

## **Sugarland resident, CASE for Kids Director Lisa Thompson-Caruthers gains national fellowship as afterschool leader**

Lisa Thompson-Caruthers, director of the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids, or CASE for Kids, has been selected for the White-Riley-Peterson Policy Fellowship. Thompson-Caruthers, a Sugarland resident, will join an elite group of 15 afterschool leaders throughout the nation to advance afterschool programs.

As an afterschool leader, Thompson-Caruthers will work to build networks with afterschool professionals and gain a working knowledge of pertinent issues in the state. The fellowship requires her to develop an afterschool policy with action projects to share at the end of 10 months.

“Fellows will participate in a year-long process, including an intensive weeklong fall workshop in Greenville, S.C. that will create a cohort of entrepreneurial, networked leaders capable of strengthening policy in support of afterschool and expanded learning opportunities,” said Cathy Stevens, program director of the White-Riley-Peterson Policy Fellowship.

CASE for Kids, a division of Harris County Department of Education, provides resources, trainings and funding for students in grades pre-k through 12 in afterschool programs in schools, child care facilities and community centers throughout Harris County.

Thompson-Caruthers has led CASE for Kids for 14 years and has dedicated a total of 20 years to out-of-school. This year she was named “Most Influential in State and Local Government” through an award issued by the National AfterSchool Association.

**About the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment (CASE) for Kids:** CASE for Kids, formerly the Cooperative for After-School Enrichment, was launched by Harris County Department of Education in 1999. CASE for Kids is an after-school intermediary which leverages community resources and strengthens the capacity of the out-of-school time field. Services benefit approximately 12,000 kids in greater Harris County. CASE for Kids programs happen before and after school, on weekends and during the summer. Go to [www.afterschoolzone.org](http://www.afterschoolzone.org) for information.

**About Harris County Department of Education (HCDE):** Serving students, teachers, schools and communities throughout Harris County, HCDE is a local governmental organization providing value for school districts while supporting educational opportunity. Partnering with Harris County school districts, HCDE maximizes local resources and respond to the needs of locally elected school boards and education leaders. HCDE services include school-based therapy for students, afterschool programs, Head Start, educator training, adult education and programs to promote safe schools. To learn more about how your county department of education can help you: [www.hcde-texas.org](http://www.hcde-texas.org) .