

## Elkins High students attend summer leadership seminar

By Jennifer James Updated 3:40 pm, Wednesday, July 27, 2016



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[Lisa Thompson-Caruthers, director of the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids](#)

Three Elkins High School students-Alan Cummins, [Bryanna Godfrey](#) and [Matthew Whaley](#)-attended the [Gulf Coast Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Seminar](#) in June to participate in service-learning and motivation-building activities.

They joined several high school students from the Gulf Coast area to take part in the seminar at Texas A&M University in Galveston.

At the event, Whaley was selected as the male Texas Gulf Coast ambassador for the 2016 [World Leadership Congress](#), July 23-30 at [Loyola University](#) in Chicago.

*LCHS student honored at thespian festival*

[Carolyn Wootres](#), a 2016 [Lamar Consolidated High School](#) graduate, was crowned a national champion at the International Thespian Festival in June at the [University of Nebraska-Lincoln](#).

Wootres' theater marketing concept for the Mustang Playhouse's fall 2015 production of "Noises Off" earned her a Superior ranking.

[Aaliyah Jenkins](#), 2016 salutatorian, earned a Superior ranking for her stage management of "Noises Off."

*Case for Kids joins national community*

The New York City-based coalition Every Hour Counts has selected the [Center for Afterschool](#), Summer and Enriched Learning for Kids, or Case for Kids, as one of 13 organizations nationwide that will launch a national learning community.

The initiative promotes access to quality learning opportunities, particularly for underserved students. Case for Kids, a division of Harris County [Department of Education](#) provides resources for students in after-school programs throughout the county.

Visit [www.afterschoolzone.org](http://www.afterschoolzone.org) or [www.hcde-texas.org](http://www.hcde-texas.org) for information.

*Arc of Fort Bend honors Frost group*

The Arc of Fort Bend County recognized a group of [Frost Elementary School](#) teachers and administrators for their work serving students with disabilities at its recent annual awards dinner.

The advocacy organization named 11 Outstanding Educators at the event: Principal [Shannon Hood](#); teachers [Lori Gallegos](#), [Jennifer Heath](#), [Karen Naivar](#) and [Nina Pustejovsky](#); special education campus coordinator [Jewlon Morris](#); educational diagnostician [Alexandria Blackmon](#); speech pathologist Emily Easley; occupational therapist [Roberta Olivares](#); and in-home trainers [Julia Byars](#) and [Melissa Jacobs](#).

*FBISD names student leadership director*

The Fort Bend Independent School District board of trustees has selected Audra Ude as its director of student leadership.

Ude will guide leadership development through such student-led organizations as Leadership 101 and 102, student council, [National Honor Society](#), Superintendent Advisory and other programs.

*FBISD graduates earn merit scholarships*

Seven graduating Fort Bend Independent School District seniors are among 3,000 winners of 2016 College-Sponsored Merit Scholarships.

[U.S. college](#) and university officials selected the winners from among the finalists in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program. The award provides between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study.

The winners include: [Madison McClendon](#), Austin High School and [Baylor University](#); [Andrew Tao](#) and Rohan Walawalkar, Clements High School and [Trinity University](#); [Archibald Cruz](#), Dulles High School and

**University of Houston; Devon Kulhanek**, Dulles High School and Texas A&M University; Doan Le, Dulles High School and Texas A&M University; and Premini Nagesh, Travis High School and **University of Texas at Dallas**.

#### *Fluor Foundation funds STEM in LCISD*

The Fluor Foundation has donated \$20,800 to the **Lamar Educational Awards Foundation** for science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, programs.

"It's encouraging to see the results of the STEM program at Lamar CISD," said **Tim Palmore**, senior project manager for Fluor. "I was invited to meet with the students enrolled in this program at Lamar Consolidated High School and see firsthand how it is preparing these students for college and/or future careers. The students were truly excited about what they are learning and how it is preparing them for the future."

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#### *Sienna Plantation schools see big gains*

Fort Bend Independent School District schools serving Sienna Plantation students saw a marked increase in the annual rankings recently released by Children at Risk, a nonprofit organization that publishes reports on the performance of Texas schools.

Four of the schools serving Sienna Plantation experienced gains of 25 percent or more over 2015 rankings, including **Heritage Rose Elementary School**, which saw a 160 percent climb in the rankings list from last year.

**Baines Middle School** marked a 78 percent year-over-year increase in the rankings list, and **Sienna Crossing Elementary School** saw a 31 percent increase. **Scanlan Oaks Elementary School's** ranking increased 25 percent in 2016 compared to the 2015 list. **First Colony Middle School** and **Schiff Elementary School** were ranked near their 2015 tally.

**Ridge Point High School** was included on the Children at Risk rankings for the first time this year, placing No. 21 among Houston's 171 high schools and No. 64 among the 1,159 Texas high schools included on the report.

Five of the schools serving Sienna Plantation—First Colony Middle School, Ridge Point High School, Scanlan Oaks Elementary School, Schiff Elementary School and Sienna Crossing Elementary School—received an A& on the report, based on student achievement, campus performance, test score improvement and more. Baines Middle School earned an A, and Heritage Rose Elementary School received a B&.

For information, visit [www.siennaplantation.com](http://www.siennaplantation.com).

#### *CASE for Kids director earns fellowship*

**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**.

The Sugar Land resident will work to build networks with after-school professionals and gain a working knowledge of pertinent issues in the state. The fellowship requires her to develop an after-school policy with action projects to share at the end of 10 months.

"Fellows will participate in a year-long process, including an intensive, week-long fall workshop in Greenville, South Carolina, that will create a cohort of entrepreneurial, networked leaders capable of strengthening policy in support of after-school and expanded learning opportunities," fellowship program director Cathy Stevens said.

Visit [www.afterschoolzone.org](http://www.afterschoolzone.org) or [www.hcde-texas.org](http://www.hcde-texas.org) to learn more.

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