Preparing leaders to impact a diverse and evolving world.
There is no better time than now to be engaged in the College of Education family. With increasing and diverse course offerings, degree programs, and student enrollments, our Bearkat educators are changing the world. From meaningful partnerships with school districts, extensive field experiences, and outstanding research productivity, the College of Education continues to be an exciting catalyst for making a difference in education. As the fourth largest producer of teachers in the state, our commitment to producing the highest quality educational professionals of all types is far reaching. We continue to boast one of the highest teacher retention rates in Texas while also engaging in innovative opportunities that ensure our educators are forward thinking and future ready. The SHSU Charter School has enjoyed a banner first year of operation, allowing for innovative practices in childcare settings across urban and suburban areas. With the addition of the doctoral program in Higher Education Leadership, the College of Education now offers 6 doctoral programs and 15 master’s programs in addition to our renowned teacher education program. With research and learning opportunities like the Eleanor and Charles Garrett Center for Transition and Disability Studies, the Center for Research and Clinical Training in Trauma, the Center for International Education, innovative classrooms, and so much more, our faculty, staff, and students provide a model for excellence in academics, scholarship, community engagement, and service. Based on the pillars of integrity, innovation, inclusion, inquiry, and impact, the College of Education continues to effect meaningful positive change on our community, our state, our nation, and the world. It is our pleasure to share some of these exciting accomplishments with you.
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION FAST FACTS

83.2% 5-Year Retention Rate for SHSU teachers

UNDERGRADUATE
Student Enrollment—1493
Female – 93.4%
Male – 6.6%

Ethnicity
African American – 11.9%
American Indian – .7%
Asian/Pacific Islander – 1.3%
Hispanic – 18.8%
International – .9%
Multiple – 2.4%
Unknown – 2.4%
White – 61.6%

STUDENT/FACULTY RATIO
Undergraduate 22:1
Masters 11:1
Doctorate 5:1

GRADUATE
Student Enrollment—931
Female – 84.2%
Male – 15.8%

Ethnicity
African American – 15.3%
American Indian – 0%
Asian/Pacific Islander – 2.9%
Hispanic – 22.8%
International – 1.2%
Multiple – .7%
Unknown – 1.1%
White – 56%

5-Year Retention Rate for SHSU teachers

TExES average pass rate
93%

POSITIONS
Tenured & Tenure Track
84
Adjunct, Clinical & Other
101
Staff
30

GRADUATES
Undergraduate
331
Masters
372
Doctoral
44
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

We are grateful to our 600 donors who gave $132,092 to COE in 2017.

2017 Grants Awarded

<table>
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REMEMBRANCES

Dr. Carl Harris came to Sam Houston State University in 1970. He served as a professor and a department chair in the college from 1973 to 1980. Dr. Harris was named the Dean of the College of Education in 1980 where he remained for 13 years. Harris garnered knowledge internationally as a participant in education seminars and study missions and he was a member of several professional education organizations. He passed away March 18, 2018.

For more than 50 years Dr. Jack Staggs was a professional educator serving as a teacher, counselor, or administrator at both the junior college and university levels. Dr. Staggs was invited to join the faculty of Sam Houston State Teachers College in January 1960, where he remained for 33 years. Upon his retirement, he was bestowed the title of Professor Emeritus. Later, he funded the equipment for the creation of the Jack Staggs Counseling Clinic, where our counseling faculty and students help the community.

Long before his passing on December 17, 2017, Dr. Staggs endowed scholarships in his name and supported many others to continue his legacy of counseling.

Retirements

Dr. Donna Cox
Department of Language, Literacy and Special Populations
10 years of service

Dr. Barbara Polnick
Department of Educational Leadership
16 years of service

Dr. Sylvia Taube
Department of Curriculum and Instruction
20 years of service

Dr. Mary Nichter
Department of Counselor Education
20 years of service

Dr. Sam Sullivan
Department of Curriculum and Instruction
45 years of service
At 64.3%, the majority of newly certified Texas teachers are prepared through alternative certification programs. Although alternative certification programs are becoming increasingly more common, alternatively prepared teachers typically do not perform at the same level as university prepared teachers. Their retention rates are lower; their evaluation scores are lower; and sadly, their students’ test scores are lower. In the SHSU College of Education, our teacher candidates benefit from resources and experiences not provided to alternatively prepared teachers such as school-based experiences, renowned faculty, and partnerships with local schools. The combination of these factors result in teachers who are highly sought after by Texas school districts.

The Power of a University Prepared Teacher

- **64.3%** of Texas teachers certified in 2016-2017 were alternatively prepared*
- **69%** of alternatively prepared teachers retained for 5 years
- **81%** of university prepared teachers retained for 5 years**
- **76,261** fewer Texas students were proficient in math and reading in 2016 when taught by alternately prepared teachers*
- **71%** of new alternatively prepared teachers rated Proficient by principals
- **77%** of new university prepared teachers rated Proficient by principals***

Benefits of University Teacher Preparation
- Extensive field experiences
- Gradual release of responsibility
- Quality instructors and supervisors
- Partnerships with local schools

*From TPEIR reports
**From CREATE Reports
***From TEA Principal Survey
Teacher retention is one indicator commonly used to measure the effectiveness of a teacher’s preparation. Nationwide, approximately 50% of new teachers leave the profession within 5 years, indicating that many new teachers are underprepared to meet the demands they’re faced with. In Texas, the new teacher retention rate is more hopeful, at 75.7%, but SHSU teachers stand out among the highest retention rates in the nation with 83.2% of the 2012 graduating class being retained in the classroom for 5 years.

From CREATE Reports
Undergraduate Studies
AY 2017 Highlights

Enrollment—1493
Number of Degrees—1
BS Interdisciplinary Studies
Average GPA at time of admission to EPP—3.22*

Undergraduate Finishers for 2016-2017
EC-6 Core Subjects—179
EC-6 Generalist, with Special Education—45
EC-6 Generalist, with Bilingual—20
4-8 Math—16
4-8 Math /Science—15
4-8 ELAR—12
Secondary Education Minor
   English Language Arts & Reading—20
   History—17
   Mathematics—9
   Biology/Life Science—3
   Science (7-12)—2
   Social Studies—6
   Speech—1
   Art—1
   Music—40
   Journalism—1
   Kinesiology/Physical Education—10
   Languages other than English-Spanish—4
   Theatre—3
   Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources—12
   Dance—1
   Family and Consumer Sciences—3
   Physical Science—2
   Basic Business—1
   Special Education—2
   Early Childhood Education (non-cert) Minor—36
   Special Education Minor—25
   Human Services Minor—245

Number of students on President’s List—368 (23.2%)

* Source: 2017 TEA Report
Graduate Studies
AY 2017 Masters Highlights

Enrollment—1186
Number of Masters degrees —15
Average GPA at time of admission to EPP—3.40*

Graduate Finishers for 2016-2017
  Counselor Education
    Clinical Mental Health Counseling, MA—37
    School Counseling, MED—13
  Curriculum and Instruction
    Comparative & Global Education, MED
    Curriculum & Instruction, MED—47
    Instructional Technology, MED—15
    Teaching, MA—5
  Educational Leadership
    Administration, MED—52
    Higher Education Administration, MA—16
    Instructional Leadership, MED—14
  Language/Literacy/Special Populations
    International Literacy, MED
    Reading, MED—14
    Special Education, MA—11
    Special Education, MED—18
    TESOL MED—20
  Library Science
    Library Science, MLS—76

AY 2017 Doctoral Highlights

Enrollment—216
Number of Doctoral degrees—5

Doctoral Finishers
  Counselor Education
    Counselor Education, PhD—7
  Curriculum and Instruction
    Instructional Technology, EdD
  Educational Leadership
    Developmental Education Administration, EdD—4
    Educational Leadership, EdD—27
  Language/Literacy/Special Populations
    Literacy, EdD—1

* Source: 2017 TEA Report
2017 DISTINGUISHED EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR

Distinguished Educator of the Year is the highest honor the College of Education at Sam Houston State University can bestow upon its alumni. The award recognizes and honors alumni educators who have made a significant contribution to the field of education, demonstrating expertise and outstanding service in the classroom, school, district, and community.

Dana Hoyt, Lillian Chastain, Barbara Cargill, Ronald Rozelle, Ronny Snow, Kellie Hall, and Stacey Edmonson.
Distinguished Educator of the Year—
Ms. Lillian Chastain, Leadership Coach, Cy-Fair ISD

As one of nine children born to cotton farmers, Lillian Chastain developed a strong work ethic and an appreciation of a solid education as a child that would ultimately lead her into the teaching field and beyond.

Beginning her career in the Cypress-Fairbanks ISD as an elementary teacher, Chastain’s love of education has developed into a more than 40-year relationship with the district, spanning from assistant principal, to principal, to, now, following her 2010 retirement, a part-time leadership coach for newly assigned principals.

Chastain earned her bachelor’s degree in elementary education, master’s degree in administration, and a mid-management certification from SHSU. She also earned a discipline management certification from the University of St. Thomas.

Early in her career, working with second and third graders in at-risk schools, Chastain developed an understanding of the importance of building relationships with everyone around her.

“I think my greatest contribution to education was being able to create a dream team of teachers by cultivating my philosophy about developing relationships, caring for students, and teaching from the heart,” she said. “I must admit, the most important part of creating this team was learning to ‘hire smart’ and being able to recognize the talents and needs of each applicant.”

Since then, she has served thousands of children and staff members as a servant leader, according to nominators, having played a part on the leadership team that opened two elementary schools in the district.

“Opening a new campus has many challenges, especially when you are bringing together families from different communities. Mrs. Chastain’s open, transparent leadership allowed her to do this with ease,” a nominator said. “She has integrity, and those of us who have been lucky enough to work with her feel elevated in her presence. She is willing to do whatever it takes to ensure success for the students she serves.”

Distinguished Educator of the Year—
Ms. Kellie Hall, Assistant Principal, Crosby ISD

Crosby High School assistant principal Kellie Hall still draws upon the SHSU motto of service in both her educational duties and in her life.

Even before she earned her bachelor’s degree from SHSU and began her career as an eighth-grade English teacher, Hall was giving back as an employee of the Harris County Precinct2gether Program, which focuses on developing youth academically, physically and socially, as well as guiding them to become more productive citizens.

After noticing deficits in independently reading and writing in her classroom, she piloted the Precinct2gether Program’s after-school homework-assistance program, allowing her to offer third through eighth grade students educational support both in the school year and during the summer.

“I knew very early on that I was destined to serve as a positive influence in the lives of children,” Hall said. “My role as an educator is year-round.”

Wanting to be a positive female role model, she co-founded “Oooh Girl!,” a mentorship organization for economically unstable girls 6 years and older, which promotes education, scholarship, sisterly love, health awareness, and spiritual solidarity.

Within the organization, Hall has incorporated her own value of service by organizing trips to the Houston Food Bank and taking the girls into the homes of the elderly in their community to assist with day-to-day chores.

“Students she has taught and mentored have benefitted from the care and compassion she exhibits on a daily basis,” one nominator said.

Throughout her 12 years in education, Hall also has been an English department leader; coached volleyball, basketball and cheer; and has been active on committees. Her dedication has paid off as a two-time “Teacher of the Year” and Crosby ISD “Secondary Teacher of the Year” award recipient.

“She has a passion for education; it is more of a mission than a job,” another nominator said.

Hall’s love of education also extends to her own life, as an SHSU alumna of the College of Education’s Master of Education program and a current doctoral student in the reading program.

Distinguished Educator of the Year—
Mr. Ronald Rozelle, English Teacher, Brazosport ISD

Brazosport High School English and creative writing teacher Ronald Rozelle likes to quote Geoffrey Chaucer’s “The Canterbury Tales” when talking about his chosen field: “I’d be perfectly happy to ‘gladly learn and gladly teach.’”

A second-generation educator since earning his bachelor’s degree from SHSU in 1977,
Rozelle credits his father, a World War II veteran who taught for 50 years, in helping him find his true calling. 

Intending to pursue a doctorate, Rozelle fell in love with secondary teaching while seeking a teaching certificate as a backup plan, at his father’s suggestion; he ended up being offered the job of replacing the retiring teacher with whom he student taught.

“I decided to put the professor thing on hold for a year and take Palestine up on its $8,000 annual salary,” he said. “Forty years later I have no regrets.”

Forty years later, Rozelle also is still practicing what he teaches.

The author of nine books and editor of the Brazoria County publication Image Magazine, Rozelle has been widely recognized for his creative writing. His works have received a number of awards and places on national short lists and best works lists, while also leading to his being named an honorary professor of letters at Alvin College.

He travels to offer creative writing workshops and give talks at book festivals across the state. His current project is a narrative history titled “Up in Huntsville: Sam Houston’s Final Battle.”

Despite his personal accomplishments, Rozelle has been active in Brazosport ISD in recommending curriculum modifications—including one that requires all subjects to assign content-related student writing on a regular basis—and offering mentorships with new teachers.

In his last year of teaching, Rozelle was praised for his ability to teach students to appreciate great literature and express in writing their experiences and thoughts.

“Students leave his class every year confident, knowledgeable, and forever changed,” one nominator said. “His approach to instruction is to have students teach and learn from each other as he facilitates the process and supplements their learning by infusing his deep knowledge of the content that can only come from years of being an expert in the field.”

Distinguished Educator of the Year—
Mr. Ronny Snow, Principal, Malakoff ISD

When Ronny Snow became principal of Malakoff Elementary School in 2005, the campus had been destroyed by a fire and “all I knew about elementary education was that I was an elementary student at one time,” he said.

But Snow overcame those setbacks and more to help transform the school into an award-winning, nationally recognized place of learning.

In 2015, MES was named Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, a recognition based on five consecutive years of academic excellence at a school with an at least 40 percent economically disadvantaged rate. Nominations are made by the commissioner of education and schools must complete a rigorous application process to the U.S. Department of Education.

The achievement placed MES in the top 26 campuses in Texas, and because of the honor, Snow and his teachers were recognized at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. It was Snow’s second Blue Ribbon recognition, having led Scurry’s Scurry-Rosser Middle School to the designation in 2010.

“Ronny has systematically brought Malakoff Elementary from a school that was not respected to being one of the top schools in the state,” said one nominator.

The achievement may be remarkable because MES boasts a 73 percent economically disadvantaged student rate, and, yet, in the past 10 years, MES scores have been in the top 1 to 2 percent of the state.

“I am proud of the fact that in the analysis of these scores, there were no significant achievement gaps in ethnic groups or financial situations,” Snow said. “The students at MES do not just expect to pass the standardized test each year; they expect to perform at the commended or level 3 performance.”

As a semi-finalist for the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association 2016 National Distinguished Principal Award, the 1990 SHSU graduate, who also earned his master’s degree from Stephen F. Austin State, has been cited for creating a nurturing, positive learning environment for both students and staff.

“Each time I enter their building, I always feel an atmosphere of teamwork among the staff and teachers as they strive to achieve their goals,” another nominator said.

Friend of Education—
Ms. Barbara Cargill, Member of Texas State Board of Education

The College of Education’s “Friend of Education,” Barbara Cargill has had a career rooted in being someone who unites people for the good of Texas’s children.

A four-term Texas Board of Education member, representing district 8, Cargill’s more than 30-year career began as a science educator in the Dallas and Houston areas. In 2011, Gov. Rick Perry appointed Cargill chair of the board, a role she held until 2015. During her tenure, she has served as chair and vice chair of the Committee on Instruction, on which she still serves, as well as a member of the committees on planning and school initiatives.
“The board had been through a turbulent time in the years before Barbara was named chair. The two chairs prior to Barbara had failed to win Senate confirmation,” a nominator said. “The body’s reputation was pretty battered after divisive battles over curriculum standards and textbook adoptions.”

Using her “teacher voice” when necessary to keep members and meetings on track, Cargill quickly earned a reputation as a leader who could bring together strong personalities for a common good and worked to build bridges between the Texas Legislature and board.

“This had the practical effect of stopping the steady erosion of the board’s power that had been occurring each legislative session,” the nominator said.

Now as a board member representing 1.7 million Texans in Brazos, Grimes, parts of Harris, Houston, Montgomery, Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity, and Walker counties, Cargill is still working for Texas’s kids.

In November, the board voted to provide $2.46 billion from the Permanent School Fund to Texas schools over the next two years, representing an estimated increase of $354 million and an 11 percent increase per student.

Cargill also has worked for children as the founder and director for Wonders of The Woodlands Science Camp, which provides creative, hands-on learning to more than 1,200 children each summer.

A registered trainer, she currently offers professional development training and consulting and is an active community volunteer.

She holds a bachelor’s degree from Baylor University and a master’s degree from Texas Woman’s University.

Sam Houston State University alumna and Aldine ISD superintendent LaTonya Goffney knows a thing or two about the power of believing to achieve.

As the 2018 Texas nominee for National Superintendent of the Year and the Texas Association of School Boards’ selected Superintendent of the Year, Goffney is known for putting into full force the motto, “Those who believe can achieve.”

Holding her bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from Sam Houston State University College of Education, Goffney served for six years as superintendent of Lufkin ISD, a school district of 8,200 students in East Texas, and was named superintendent of Aldine ISD summer 2018.

Forming programs to recognize dedicated teachers in her district and creating an educators’ professional academy to provide new teachers with a support system are just some of the ways Goffney stands by the saying “Those who believe can achieve.”

Her personal journey is also testament to this motto.

“My mother was 15 when she had me. My father, I never knew, growing up in poverty with my grandmother,” Goffney said. “The one thing to change my future was education. When you look at my past this shouldn’t be my present but because of education it is.”

Earning her doctorate in educational leadership from SHSU in 2011, the College of Education recognized Goffney as the Distinguished Administrator of the Year in 2013. During the awards ceremony, Stacey L. Edmonson, dean of SHSU College of Education, remarked on Goffney’s extraordinary accomplishments despite the challenges she faced growing up.

“As a high-risk student, who was raised by her grandmother, LaTonya didn’t have any sort of background of privilege. She really worked her way up all on her own,” Edmonson said. “It’s unique and inspiring to see someone who came from that kind of difficult beginning and worked hard for every single thing she’s received and has become so successful.”

In October 2017, the Texas Association of School Boards named Goffney the Texas Superintendent of the Year. Selected among five finalists, she was the first African-American woman to win the award in its 33 years.

The impressive state recognition
The Texas Council of Chief Academic Officers and Sam Houston State University have partnered to offer the Texas Academic Leadership Academy. Beginning this summer, the intensive, year-long leadership development experience will enhance aspiring leaders’ capacities to address the complexities of higher education leadership.

Lead by Stacey Edmonson, dean of the College of Education and Matthew Fuller, associate professor and director of the Doctoral Program in Higher Education Leadership, with support from Chris Maynard, associate vice provost, the new academy will include participants from many Texas institutions of higher education.

The academy is focused beyond SHSU and is a state-wide initiative designed to address the specific needs of Texas higher education priorities,” Fuller said.

To accommodate participants from across the state the program will be primarily web based with the exception of three face-to-face sessions that will occur at different locations around the state.

According to Fuller, SHSU was selected to host the new academy through a competitive process.

“We submitted a proposal along with a number of institutions in this competition,” he said. “Our expertise was a major factor. In addition, we offer a catered experience specific to academic affairs leadership. Our program is cost efficient and offers a tremendous opportunity for leaders across the state to engage a mentor and experienced leaders in the unique opportunities Texas higher education faces. We received this honor because we offer a comprehensive yet manageable suite of professional development opportunities for leaders who seldom receive training.”

Providing a unique source of professional development, TALA will feature top-notch speakers and leaders from all Texas college and university systems. The academy will also have a mentorship component, case studies and comprehensive assessment efforts.

TALA Fellows will be guided through three face-to-face meetings during the academic year 2018-2019. The first session will be held July 23-25, 2018 at The SHSU Woodlands Center. Monthly online sessions will be offered, drawn from the expertise of senior leaders and key experts from institutions and systems across the state.

Aspiring leaders at all Texas institutions of higher education are eligible to participate, following nomination from the Chief Academic Officer at their institution. Applications include a form and a nomination letter from the Chief Academic Officer of the institution and will be accepted via email (tala@shsu.edu) until April 13. More information can be found online: http://www.shsu.edu/tala/
The transformative power of a quality educator knows no bounds. An effective teacher has the potential to directly influence the lives and future career paths of their students daily.

For this reason, Sam Houston State University’s College of Education recognizes educators who have made a significant contribution to the field in an awards ceremony each year.

“The Distinguished Educator of the Year ceremony offers a unique opportunity for the COE to honor several of its most accomplished alumni who have made a positive difference through careers in education,” Dean of the COE, Stacey Edmonson said. “Our honorees represent urban, rural, and suburban communities and include all types of educators who have had distinguished careers as teachers, counselors, librarians, administrators and higher education professionals.”

This year, the Distinguished Educators of the Year recipients were honored on March 3, in the Lowman Student Center Ballroom for their demonstrated expertise and outstanding service in the classroom, school, district and community.

Wanda Bamberg, superintendent of Aldine Independent School District and a 2016 recipient of the award, emceed the event.

“The COE’s Distinguished Educator of the Year event is unique because the focus is totally about celebration—for great work resulting from great programs. I was honored to receive this award myself and it was truly a highlight of my career,” Bamberg said. “Many SHSU COE alumni look forward to the event and finding out who will be recognized each year.”

The 2018 Distinguished Educators of the Year recipients were, Don Stockton, Linda Blackburn-Harris, Jeremy Glenn, Jimmy Adams and Kevin Weldon.

“Celebrating our distinguished alumni reminds us of just how important, and how impactful, educators are. One of Isaac Newton’s most well-known quotes said, ‘If I have seen farther, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.’ Our distinguished educators are giants, people who have given their careers and dedicated their lives to be the shoulders that shape, guide and influence our children,” Edmonson said. “The Distinguished Educator of the Year award allows us as a college and community of educators to celebrate and honor these dedicated educational professionals and their contributions.”

This award is the highest honor the COE at SHSU can bestow upon its alumni.
Distinguished Educator of the Year—Dr. Don Stockton, Superintendent, Conroe ISD

As one of the longest tenured superintendents in Texas, Dr. Don Stockton has had a remarkable and undeniable impact on Conroe Independent School District. Under his leadership, Conroe ISD earned the distinction of becoming the largest district ever to be rated “Exemplary” by the Texas Education Agency.

Stockton has been influential in the field of education for 34 years, with 32 of those years served in complete dedication to Conroe Independent School District. While serving at Conroe ISD, Dr. Stockton has served as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent, interim superintendent, and, for the past 15 years, Conroe ISD Superintendent of Schools. He has dedicated himself not only as a mentor, but as an inspiration to all educators around him.

“Educat[ing] a child does indeed take a whole village. Parents and communities must partner with schools to provide for all of the needs of the child,” stated Stockton when speaking of his philosophy for educating young minds.

Dr. Stockton is also an enthusiastic partner of the College of Education. Under his direction, in Conroe ISD approximately 1 in 3 classrooms is taught by an SHSU graduate. “The impact of Dr. Stockton reaches far beyond the campuses of Conroe ISD,” one nominator said. He serves as a role model and mentor for newer superintendents and is the de facto leader of superintendents in Region VI. He sits on the Board of the Montgomery County Food Bank where he is an active advocate for the work they do. In response to the tragedy of Hurricane Harvey, Stockton spearheaded a Conroe ISD food drive that boasted over 1,500 volunteers. He not only led, but joined the efforts as a volunteer spending valuable hours helping those in need.

Stockton’s guidance is unlike any other in the award-winning Conroe ISD. The districts distinctions include: being one of only three districts to be recognized with the highest rating for high academic achievement while maintaining cost-effective operations for six years in a row, receiving the highest recognition from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts for transparency seven years in a row, and earning the title of Honor Roll District from the Educational Results Partnership and Institute for Productivity in Education in 2015. Only nine public school districts in Texas have earned this distinction.

Like Conroe ISD, Dr. Stockton, has accumulated many prestigious awards. He was awarded the 2004 Texas Counseling Association Layperson Exemplary Service Award, 2007 Education Service Center Region VI Superintendent of the Year, and Outstanding Alumnus by Texas A&M University’s College of Education and Human Development. SHSU is proud to add to this list and recognize Dr. Don Stockton as a Distinguished Educator of the Year.

Distinguished Educator of the Year—Linda Blackburn-Harris, Board Member, Dayton Independent School District's Board of Trustees

“Students are my business,” Linda Harris of Dayton Independent School District’s Board of Trustees affirms, “Teaching is a luxury, an honor, and a privilege.”

As an alumnus of Sam Houston State University, Harris has educated young minds since 1972, spending 35 years as a teacher before serving as a school board member for the past 8 years. A nominator stated that “teaching had never been a ‘job’ for her, but continues to be her ‘passion’.”

Harris is known to be an educator who actively listens, problem solves, and looks out for the best interest of students. Another nominator spoke highly of Harris by stating that Dayton’s “district, schools, and community only [benefit] from her high standards.”

Her leadership on the school board proved to be instrumental in building “neighborhood” schools for the first time in Dayton history. This historic achievement comes from the passing of an $87 million dollar bond in 2015. This bond helped build two K-5 elementary schools and reconfigure all existing elementary schools to a K-5 format. Dayton has not had this type of instructionally-based model in more than 40 years. This bond also added 28 classrooms, a gym and cafeteria to the junior high school, a performance auditorium and practice gym to the high school, and so much more.

A nominator praised Harris’s role in helping designing and creating 21st century libraries within Dayton’s campuses, saying that “she is by far the most vigorous and outspoken advocate for creating and maintaining outstanding libraries in public schools.”

Bridgehaven Children’s Advocacy Center was recognized as an area where Harris felt that her educational background served her well. The center advocates for children who may live in unsafe environments, have been abused, witnessed violent acts, and other dangerous situations. Harris served on the board for a number of years and helped find funding for the organization.

As a member of numerous scholarship committees, Harris declares this work as something she thoroughly enjoys. She believes that scholarships may be the push that students need
to jumpstart their plans to further their education. She works with the Dayton Pioneer Association and with the Lakata Club, a Federated Woman’s Club, to grant scholarships to six students each May.

The College of Education at Sam Houston State University is proud to name Linda Harris as a Distinguished Educator of the Year.

**Distinguished Educator of the Year—Dr. Jeremy Glenn**

Superintendent, Waxahachie ISD

Dr. Jeremy Glenn, Superintendent of Waxahachie Independent School District, has been described as “visionary, enthusiastic, caring, dedicated, and has the ability to make ‘others soar like eagles.’”

Glenn graduated with his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Sam Houston State University in 2008. He has been an educator for 18 years, with 10 of those years as a superintendent. He has served as a teacher, coach, principal, assistant superintendent, and superintendent.

During his time as superintendent of Central Heights ISD, the district received a “Recognized” rating every year from 2008-2012 along with numerous other campus and district level gold performance acknowledgements. CHISD received the 2011 College Readiness Award from the Texas ACT Council for increasing the number of students taking the ACT assessment over the course of five years an decreasing their level of achievement and college readiness.

Upon his arrival, the Waxahachie ISD was “falling behind” other surrounding districts. According to a fellow superintendent, “Waxahachie ISD had great potential but suffered from not having a strong leader willing to question the status quo and challenge the district and community to find the next level of student opportunity and achievement.” Glenn answered that call to arms. When he was hired as Superintendent of Waxahachie ISD in 2013, he was named the youngest 5A superintendent in Texas.

Under Glenn’s leadership, Waxahachie began to change for the better. Glenn improved teacher compensation and provided for growth while spearheading new programs in advanced academics, partnerships with colleges, and career/technical programs to propel student learning forward with academic and career opportunities. Three years after his hire, all 13 campuses of WISD “Met Standard” according to the 2016 Texas Education Agency Ratings and earned 23 academic distinctions. The accomplishments do not stop there.

Glenn helped facilitate the growth of Global High School, 1 of 7 early college/STEM high schools in Texas. Global HS has been recognized by US News and World Report as one of the premier high schools in the country since 2014. This high school has also earned the distinction as a top school for low income students by Newsweek.

Within his community, Glenn has been praised as he “excels in community relations through his visibility and involvement.” He is involved with Lions Club International, the Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce, and Rotary Club. He is actively involved in his local church and has participated in overseas mission work. The development of the Waxahachie Project helped grow Glenn’s vision of community service and education. The Project’s vision is to “unite community leaders, business leaders, non-profits, churches, and educational institutions to work for the good of [the] city.”

Glenn is a published author and Writing Center’s Excellence in Writing Award. In 2017 he was named as a “40 Leaders under the age of 40” award winner for Greater Ellis County. His list of awards and recognitions includes many more distinctions, now including College of Education Distinguished Educator of the Year.

**Distinguished Educator of the Year—Dr. Jimmy Adams**

Dean of Media Arts and Technology Center of Excellence, Houston Community College

Dr. Adams has over 35 years of experience and responsibility in higher education administration and business management, 17 of which include teaching in both the community college and university settings. He graduated from Sam Houston State University with a Doctorate in Educational Leadership in 2008. Adams has served in various leadership roles such as Dean, Assistant Vice President, Program Coordinator, and Director. He also serves as a member of the American Association of Community Colleges, Texas Association of College Technical Educators, and National Association for Career and Technical Education Information.

Dr. Adams was a key contributor in the design and implementation of the successful establishment of Prairie A&M University’s Office of Continuing Education and the...
development of the Center for Business Development at Lone Star College which has helped increase economic development in the North Houston Area.

The Houston Community College Media Arts Center of Excellence has increased in student growth and success under Dr. Adams’ leadership. His numerous innovative ideas and projects to advance the Center have led to the installation of state-of-the-art sound booths, editing booths, instructional settings, and green screen sound stage. The green screen stage was specifically designed for student learning based on innovative film production technologies. The vision for this new space is to assist in “changing the way [the] community, the state, and the country define what a community college is and should be” by the use and promotion of green screen technology to prepare film production students. “Dr. Adams often conveys that we have to imagine what the industry will require in the future and prepare students accordingly,” one nominator commented.

“The relationship I have developed between serving the community and what I do as an educator defines my passion to give back,” said Adams. His commitment to serving and supporting others has birthed one of the most heartfelt examples of giving back. Dr. Adams was once approached by a homeless woman looking for assistance. After meeting with her, Adams worked diligently to help her find scholarships to aid in her mission to return to college and seek a better future for herself. This same student has now graduated from HCC, has a career, and owns her own home. In her own words, she attributes this success to Dr. Adams. He is a true servant leader to his school, alma mater, and the community.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Adams has been a recipient of the 2016 John & Susanne Roueche Excellence Award, the Top Black Professional and Entrepreneurs Award, the 2006 SHSU Educational Leadership Doctoral Research Award, and was selected as a UCEA Barbara L. Jackson Scholar by SHSU in 2006 and 2007. The College of Education is honored to recognize Dr. Jimmy Adams as a Distinguished Educator of the Year.

**Distinguished Educator of the Year—Kevin Weldon, Retired Superintendent, Tarkington Independent School District**

Tarkington ISD’s Superintendent Kevin Weldon is the patriarch of a family of educators. One could say that for Mr. Weldon the field of education is a family affair.

After earning his bachelor’s degree from SHSU, Weldon devoted 35 years of service to Texas public schools upon retirement. He has held a position as a superintendent, assistant superintendent, athletic director, principal, coach and teacher. His diligent work in the Tarkington and Splendora communities has earned him numerous distinctions—Weldon has been named a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International, East Texas Football Coach of the Year three times, and the District Coach of the Year 15 times. He was recognized in 2002 for his classroom teaching success in the Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers.

When Weldon arrived at Tarkington ISD, the high school was labeled Improvement Required. Through prompt reorganization of the district’s Walk-Through model and the introduction of a hyper-monitoring plan that provided immediate feedback to teachers, the label was removed by the State within a few weeks.

“We are not in the adult pleasing business; we are in the business of educating kids,” Weldon used to remind his employees and peers them to do what is best for students. One nominator commented that Weldon’s “transparent and effective leadership style, which integrates communication, collaboration, and accountability to produce success for all students” helps him achieve his goal of providing the best education possible for students.

An example of the aforementioned statement are the family-oriented campus activities engineered by Weldon that are geared towards assisting parents to promote student learning in the home. Under his leadership, Tarkington ISD began implementing core subject educational nights that presented parents with tools to assist their children at home. With the use of simple homework activities, students are required to discuss topics they are learning in the classroom with their families.

Weldon has proven to be a strong community advocate. As a coach at Splendora ISD, he spearheaded an Adopt-A-Highway program as a way to teach students to have pride in their community, their schools, and ultimately themselves by keeping the areas near and around the school presentable. As the athletic director, he organized local food drives quarterly to furnish local food banks while also providing immediate assistance to families in need. When he became Superintendent at Kountze and Tarkington ISDs, he coordinated similar programs to foster community and school partnerships.

Kevin Weldon embodies the SHSU motto “The Measure of a Life is its Communication, collaboration, and leadership style, which integrates communication, collaboration, and accountability to produce success for all students.” While he has worn many hats over the years as an educator, his passionate advocacy for student success, community involvement, and quality education for all has not waivered. Mr. Weldon has rightfully earned the honor and distinction of being named a Distinguished Educator of the Year.
Sam Houston State University College of Education alumni and power couple, Jim and Pam Wells, were commemorated as the namesakes of one of the newest elementary schools in their community of Cypress-Fairbanks.

The naming of the “Jim and Pam Wells Elementary School” recognizes the Wells’ for more than a combined 66 years of outstanding commitment to their district.

“As an educator, being a school namesake is absolutely the most meaningful honor and gift a person can receive,” said Pam Wells. “It was emotional for us. We were humbled because there are so many worthy educators but we were also validated because we dedicated a combined 66 years to the district,” Jim Wells said.

Pam taught middle school, directed instruction at Cy-Fair High and served as assistant and associate superintendent. Jim also taught before becoming assistant principal at Cypress Creek High and Watkins Junior High schools. He was principal of Thornton Middle and Cypress Creek before retiring in 2012. They both obtained their masters degrees from the SHSU College of Education and felt that they benefitted from the program as they began their administrative careers.

“We were very fortunate to obtain reliable and well-rounded instructional leadership training at SHSU,” Jim Wells said.

Pam later continued her education by receiving her superintendent certificate and doctoral degree from SHSU. Then in 2015 the college also honored Pam as the Distinguished Administrator of the year.

“I wanted to get my doctorate from Sam Houston because I knew the high standards and the quality of the professors who taught in the Educational Leadership program. I was not interested in quickly obtaining an “executive doctorate.” Instead I wanted to know that my doctorate was meaningful, based on high quality academic research and writing, rigor and high standards. I was not disappointed and continue to recommend the program to prospective candidates,” Pam Wells said.

Today Pam serves as the executive director of Region 4 in the Cy-Fair Independent School District and serves over 1.2 million students.
“At Cy-Fair ISD and in my current role at Region 4, I believe building relationships within the community is critically important to success. You do that by committing time, building trust and helping to make connections that ultimately will help our Region 4 districts and the 1.2 million students that we serve,” Pam Wells said.

The mission of Wells Elementary is to, “maximize every student’s potential through rigorous and relevant learning experiences preparing students to be 21 century global leaders.”

The Wells serve as strong examples of this mission and also share a similar passion for encouraging 21st century learning.

“I believe the quality of the future depends on the education system. Education is about maximizing human potential, inspiring and leading young minds,” Jim Wells said. “It is never too late to be who you might have been.”

For this reason, they selected explorers as the Wells Elementary mascot because of the many opportunities the teachers and staff have to use the mascot as a part of the teaching and learning process. On the day of the dedication, they donated a bronze sculpture titled, “The Global Scholar” as a gift to the school. It depicts a child sitting on top of a globe of the earth studying a book with a magnifying glass.

“Wells’ students and teachers are always exploring learning. They are exploring writing, reading, math, science, social studies, music, art and PE but they are also exploring learning to provide them with opportunities for the future,” said Pam. “On the first day of school, we saw many students with T-shirts with globes, scientists, space, computers, etc. all reflecting the theme of explorers. How exciting that was for Jim and me.”

The teachers and staff of Wells Elementary use social media extensively including the Twitter handle @CFISDWells and the hashtag #ExploreWells to communicate with parents about what the students are learning. The school emphasizes personalized learning and uses technology to extend opportunities for students to explore beyond the walls of the school. The theme of explorers supports this focus.

“When I hear the words “Wells Elementary” I always smile,” Pam Wells said. “Having the Cy-Fair ISD Board and administration give us this gift that will live on long after we do, is both humbling and exciting. On the first day of school at Wells Elementary, Jim and I were there to greet the students, give out hugs and high fives and to be bus buddies on the ride home the first day. It was absolutely one of the happiest days of my life.”
Kyle Ivey, a doctoral candidate for the Instructional Systems Design and Technology Program in the College of Education at Sam Houston State University, was recognized as the “Technology Administrator of the Year” by the Texas Computer Education Association for 2018.

TCEA is a nonprofit, member-based organization that has supported the use of technology in education. TCEA’s Annual Educator Awards recognize excellence in the integration of technology in schools. These awards, also known as Golden Apples, have been bestowed upon some of the most innovative and engaging educators for the last 37 years.

“I feel very grateful and very humbled to receive this award,” Ivey said. “Essentially, I think I have the best job in the world.”

Ivey is the director of Instructional Technology for Central Independent School District and works with students, parents, teachers and administrators to grow their personal and professional skills in the area of technology.

“I get to dream about crazy ideas and then find ways to implement them. Each day, my goal is to find ways to provide our students and staff with the very best, both academically and with resources.”

In order to be considered for the award, candidates are nominated and then judged in categories such as their ability to provide advanced evidence of visionary leadership, technology support, professional development and in communicating important research.

Ivey tributes his success to his students and the staff at Central ISD and believes it is just the start of his educational journey as he works toward his doctorate degree at SHSU.

“In order to have lasting success, you must have experience and knowledge. While knowledge does not require earning a degree, it will help distinguish my work as an educator.”

Upon winning the award, he was given a $1,000 scholarship and a plaque which he accepted at a ceremony in Austin, TX surrounded by his family.
COE Brings Starfish Legend to Life With Relief Initiative

Story by Tyler Pointer

There is an old tale often called “The Legend of the Starfish” which tells the story of a child tossing beached starfish back into the ocean. In the story, a man approaches the child and asks why they’re doing it when there are too many starfish in need of saving? What difference could they possibly make?

The boy replies to him by saying, “It makes a difference to that one,” after tossing another starfish into the ocean.

The College of Education at Sam Houston State University is bringing this story to life with “Project Starfish,” an effort and fund to provide monetary and emotional support to its many students who were impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

An immediate response was issued from Dean Stacey Edmonson to students in the COE within the days following the storm, letting students know the college was aware there were students who were affected by the storm and that they were concerned for their well-being. The response was a video message accompanied by a survey.

The survey was titled “COE Cares” and asked students how they were impacted and what kind of assistance they needed, if any, according to Associate Dean for Planning and Assessment Jannah Nerren.

“We formed a committee of faculty and staff from the COE after the survey was sent out. The College Harvey Response Team (CHaRT) reviewed all the responses to the survey and developed a plan to meet students’ needs,” Nerren said. “Different people with different ideas came together and that is how Project Starfish was born. Our committee works deliberately to disperse the money as soon as we get it. Most of the gift cards have been delivered through the mail, but some of them, as well as cash donations, have been personally delivered so that we assure that our students receive the funds as quickly as possible.”

Project Starfish has raised over $8,000 since its creation, which only includes cash donations and gift cards. A box made for donations follows the college to events and offers a free Project Starfish t-shirt for donations more than $20.

“We’ve seen so much support from outside of our college to help with this effort,” Nerren said. “We worked with IT@Sam to lend laptops to our students who lost some of their electronics in the aftermath. The campus bookstore worked with us to assist students in replacing damaged textbooks. The COE Counseling faculty offered free support for students who were in need of emotional support.”

With the help of the funds, students who have been affected by the hurricane have been able to start mending some of the damages they face. Things like groceries, beds and even paying rent have been some of the ways students have used the funds.

To donate, or if your campus group would like Project Starfish representatives at an event, contact Nerren at jannahnerren@shsu.edu or visit the COE Welcome Center in the Eleanor and Charles Garrett Teacher Education Center for drop-offs.
Sam Houston State University and its chapter of the Texas Associate of Future Educators (TAFE) hosted the 34th Annual Teach Tomorrow Summit on Feb. 15-17.

This three-day conference gave over 2,000 students the opportunity to learn the skills necessary to becoming a successful educator. This year’s conference theme was “Teach, Love, and Rock ‘N Roll,” as the students learned what it takes to teach like a rock star. The theme is determined by the TAFE students and put to a vote at each conference. This year, TAFE representatives from middle school, high school and will college chapters were present.

“TAFE has been a student organization for high school students for decades. As young, aspiring teachers transition to higher education to pursue their goals of teaching, it seemed most appropriate to extend TAFE as a student organization at the higher education level,” Lory Haas, TAFE sponsor and assistant professor for Language, Literacy and Special Populations said. “This provides students who were members of this outstanding teacher organization in high school a bridge to TAFE at the collegiate level to continue their professional growth and make life-long friendships. Additionally, for students who were not previous members of a TAFE chapter, it allows them to become an active member of an organization dedicated to their professional interests and goals.”

The first two days of the conference took place at La Torretta Resort and Conference Center, and the conference concluded on the SHSU campus on Saturday. The weekend featured a series of breakout sessions, lectures, competitions and a special concert.

Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs Debbie Price was an early advocate for TAFE and was one of the speakers during the Saturday festivities.

“As an associate dean in the COE with primary responsibilities for research endeavors and graduate programs, I’ve had more of a cheerleader’s role in the decision to bring the TAFE conference to SHSU,” Price said. “Recently, I began volunteering in a Huntsville elementary school helping second graders improve their reading skills. That experience reminded me of a couple of the components I think are most important to being a good teacher, modeling a sense of curiosity and keeping a sense of humor. My presentation, What’s that Under Your Arm? Things to Keep in Mind if You Want to be a Teacher, explored those concepts in what, I hope, was a humorous and engaging way.”

This is the third year to have the conference at a university campus and SHSU’s first time to host.

“As an organization in the first year of development, we are rapidly growing and striving to make the SHSU TAFE organization an extension of the school level TAFE chapters. We are building on the foundation set forth by TAFE to make it fit the needs of college students as they progress to their own teaching careers,” Haas said.

SHSU’s chapter of TAFE is composed of nearly 50 members and is run by President and SHSU senior, Nicole Mattingly. She helped to coordinate volunteers, hosting the guests on campus and speaking in the Coliseum at the first general session on Saturday morning. It was her hope to soon teach elementary aged children and special education.

“The College of Education prepared for this conference for almost a year. The Teach Tomorrow Summit is a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase what they know about the field of education, celebrate their achievements and share their passion for teaching,” Mattingly said. “This was a great opportunity for SHSU to show potential students how great our programs are in the College of Education and hopefully influenced some of those students to choose SHSU for their future.”
2018 FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Civic Engagement—Dr. Benita Brooks, Language Literacy & Special Populations:
“What I love the most about the Huntsville Immersion Partnership (HIP) after school tutoring program is that it gives students from the community a new confidence to stand out by turning academic failure into academic success.”

Research—Dr. Julie Combs, Educational Leadership:
“I am so honored to be recognized for research and writing accomplishments this past year. Thank you to my co-authors, writing group members, and mentors who continue to support me as a writer and researcher.”

Teaching—Dr. Jaime Coyne, Curriculum & Instruction:
“It is an honor to be placed in such distinguished ranks of educators that have all made a difference in the lives of our SHSU students.”

Service—Dr. James Hynes, Center for International Studies:
“With the many co-workers in our building who deliver support to the students, our College and this university, I am humbled that you chose me to receive the Service Award.”

Grantmanship—Dr. Andre Koptelov, Curriculum & Instruction:
“Receiving this year’s Grantsmanship Award was truly an honor particularly because this recognition represents excellent collaborations with outstanding colleagues.”

First-year teachers often enter classrooms that have a wide range of student differences and needs. Phase I of the Huntsville Immersion Project (HIP) allowed Sam Houston State University (SHSU) teacher candidates an opportunity to participate in a weekly immersive after-school tutoring program that enabled these prospective teachers to develop the fundamental characteristics of a classroom-ready teacher. Prospective teachers need opportunities to reflect on experiences where they can examine and articulate their personal biases, fears, and concerns, so that as newly minted teachers, they will be classroom-ready. The project involved Huntsville Independent School District (HISD) and focused on work with intermediate and middle school students. This effort was Phase I of a larger project which will eventually grow to more completely immerse teacher candidates within the community. The vision of HIP is to provide knowledge consisting of community-based organizations, the SHSU College of Education, community mentors and HISD to support the community and better prepare the next generation of educators. It is a united vision between the community, the university, and school partners.”
It is hard to believe that we are soon to complete our first year of operation. We began in August with 121 students and now have a current enrollment of 170. Our students have experience many exciting things this year. Many of them we planned. STEM activities in class, Reader’s Theater, visits from the fire and police departments, field trips to robotics competitions and engineering day at Texas A&M. Many we did not, but they provided just as much learning. An eclipse on the first day of school, a week lost due to Hurricane Harvey, and the favorite of everyone “snow days”. As I stated before, there are many advantages to beginning a charter school when asked and my reply is still the same “we get to start from scratch.” Our teachers are such quality and what they bring with them to the classroom is hard to include in such a short article. They challenge our students every day to be creative problem-solvers and take ownership of their learning. They are the main reason we have experienced such a tremendous amount of growth in our first year. The Texas Education Agency confirmed that we are on the right track by giving us an exemplary report in our first-year audit. We are also very proud of the partnerships we have developed with the University. Many of our faculty from C&I and LLSP have offered their services to help both our students and teachers grow. It is always nice to share with parents that we have direct access to nationally recognized experts in the field of education. We always welcome our College of Education colleagues that would like to present or use our campuses as a research opportunity. We are also excited of our partnership with our aspiring teachers. This summer we host our first cohort of students at our campus in The Woodlands.

As many of you know, we will begin our year-round calendar this summer. Our first day of school will be July 16. I am pleased to announce that we have a projected starting enrollment of 310 students. With the support of the University, the College of Education, the Dean and our Charter School Board of Directors, the SHSU Charter School has almost reached maximum capacity in our current campuses. We are looking forward to expanding to new campuses in the 2019-2020 school year. We are also excited about the new staff we are bringing to the charter system. Many of our faculty are alumni of SHSU College of Education.

While we have accomplished many things this past year, our best days truly are ahead of us. I look forward to seeing the bright shining faces of our newest and youngest bearhats in the months ahead as they blaze the trail for our program. We invite you to visit our sites and welcome your questions as we continue to promote the core values of SHSU through this program. Eat ’em Up Kats 🍽
The College of Education at Sam Houston State University was awarded the University-School Partnership for the Renewal of Educator Preparation (US PREP) grant focused on improving teacher preparation through year-long residency clinical teaching, effective university coaching and school mentorship. The Michael and Susan Dell Foundation is supporting Sam Houston State University in this transformational teacher preparation model. Developing strong partnerships with districts, opportunities for teacher candidates to refine teaching skills, using data for improvement and accountability, and ensuring that faculty and mentors are effective at guiding novice teacher candidates into the profession are the guiding principles for US PREP.

Year-long residency, in lieu of one semester of clinical teaching, offers SHSU teacher candidates an opportunity to experience the classroom from the beginning to the end of the year, benefitting both the classroom mentor teacher and the clinical teacher. Building meaningful relationships between teacher mentor and teacher candidates, collaboration in co-teaching with the mentor and teacher candidate, and understanding student data and academic needs and growth for individual students are the strengths of the year-long residency model. University site coordinators and teacher mentors are trained in effective coaching, including formal observations and on-going and specific feedback throughout the year. Teacher candidates participate with the teacher mentor, university site coordinator and the campus administrative team in analyzing and planning using student academic data, a minimum of four times throughout the year.

In fall 2018, 12 Bilingual teacher candidates will pilot the first cohort for the US PREP grant in Klein ISD. Klein ISD and SHSU have developed a strong partnership and participated in professional development together in the summer of 2018. The university site coordinator, Klein ISD administrative staff, SHSU administrative staff and Klein mentor teachers will participate in professional development on coordinating the partnership efforts, effective mentoring and coaching, and using data to improve the teacher candidate experience and preparation. SHSU teacher preparation program is dedicated to ensuring that every teacher candidate is highly qualified and prepared to enter the teaching profession for the purpose of successfully educating every child in Texas.

Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.
A hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove … but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child.

—Forest Witcraft