memory is my first football game as an officer, during the first game officers get pinned. Making you an official officer. And the one who pinned me was Yoanna, it was so special. She's the reason I am where I am, if I never signed up for that dance class and let her convince me, I wouldn't be where I am now. With all the new skills I've developed as a leader and individual.

Yoanna is just someone to be around, she will put you first. She's a mom as well, and it just adds to why she's so amazing. It makes me sad that I only have a couple of months left with her, after these amazing 5 years because of her. I want her to know how much she means to me. She just made such an impact on my life. She has grown with me and has been able to watch me become who I am today, she's the reason. She's the one who's never stopped believing in me and is proud of me and means it. She'll probably never know how much of an impact she has made on me, but I truly hope she knows how blessed and honored I am to be around someone like her every day.



**ANGELA "ANGIE"
JOHNSON**

Goose Creek Memorial HS



**SOPHIA
LEYVA**

Goose Creek Memorial HS

I never understood the importance of giving until I met Mrs. Johnson. I had the great privilege of being nominated into PALs my sophomore year. I walked into my interview and was greeted with a smile. I had never met Mrs. Johnson a day in my life or took one of her classes, but instantly talking to her, I found comfort and felt confident. Mrs. Johnson asked me about my values and who inspired me. I remember getting along so well with her and the words she told me when I left my interview have stuck with me throughout high school. "I hope my daughters will grow up to be like you" and "Tell your mom she raised a good kid." No one had ever told me anything like that before. I knew I was a good kid, but to know someone hoped their kids grow up with the same values I have is a lot of weight on a 15 year old's shoulders. I knew I wanted to be someone great and live up to her expectations for me.

Fast forward to my junior year, and I was enrolled in her fourth period PAL class. I was greeted with a warm smile everyday and our class shared a bond that I have never experienced in school before. We "circled up" every single day and she would just let us talk and speak our minds. She would inform us on school events and for once in my life, I actually knew what was going on at GCM. Most of all, she encouraged us to be leaders. Mrs. Johnson organizes "The Giving Tree." We provided Christmas for families who are struggling to provide it on their own. This is really where I learned the act of giving. We adopted a teenage girl in our class last year. Mrs. Johnson made our final grade wrapping presents after school. I showed up and was planning to stay for maybe an hour. I enjoyed helping others and seeing the true meaning of Christmas. I enjoyed knowing that I was going to help make someone's Christmas by wrapping a few presents. Giving makes me feel good and to see someone like Mrs. Johnson, who is so passionate, means everything to me. I would have never been able to experience any of this without her. She is one of the most humble, kind, and patient people I know. She taught me the importance of giving because she is what I believe is one of the most giving people at our school. She gives us advice and is like our school mom. She is patient but not afraid to call us out when we were making dumb decisions. She is always ready to give a listening ear on good days and bad. And she always gives us good energy and positive vibes even on our bad days. She gave me the gift of finding my leadership abilities and has given me confidence. She has given me words of encouragement I hope to take with me throughout life and most importantly she has given me the memories of helping change young kids' lives through PALs and the Giving Tree. She has always given me somewhere to come to when I have a problem and helped me learn how to solve it. She gives and doesn't take a second thought about it. She is one of those people who would give you the clothes off her back if you really needed it.

All of her generosity cannot be contained to two pages. Mrs. Johnson really is what I believe a phenomenal teacher, a remarkable mentor, and one of the most considerate people I have met. I find joy in giving because of her and hope she is able to continue her legacy for many years to come.



AMY KAMINSKI
Baytown Junior School



KYLA GIJAN
IMPACT Early College HS

Mrs. Amy Kaminski of Baytown Junior School has demonstrated a contagious enthusiasm for coaching and competition. She is the sort of teacher whom students see as a guiding light; who motivates them to be better people, colleagues have learned from through collaboration and to whom parents and guardians owe much.

Unlike other teachers, she makes an exceptional contribution to the school by being a role model and inspiration to the education community. By offering her time as a coach and a teacher, Mrs. Kaminski demonstrates her thorough understanding of the school's curriculum and invests in her competitive side. This gesture connects learning to the students interests and to their lives beyond the classroom.

I met her when I was trying out for the school Spelling Bee at Baytown Junior School. She exerted confidence and carefulness as she delivered each word clearly and loudly. At that moment, it gave me confidence to finish this competition as the school champion; and I did. I was overjoyed in the news that she was going to coach me for the upcoming district Spelling Bee, but she also helped the first, second and third place winners as well.

Mrs. Kaminski was my first coach when I immigrated to the United States. She has helped me achieve my first trophy and my first competition experience. All of my academic firsts have been experienced with her. Even though I've only known her for a year, I was thankful for the time we spent together.

This teacher thinks outside the box and advances new approaches to teaching and learning, when the normal teacher would just apply basic teaching methods. In the final analysis of the matter, Mrs. Kaminski is known for the outstanding manner in which she improves the students' reading and writing skills and inspires a LOVE for attending school!



JOHN LOWRANCE
Baytown Junior School



JORGE GRANADOS
IMPACT Early College HS

I would like to nominate my sixth grade history teacher, John Lowrance, to the 2023 GCCISD Student Choice Awards. Having Mr. Lowrance as my history teacher during my first year at Baytown Junior School was a transformative experience. I never expected that when I stepped foot into his classroom, I would find a friend and a mentor inside. Mr. Lowrance was not like other teachers that had taught me before. Mr. Lowrance always treated me and the other students with the utmost respect. He would always be available and try to find ways to help us with our problems. I felt comfortable around him and appreciated the endearing energy he brought with him. His classroom was a safe space where I didn't feel pressured or scared. He was someone that I looked up to and wanted to be like. He made us feel at home.

Mr. Lowrance was a great teacher and a great comedian. His class was my favorite part of the whole school day. I remember that every day was a new experience. He was incredibly funny and tried his best to teach us in a way we understood. I remember he would always tell us about his life and ask us about ours. Mr. Lowrance had a genuine interest in being a good teacher and giving us something to laugh about. Entering sixth grade was a scary and intimidating experience. However, Mr. Lowrance and his classroom were the complete opposite. I felt at home and at ease. It was like having a smart friend telling us about the topics he likes and learned about. Mr. Lowrance always made sure to help every student he could and provided the best assistance possible. Mr. Lowrance always engaged with us and made sure his class was as enjoyable as possible. Each class was different and unique. He would always tell us stories about his past. He would always joke about his love for McDonald's or his time in Brazil.

Mr. Lowrance also helped me with my love of history. He was a great history teacher and I always had an interest in social studies. Mr. Lowrance introduced me to the history fair and helped me understand the project and what to do. I enjoyed doing work for Mr. Lowrance because he taught a subject I loved and made sure to do his best teaching it. Mr. Lowrance was truly a fantastic teacher. I appreciate all the moments I shared with him and the experiences that helped shape me as a result of his teaching. He made my sixth grade year memorable and enjoyable. His classroom was a place of learning, but also safety and understanding. If I could count on any teacher for help, it would definitely be Mr. Lowrance.



TERRI MARRS

Ross S. Sterling HS



ALLISON HELM

Ross S. Sterling HS

Having Mrs. Marris as my 10th and 11th grade teacher was a blessing. Mrs. Marris was my American Sign Language 2 and AVID 3 teacher. Throughout those years of high school, I was extremely stressed, yet she understood my stress, and was open to any conversations on how best to manage it. This is just one of many reasons why she is so unique. Mrs. Marris taught me how to care for my mental health and encouraged me to make memories before heading off to college. She is always welcoming, kind, and understanding to me. I am grateful and honored to be her student and there is not a day that goes by that I don't reflect on the impact she has made on my life.

On my last day as Mrs. Marris' student, I spoke with her about my personal goals, such as my weight loss journey. I felt at ease discussing something so personal with her because she was open to all topics, provided excellent advice, and always made me feel comfortable. Prior to having her as one of my teachers, I felt insecure and hesitant to discuss anything outside of academics with my teachers. She was the first teacher to look past my introvertedness and tried to bring me out of my comfort zone.

Mrs. Marris makes me feel good about myself. When I entered her classroom, she always greeted me with a cheerful smile. Being in her presence makes me feel at ease.

She will always have a special place in my heart. I am grateful to have been one of her students and on the last day of school as a senior, I want to give her the biggest hug and thank her for being my favorite teacher. If it hadn't been for her, my insecurities would have blinded me and kept me closed off for the rest of my life.



TIMOTHY MCCARTY
Stuart Career Tech HS



BRIANNA CABALLERO
Stuart Career Tech HS

I have known Mr. McCarty for three years now as my collision instructor. I chose him as my favorite teacher because for three years straight, he's taught me more than just auto body work. Mr. McCarty has taught me the basics in life and how to have fun and to not take no for an answer and if you truly want something, you should fight hard for it. Most teachers just do their job and leave, but he does more than his job. He makes everyone feel like a family and when things go wrong, he never tries to make you feel like a terrible person for your mistakes. He will joke with you and then show you the right way.

Mr. McCarty never cares about looks or your opinion on anything or whom you date; he will always treat you like family and if you ever need time alone or time to work on homework for another class or just need his help in general, he will try his hardest to help you. Every time I walk into his class, he makes jokes with everyone and we laugh. He's non-judgemental and I feel the safest in his class.



RONALD MCDOWELL
Ross S. Sterling HS



O'RIAN BELL
Ross S. Sterling HS

I'm nominating Coach McDowell because he's done so much for me. He's one of the most talented and genuine coaches I've ever had the pleasure of running for. He cares so much about his players. He's been through my ups and downs but he never gave up on me. He always pushed me forward to do better. When I went to the hospital for a medical emergency, he was the only coach to check on me. I'm truly blessed to have him in my life. He's the standard that we hold coaches to. He has provided me wisdom and life advice.

Overall, he has taught me how to be a better man. He saw something in me that it took others years to see. I'm very lucky and grateful to have such a great coach and mentor. He's shown me the standard I should strive for and it will stick with me for the rest of my life.



ILIJA MILOVANOVIC
IMPACT Early College HS



SAMANTHA PEREZ
IMPACT Early College HS

Mr. Milovanovic, or as the students know him, “Mr. M,” is not only a teacher, but a supporter. When I first began my freshman year, I was not at all prepared for what IMPACT had in store for me. I was very isolated and shy, but as time went on, I learned critical thinking and time management skills. However, COVID cut my lessons short. I would not see the teacher that impacted me the most until a year later. To my surprise, I was now enrolled in AP Human Geography. This was the first time this class had ever been taught at my high school, which also allowed me to be able to flourish with my classmates and teacher as we learned about this new process together. Sadly, I wasn’t able to join my peers on campus until second semester. While still learning at home, Mr. M. made sure to stop and ask if we were following along at home or if we needed any assistance. He always made sure to include the virtual learners, even when some teachers would just turn on the Webex and discard them simply because it was easier. I felt that not only was I learning information, I was also containing it. As we got closer to the big test, Mr. M. had the grand idea for all of us to wear matching shirts with something silly written on them. That simple idea turned out to be one of the best ones all year, as it gave us all a sense of security and unity. After the test, we also had a mini celebratory “party” to acknowledge all the accomplishments over the year.

Even though I am no longer a student of Mr. M’s I still find myself walking down the hall to his familiar classroom, not as a freshman dreading class, but as a senior who can’t wait to catch up with my favorite mentor. I am no longer just asking questions about school/ classwork, but tips and advice for the real world. He offers me a new perspective on my problems, sometimes problems that I didn’t even realize were bad until he helped spread light on the situation. His way of showing compassion and care is often strange to some, but it’s what makes his impact so grand.

Mr. M. is not only a teacher, he’s a friend, a supporter, a caretaker, and part-time comedian. His impact on his students, past and present, is far-reaching. He has created a safe haven for kids who don’t feel welcomed anywhere else; a place where they can feel relaxed and have some fun without the stress of school or the outside world; a place where they can just be kids.



**TIFFANY
SILVERTHORNE**

George H. Gentry Junior School



**XITLALY
RUIZ**

IMPACT Early College HS

Mrs. Silverthorne is not only a teacher, but a mentor and friend. Going into her art class was the highlight of my days during middle school due to her welcoming nature and creative way of thinking.

Mrs. Silverthorne always came up with unique and fun art projects that would allow us to implement the artistic techniques we learned at the beginning of the school year. One of the most memorable art projects she came up with was the idea for my Rodeo art project, which incorporated 2D and 3D elements. She helped me experiment with colored and watercolor pencils for the 2D and 3D aspects because she wanted my art piece to stick out and not just be another cactus painting. She would allow me to come to school early, stay late, and continue working on my masterpieces at my own pace in order to have enough time to work on my artwork.

More than anything, what stuck out to me about Mrs. Silverthorne was the way she always understood her students and genuinely cared about us. In my seventh-grade year, I had to leave school abruptly in the middle of the fall semester because my grandmother was ill in Mexico. When I returned to school, Mrs. Silverthorne was very understanding of the situation that I was going through and allowed me time to catch up with all my school work, along with checking on how I was handling the recent death of my grandmother. She allowed me to communicate my feelings in a safe, comfortable environment, however, this was not the only way she demonstrated her care toward her students. Mrs. Silverthorne wanted to allow all of her students to attend the Junior VASE (Visual Art Scholastic Event). She understood that some students would not be able to attend due to the financial commitment, so she worked diligently to gather money so that every student participating in the event could get a meal.

In conclusion, Mrs. Silverthorne was an extraordinary teacher who always had her student's best interests at heart and tried to find ways in which her students could express themselves through art.



DEBANY GOMEZ
IMPACT Early College HS

KEITH BROWN
IMPACT Early College HS



HECTOR RANGEL
Stuart Career Tech HS

KELLY CONGDON
Stuart Career Tech HS



ANH NGUYEN
Ross S. Sterling HS

ANNA FAINA
Ross S. Sterling HS



CLYM GATRELL
Ross S. Sterling HS

CASSIE ROGERS
Ross S. Sterling HS



CRYSTAL GRABILL
IMPACT Early College HS

KAREN DEL REAL
IMPACT Early College HS



ERIC HENRICHSEN
Stephen F. Austin Elementary

JORDAN ESTRADA
Ross S. Sterling HS



SOFIA CANTU
Ross S. Sterling HS

YOANNA ISAS
Ross S. Sterling HS



SOPHIA LEYVA
Goose Creek Memorial HS

ANGELA "ANGIE" JOHNSON
Goose Creek Memorial HS



KYLA GIJAN
IMPACT Early College HS

AMY KAMINSKI
Baytown Junior School



JORGE GRANADOS
IMPACT Early College HS

JOHN LOWRANCE
Baytown Junior School



ALLISON HELM
Ross S. Sterling HS

TERRI MARRS
Ross S. Sterling HS



BRIANNA CABALLERO
Stuart Career Tech HS

TIMOTHY MCCARTY
Stuart Career Tech High School



O'RIAN BELL
Ross S. Sterling HS

RONALD MCDOWELL
Ross S. Sterling HS



ILIJA MILOVANOVIC
IMPACT Early College HS

SAMANTHA PEREZ
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