

## **Board Recognition**

### **Oct. 22, 2024**

#### **Nineteen Denton ISD Students Place in Top 5 at Educators Rising National Conference & Competition**

Nineteen Denton ISD students from seven different campuses placed in the top five at the Educators Rising National Conference & Competition – a nationwide event consisting of middle school and high school students.

Students qualified for the national event by participating in the Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE) state competitions and contests. The top 10 from each category at the state level can advance to nationals.

Denton ISD had 33 students place in the top 10 at the state level and 23 qualified for nationals – the most of any school district in Texas.

For students who entered in contests, state is the highest level. The difference between a competition and contest is students who enter in competitions are judged against their peers.

Students enter into contests and competitions by working on projects related to their events. These projects are then scored by a panel of judges. Categories range from goal setting to professional development and job interview.

TAFE is a co-curricular statewide non-profit (501-c3) student organization created to allow young men and women an opportunity to explore the teaching profession. The organization was created in 1984 to provide the best and brightest high school and middle school students in Texas with the necessary knowledge to make informed decisions about pursuing careers in education.

TAFE is sponsored by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals and is governed by a board of directors composed of teachers, students and principals.

Denton ISD students who placed in the top 5 nationally include:

#### **Rodriguez Middle School**

Preston Green – 2nd place in Public Speaking

Payton Rubel – 2nd place in Educators Rising Moment

Elyxa Boughn – 3rd place in Educators Rising Moment

### **Myers Middle School**

Aubrey Stevens – 3rd place in Teach Created Materials

Addie Trammel & Isabella Snyder – 2nd place in Children’s Literature for K-3rd grade

Brooklyn Causey – 3rd place in Children’s Literature for Pre-K

### **Crownover Middle School**

Chimdike Okere & Abigail Moore – 3rd place in Children’s Literature for K-3rd grade

Emilee Hurst & Ava Adair – 4th place in Children’s Literature for K-3rd grade

D’asia Fuqua-Smith – 1st place in Exploring Education Administration Careers

Addi Atkins – 1st place in Exploring Non-Core Teaching Careers

### **Ryan High School**

Shelby Hartman – 3rd place in Children’s Literature for K-3rd grade

### **Guyer High School**

Mia Allgood & Jerry Yang – 4th place in Project Visualize Service

### **Braswell High School**

Payton Glutsch – 2nd place in Teacher Created Materials

### **LaGrone Academy**

Sophia Montelongo & Jade Langford – 3rd place in Interactive Bulletin Board for secondary science

*The Rodriguez Middle School TAFE educator is Jennie Andrews; the Myers Middle School TAFE educator is Leslie Cantu; the Crownover Middle School TAFE educator is Diana Edwards; the Ryan High TAFE educator is Misty Blagg; the Guyer High TAFE educator is Ashley Hamilton; the Braswell High TAFE educator is Jeanne Hicks; the LaGrone Academy TAFE educator is Staci Eby.*

### **Community Spotlight**

#### **Total Care ER Recognized for Work with Denton ISD**

Each year, the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) honors businesses, organizations and individuals for their support and exceptional advocacy of public schools. This statewide honor, as part of “Stand Up for Texas Public Schools,” recognizes local businesses and community organizations that partner with school districts, making a difference in the lives of public-school students.

As a long time Adopt-A-School Partner, Total Care ER remains devoted to the cause of supporting the students and staff at Denton ISD. Their team of volunteers has repeatedly donated their service at our Back-to-School Fairs, and they consistently support the Denton ISD community, most recently with their participation at last week's Rededication Celebration for Calhoun Middle School and Newton Rayzor Elementary.

In addition to their service, Total Care is a staunch advocate for providing monetary support where it is needed most. This year, they are donating a total of \$5,000 to be split equally among five of our Title 1 elementary P.E. programs across the district.

The five \$1,000 donations will be used to update P.E. equipment to help promote a healthy and active lifestyle for our students. Two of the P.E. programs who have received their donations are here tonight, Rivera and Alexander Elementary.

For the unique way Total Care has assisted our district, and for going above and beyond to assist our students and staff, we wish to thank Total Care for their continued support.

*Dion Lampe and Raven Vincent will be in attendance to receive this recognition.*

### **Board Spotlight**

#### **LaGrone Academy Teacher Part of Grand Champion-Winning Team at Food Truck Championship of Texas**

Earlier this year, Gabby Sanchez, who serves as the culinary arts instructor at the LaGrone Academy, helped the Denton-based food truck *Insurgent* win the Grand Championship at the Food Truck Championship of Texas.

Ms. Sanchez competed in the contest along with her fiance, Sam Lopez, who is the chef and co-owner, and sous chef Alec Sanders. The team placed first out of nearly 40 food trucks, taking home a \$10,000 prize.

Their dish was a shaved prime rib sandwich, which consisted of prime rib on a toasted brioche bun with garlic butter, buttermilk dressing and red wine-braised cabbage and onions.

*Ms. Gabby Sanchez will be in attendance to receive this recognition. The principal of the LaGrone Academy is Marcus Bourland.*