



Partners in Education

Awards & Recognition Luncheon

April 28, 2015 • 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

11:45 - WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Roland Hernandez

- Good Morning! I am Dr. Roland Hernandez, Superintendent of Schools for the Corpus Christi Independent School District, and I would like to welcome you to our 2015 ***i-Achieve Awards Luncheon***.
- Today we would like to celebrate each of YOU – our community partners – for everything you do to support education and build a brighter future for our students.
- Before we begin, please stand and join me in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge.

The United States Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

And to the Republic, for which it stands,

One nation, under God, indivisible,

With liberty and justice for all.

The Texas Pledge of Allegiance

Honor the Texas flag;

I pledge allegiance to thee,

Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.

- I look forward to this luncheon every year, because it is our opportunity as a school district to say “**THANK YOU!**”
- Through your contributions to CCISD, each of you have made a **very real** difference in the life of a student.
- ... and your generosity does NOT go unnoticed.
- Today, we acknowledge your incredible work as “change-makers” in Corpus Christi. We honor you for your commitment to education, to our teachers ... and especially our students.
- In addition to all of you who contribute and volunteer, we also have several guests in attendance today who serve CCISD through their daily work for the school district or through public service.

- And at this time, it is my pleasure to invite Mr. John Longoria, President of the CCISD Board of Trustees, to bring greetings on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

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Thank You Dr Hernandez,

- I'd first like to introduce my colleagues on The CCISD Board of Trustees and ask each of them to stand as I call your name.
 - Mr. John Marez, Vice President
 - Dr. Tony C. Diaz, Secretary
 - Mrs. Janie Bell, Assistant Secretary
 - Mr. Tony Elizondo
 - Mr. Hector Salinas, Jr. --and--

- Mrs. Catherine Susser

- Thank you all for your dedication to CCISD students.
- Now, I ask that **any other elected officials** who serve our students through their daily work in our city, county and state, please stand.
- Thank you for what you do every day, and for keeping our students in mind when you make important decisions.
- ... and now, would all of our CCISD employees who are here to thank our partners and support our students – including administrators and educators – please stand and be recognized?
- Thank you for all your hard work.
- We are making many positive changes this year that are directly tied to your support – your commitment to make a difference for the young people in our schools across the city is important.
- Your efforts to impact public education are extremely valuable and necessary, in more ways than you know ... and we are grateful for each and every one of you.
- So on behalf of the Board of Trustees THANK YOU to our CCISD employees, public officials, and for the contributions and volunteerism provided daily in our schools that not only help to educate, but to inspire.

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Back to Dr Hernandez

- Thank you, President Longoria.
- Truly, it is our community partnerships – the work we do together – that is helping us fulfill our vision of becoming a world class school district ... and serving our mission of developing the hearts and minds of our students.
- It takes the dedication of partners like you, working with your school district, to make change – and a better future – possible.
- So, we extend our sincerest thanks to each of you.
- In just a moment, we will hear from some of our students who have benefited from your support.
- They are following your lead and will learn from your examples that giving back is the only way to make our future the very best it can be.
- Before they take the stage, I would like to take just a moment now to recognize you, our most distinguished guests and partners, who have supported CCISD and our students through your professions and volunteer efforts:
 - If you are here representing a **Non-Profit Organization** that partnered with CCISD, will you please stand for recognition?
 - Thank you.

- If you are here representing **Higher Education and Post-Secondary Educational Organizations**, please stand for recognition.
 - Thank you.
 - If you are representing a **Business or Corporation**, please stand for recognition.
 - Thank you.
 - If you are an **individual volunteer**, please stand for recognition.
 - Thank you all.
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- On behalf of CCISD, parents, educators and administrators from our district, **THANK YOU** for your dedication to our future, our schools and staff ... and especially to our students.
 - At this time, lunch will be served. Please feel free to visit with each other, enjoy your lunch and we will continue with an awards presentation in a few minutes. Thank you.

11:50 – 12:01 LUNCH

12:01 - AWARDS PRESENTATION

Dr. Roland Hernandez

- Please continue to enjoy your lunch as we begin this presentation.
- At this time, we would like to award some of our partners who have been chosen for recognition because of the outstanding contributions they have made to CCISD in the past year.
- These organizations were selected by a panel of district employees not affiliated with any particular school campus.
- These administrators reviewed all of the i-Achieve award nominations sent in from CCISD campuses and departments.
- We will now begin the presentation of our **2014-2015 iAchieve Partners in Education Awards**.
- Please welcome our first student presenter: Dylan Alvarez from Driscoll Middle School.

DYLAN ALVAREZ – DRISCOLL MS

- Thank you, Dr. Hernandez.
- My name is Dylan Alvarez and I am a proud 8th grade scholar at Driscoll Middle School.
- I am here to share with you how one local organization has shown kindness and overwhelming support to me and my fellow students.
- For many years, the Rotary Club of Corpus Christi has taken an active role to promote education and career exploration.
- The Rotary Club has provided guest speakers to support the Teen Leadership and AVID programs at our campus.
- Thanks to their monetary donations, the school now has tablets and ebooks to help us with reading, and to support the Tablet Thursday after school program.
- A Ranger Boutique has opened at the campus which provides students with clothing such as school shirts for students.
- To help build college awareness on campus, the Rotary Club has also donated hundreds of college T-shirts for me and my fellow students.
- They have provided school supplies, and recognized students for academic achievement at their Rotary Club luncheons.
- Many of them have made presentations, telling us about their lives and what they achieved to be where they are today. I am glad they help us because they have motivated me to be more successful in life.
- **On behalf of CCISD and Driscoll Middle School, it is my pleasure to present this year's Academic Incentives for Achievement Award to our friends from the Rotary Club of Corpus Christi!**

DR. ROLAND HERNANDEZ

- Thank you, Dylan, and many thanks to everyone from the Rotary Club of Corpus Christi.
- At this time, I'd like to invite Catherine Duarte from Hamlin Middle School to present the next award.

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CATHERINE DUARTE – HAMLIN MS

- Thank you Dr. Hernandez.
- My name is Catherine Duarte. I am an 8th grade student at Hamlin Middle School.
- In September 2014, Pastor Joel Perritte from Emmaus Church of Corpus Christi visited our school. He introduced himself and offered to help provide a better education for Hamlin Middle School scholars. Soon after that, Emmaus Church members registered through CCISD to become volunteers ...
- ... and they got to work, helping with our Parent Involvement program.
- Pastor Joel was a mentor and speaker for our Boys to Men event.
- In October, the Church donated and prepared hot dogs for more than 200 people at our Family Fall Festival. This donation helped to provide a meal for some of our families.
- Periodically, Emmaus Church sends breakfast and lunch to show their appreciation for our staff. They donate refreshments for LOTS of other school meetings and events. They also re-decorated our staff lunch room to provide a better meeting place for everyone.
- Recently, they made a generous contribution to support “It’s a Girl Thing.” This gift helped to make that event a real success.
- The Church members have become familiar faces on campus. Through their examples, they are teaching us what it means to serve others.
- **So, on behalf of CCISD and Hamlin Middle School, I’d like to present this year’s Service Learning for Achievement Award to the Emmaus Church of Corpus Christi!**

DR. ROLAND HERNANDEZ

- Thank you, Catherine, and many thanks to our partners from the Emmaus Church of Corpus Christi.
- We appreciate you.
- Now, please welcome our next student presenter: Xavier Trevino from Gibson Elementary School.

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XAVIER TREVINO – GIBSON ELEMENTARY

- Thank you, Dr. Hernandez.
- My name is Xavier Trevino, and I am the Student Council President and a proud 4th grade student at Gibson Elementary.
- Johnson Controls is a long-time community partner with Gibson. Each year, they ensure that Gibson students are ready for school by providing all kinds of school supplies for our students.
- In August, Johnson Controls made a very generous donation to help fund a landscaping project for the campus – something that is really needed to make our school beautiful!
- Johnson Controls also goes the extra mile to help the teachers and staff at our school. Sometimes they provide a healthy lunch for our staff.
- During the holidays, Johnson Controls made another generous donation to help LOTS of students who really needed a new pair of shoes.
- The good people at Johnson Controls' care about us and they want us to do well in school, and to have what we need.
- They do not know how much their help has made life better for us ... but today, we would like to say 'thank you' again in a much BIGGER way.
- **On behalf of CCISD and GIBSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, I'd like to present this year's STUDENT SUPPORT FOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD to JOHNSON CONTROLS!**

DR. ROLAND HERNANDEZ

- Thank you, Xavier – great job!
- ... and many thanks to Johnson Controls for supporting our students at Gibson Elementary.
- At this time, please welcome our next student presenter: Alyssa Garza from Menger Elementary School.

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ALYSSA GARZA – MENDER ES

- Thank you, Dr. Hernandez.
- My name is Alyssa Garza and I'm a 4th grade student from Menger Elementary, home of the Proud Texans.
- Menger Elementary opened in 1928 and is the oldest Elementary School in our District sitting on a registered historical land mark.
- Although our building is historic and beautiful, some of our equipment and furnishings are in need of updating.
- The Port of Corpus Christi made a very generous donation to purchase new furniture for our science lab. Updating our science lab helps to promote hands on science experiences for students in kindergarten through 5th grade.
- Our friends at the Port of Corpus Christi also visited us before Christmas and brought Santa Claus with them! Each student was able to visit with Santa and received a coloring book and crayons. POCCA, the pelican mascot for the Port, was also part of the Christmas visit.
- The Port also helps some other CCISD campuses and district events, and they have been a sponsor for the CCISD First in Family Graduate Ceremony for the past three years – honoring students who are the very first in their families to earn a high school diploma.
- The Port has done a lot for CCISD students, including me and my friends at Menger Elementary. They remain true to their motto of supporting “Today’s students... tomorrow’s leaders.”
- **On behalf of CCISD and Menger Elementary School, I’d like to present this year’s Financial Support for Achievement Award to the Port of Corpus Christi!**

DR. ROLAND HERNANDEZ

- Thank you, Alyssa ... and thanks to the Port of Corpus Christi for all of your support!
- Now please join me in welcoming Candace Mata from Yeager Elementary School, who will present the next iAchieve award.

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CANDACE MATA – YEAGER ES

- Thank you, Dr. Hernandez.
- My name is Candice Mata and I am proud 5th grade Yeager Tiger!
- I am here to recognize an organization that was started by CCISD high school students and adult volunteers who partnered with several of our schools to help beat youth obesity in our community.
- For the past three years, Mission Fit Possible has been teaching us the importance of good nutrition and exercise. I remember when they came to Yeager to teach. We were all very excited. They entertained us with amazing videos, awesome skits, and very fun games.
- It gets better too! They gave our entire grade level free soccer balls to encourage them to keep active. Our coach also received a donation to buy physical education equipment for our PE program. Soccer became a very popular after school activity at Yeager.
- Mission Fit Possible offers an annual walk / run for students, teachers, and families -- giving our schools a chance to raise money for PE programs. In the first year, our school brought close to 50 participants and received \$3000.00 for much needed PE equipment. We bought roller racers, parachutes, bowling equipment, basketballs, footballs, softball equipment, including bats, balls, bases, tee's, even gloves and much more. We have received donations from this event ever since!
- In the past three years, more than \$50,000 has been given to support PE in CCISD schools – thanks to the work of Mission FitPossible!
- **And today, on behalf of CCISD and Yeager Elementary School, it is my pleasure to present the “Health Partnership and Awareness Award” to Mission Fit Possible!**

DR. ROLAND HERNANDEZ

- Excellent job, Candace, and we thank Mission Fit-Possible for everything you do in our schools.
- And now may I ask Anthony Odvina from Cunningham Middle School to come up and introduce our next award.

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ANTHONY ODVINA – CUNNINGHAM MS

- Thank you Doctor Hernandez. My name is Anthony Odvina. I am a proud 6th grade student at Cunningham Middle School.
- Our school recently participated in the First Lego League Robotics Competition this year in San Antonio ... and I am here to introduce the awesome people who made it all possible.
- The robotics program is helping us to grow in our understanding of science, technology, engineering and math ... and it is introducing us to new possibilities for future jobs. PLUS, we are learning about computer programming, building teamwork, and gaining presentation skills.
- Flint Hills Resources has been committed to adding value to the Corpus Christi community for MANY years. They have contributed thousands of dollars to CCISD schools for lots of different programs and needs ... including a their gift this year to help our campus Robotics program.
- They have been giving 18,000 dollars to the Corpus Christi Education Foundation **EACH YEAR** to award scholarships through the “Flint Hills Resources Outstanding Scholars” program.
- These awards support some of our graduates who are going to college for careers in Science, Technology, Mathematics or Engineering.
- They are not only helping our team at Cunningham, but hundreds of other CCISD students to prepare us for success in high school ... AND as we think about what a college education can do for us.
- **So, on behalf of CCISD and Cunningham Middle School, it is my pleasure to present this “Advocate for Higher Education Award” to the wonderful people who care about MY FUTURE at Flint Hills Resources!**

DR. ROLAND HERNANDEZ

- Thank you, Anthony, and many thanks to our partners from Flint Hills Resources for doing so much to help our students.
- At this time, please welcome Amanda Sloane from Kolda Elementary School, who will make our next presentation.

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AMANDA SLOANE – KOLDA ES

- Thank you, Dr. Hernandez.
- Good afternoon. I am Miss Amanda J. Sloane, a proud Fifth Grade Cadet from Zachary Kolda Elementary.
- Our school is named after a young Marine, Zachary Allan Kolda, who was a true example of the words SERVICE and SACRIFICE.
- Today around the world, Marines protect the freedoms we enjoy here in our country. They serve each of us sitting in this room.
- Join me in giving our MARINES A GREAT BIG SALUTE BY APPLAUDING THEIR SERVICE AND THE ROLE MODELS THEY ARE!
- Being a positive Role Model and an example of Volunteerism are also two very important goals for one of Kolda's Heroes: Mr. Deryle Eubanks.
- Mr. Eubanks volunteers daily in the cafeteria. He decorates for school events like PTA performances, Book Fairs and Freedom Festivals.
- He takes the time, time away from his job and his family, to get to know us. He has a way of finding Cadets who need someone to notice them.
- He is our Kolda PTA President, and is a GREAT role model for Kolda kids and fathers – we even have more Dads joining the PTA!
- Through his example, Mr. Eubanks reminds our DADS that Fathers are a KEY FACTOR in our students' success.
- He has made it his mission to encourage other DADS to be involved with their kids ... and he goes out of his way to help other students who may not have a father.
- Mr. Eubanks is a CHAMPION FOR EDUCATION, making sacrifices and serving without expecting anything in return.

- HE IS ONE OF: “THE FEW, THE PROUD, THE DIFFERENCE MAKERS”
- On behalf of CCISD and ZACHARY KOLDA ELEMENTARY, I’d like to present this year’s ROLE MODEL AND VOLUNTEERISM AWARD to MR. DERYLE EUBANKS!

DR. ROLAND HERNANDEZ

- Thank you, Amanda, and thank you, Mr. Eubanks, for everything you do for CCISD students!
- Now please welcome Roman Mendoza from Webb Elementary, who will make our next award presentation.

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ROMAN MENDOZA – WEBB ES

- Thank you Dr. Hernandez. My name is Roman Mendoza, and I am in the fourth grade at Faye Webb Elementary School.
- Today I have the pleasure of telling you about two amazing people who continue to volunteer at our school ... even though their own children moved on from Webb Elementary years ago!
- Mr. John Garcia and Mr. Cal Martinez are awesome. They help plan our fall festival each year, and spend all night cooking all the meat used in their famous and delicious Bar-B-Que sandwiches.
- They are both members of the Campus Advisory Team, and both are Watch D.O.G.S alumni. They continue to serve as advisors to the committee chair and assist with our annual kickoff nights.
- One year they led a group of Watch D.O.G.S. to beautify our school and redo the landscaping – they are always trying to encourage others to volunteer and partner with our school!
- Every December they help construct our Christmas Village donated by Mrs. Webb’s family...a collection which consists of over 300 pieces.
- They also help with our annual Polar Express event ... they always make the best hot cocoa!
- This school year, one of our beloved teachers fell ill with cancer ... when a fundraiser was planned, Mr. John and Mr. Cal were first to volunteer.
- Their selfless acts help make our school the best it can be ... and they make a difference that has really built a sense of community for us.
- So, on behalf of CCISD and Faye Webb Elementary School, it is my pleasure to present the Advocate for Partnerships Award to Mr. John Garcia and Mr. Cal Martinez!

DR. ROLAND HERNANDEZ – James A. Ragan Leadership Award

- Great job, thank you Roman – and I'd like to thank Mr. Garcia and Mr. Martinez for going 'above and beyond' to serve our students.
- Now, before moving on to the final recognition today, I do have one presentation to make myself.
- There is one i-Achieve award that is meant to recognize a CCISD student who builds partnerships by supporting the community in various ways ... and also works for the benefit of their fellow students.
- This award is very appropriately named the **James A. Ragan Youth Leadership Award** – dedicated to the memory of a former student who really understood what it meant to give back and make a REAL difference in our community.
- Many of you remember or have heard of James Ragan, founder of Triumph Over Kid Cancer; advocate for our community and our young people; and a lasting voice who gave us an example through his life and legacy that we can do **anything** when we work together.
- The Ragan family has made a very generous commitment to provide a scholarship each year to the recipient of the **James A. Ragan Youth Leadership Award**.
- So today, the winner will receive not only the award, but also a scholarship check for \$3,500 from the Ragan family.
- This year's award recipient is a student who, much like James, takes initiative and makes it his personal, everyday priority to help others.

- He is an excellent role model, and is President of the Key Club at his campus.
- He volunteers in a number of ways, from Beach to Bay Clean-Up's to drug awareness festivals, and from Election Day at the County Courthouse to events serving the Special Olympics.
- He has a long-standing commitment to volunteer at Christus Spohn Hospital and the Corpus Christi Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. As a hospital volunteer, he has cleaned ER beds and changed sheets (which is not something you would find a typical teenage boy doing with his free time ... especially on the weekends).
- In his own words, our award recipient has said: "I enjoy visiting the hospital on Saturdays and Sundays to visit the elderly and read to them, play games, sing, pray and make them laugh. I go because I love the feeling that I made a difference in a person's life by giving them some joy and hope."
- Truly, if anyone knows the definition of "hope," it is this young man.
- He had to overcome many obstacles during his young life, including Dyslexia and AD-HD; having a parent with bouts of epilepsy;
- ... residing in a local neighborhood that could often be dangerous;
- ... and enduring the struggles of being homeless.
- Despite these incredible challenges, this young man had a vision for his life that was bigger than his reality.
- He wanted to attend Texas A&M University and study to be doctor so that he could help others ... and he knew it would take fierce determination to get there.

- So ... he applied for a transfer to a school outside of his neighborhood and away from everyone he knew. He joined the AVID college prep program at his high school and worked extremely hard on his grades. Soon he was taking honors and dual credit classes, and has been successful in maintaining a very high GPA.
- Now in his senior year, this young man is in the top 10% of his class, and he has earned admission to the college he always wanted to attend.
- Today he is a mentor and tutor for freshman students in the AVID program. They learn from him and look up to him.
- Together with his fellow students and mentees, they celebrated his achievements as he received acceptance letters to several colleges (including Texas A&M), and when he was honored as a Caller-Times Distinguished Scholar and the recipient of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council Award in 2013.
- **... and today, I would ask that you join me in recognizing a very worthy recipient of the 2015 James A. Ragan Youth Leadership Award – please welcome Jose Puente from W.B. Ray High School!**

<<Award Presentation / Photo>>

- Thank you, José, for your example of service to your fellow students and our community – you make us proud!
- Now, for our final award presentation: **To honor the 2014-2015 iAchieve Partnership of the Year**, please welcome Alezabeth Cadena from Moody High School.

ALEZABETH CADENA – Moody High School

- Thank you, Dr. Hernandez. My name is Alezabeth Cadena and I am a junior at Foy H. Moody High School.
- I am also a proud member of the Citgo Innovation Academy, and let me just tell you, these past three years have been the best years that I could have ever imagined!
- Our Academy is made up of mostly minority students who, by virtue of their socio-economic status, cannot afford to pay for trips and supplies needed to maximize their experiences in the academy. Understanding our needs, CITGO Corpus Christi Refinery makes sure that we receive funding so that we do not miss out on those opportunities.
- CITGO helped fund the first ever district-wide GEMS (which stands for “Girls Engineering Math and Science”) conference last month. This is an event designed to encourage girls in middle school to consider new careers – sending the message that you do not have to be a boy to become an engineer, a mathematician or a scientist.
- They also funded our very popular trip to the University of Texas Marine Science Institute.
- This is one of the highlights of our freshman year. We stayed overnight and then went on a research boat where we learned, hands-on about the complexity in marine life – it was an awesome experience!
- I am also really involved with our MATE competition for Underwater Robotics!
- Last year CITGO helped fund the MATE competition ... and our Innovation Academy won at the state level, and went on to represent Texas in the International competition in Michigan!

- This year, I am a very proud, female member of the Aquabot Technicians, a team that just competed in the ranger level at NASA's buoyancy lab – and guess who helped fund this opportunity?
- Yes indeed, it was our friends at CITGO Refinery!
- CITGO is truly “fueling good” in our community through our Academy, and also through thousands of dollars in donations to help other CCISD campuses and students.
- Since 2012, they have also awarded CITGO First in Family Scholarships at the school district's annual ‘First in Family Graduate Ceremony,’ hosted by the Corpus Christi Education Foundation.
- It's not just about the monetary donations, though – it's about the overwhelming support they provide as advocates for education. CITGO believes in us, and they are helping us realize our full potential to lead and to serve ... one day, I hope to follow their examples and do the same.
- **Now on behalf Of CCISD and the Foy H. Moody High School CITGO Innovation Academy, I'd like to present this year's award to some business partners who TRULY GO ABOVE AND BEYOND for our students – the good people at CITGO Corpus Christi Refinery!**

12:50 – Closing Remarks

Dr. Roland Hernandez

- Thank you, Alezabeth, and many thanks to our friends at **CITGO** for your incredible, ongoing commitment to CCISD teachers and students.
- We are extremely fortunate to have all of you, and many more outstanding partners, supporting education in our community.
- I want to thank all our students for sharing their experiences with us and presenting this year's awards. Each of you did an outstanding job, and you represented the entire District very well today.
- Students: **Please stand** and let us thank you with a round of applause.
- Each one of you here today — students included — have a vital role in our district, and **you** are all very important to the education of our children, and the future of our community.
- We appreciate this opportunity to tell you how important you are to CCISD.
- Thank you again, and enjoy the rest of your week. We are adjourned.

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