

## **September Heart at Work Winner**

Keller ISD's Heart at Work Employee of the Month for September 2024 is **Kate Marks, STACC Teacher at Bluebonnet Elementary School**. Kate was nominated by Jessica Caceres, Kindergarten Teacher, who shared the following:

*"In past years Kate was an aid in the upper elementary STAARS classroom. Last year when we needed someone to take our Friday Video announcements under their wing, she volunteered and has done an amazing job. It's so great for students to see their peers on the announcements and wonderful to have the upper elementary kids be part of the production process/News Team with Kate's guidance. This is now her first year with a STACC classroom of her own and she has continued to work on the Friday announcements and was even able to have them start the very first Friday of the year! We are so thankful for her help and dedication all while starting her new role on our campus. She is amazing!"*

## **Staff Recognitions presented by KISD Human Resources**

The HR Hero Award honors the outstanding contributions of a campus, district, or department administrator, who demonstrates exceptional collaboration skills, flexibility in the face of challenges, and kindness even in the toughest situations. These remarkable individuals not only excel in their administrative roles but also inspire positive workplace interactions.

**This month's HR Hero Award is presented to Rachel Watson.**

The Substitute Spotlight program acknowledges substitute teachers who are dedicated, dependable, and provide a positive educational experience for KISD students. The KISD Human Resources Department honors one to two substitutes each week for the Substitute Spotlight, and once a month, a winner is drawn from those honorees.

**This month's Substitute Spotlight is presented to Liz Rasmussen.**

## **Keller ISD Star Educator Award Winner**

The Star Educator Award is being presented to **Hidden Lakes Pre-K Teacher, Kristen O'Quinn**. She was nominated by HLES Counselor, Lindi Lambert, who said:

*"Mrs. O'Quinn sets the foundation for innovative learning with her students. Showing us that 4-year-olds can create and explore with hands on real life engaging experiences in her class. This class style sets the foundation for complex thinking, problem solving skills, as well as teaching the students they can run a classroom community where everyone's contribution is valuable. Mrs. O'Quinn thinks ahead and implements social and behavioral interventions that are always tailored to exactly what each individual student needs to be successful. You never know what adventure you might encounter in her class whether it be entering a rocket ship the students built, taking a ride on the train they assembled, or checking to see if they have left you any mail in the staff mailbox they created. The love for learning in her classroom is contagious!"*

## **College Board National Recognition Program Scholars (FRHS, TCHS and KCA)**

Over 200 Keller ISD students were awarded in the College Board's National Recognition Program, which creates pathways to college for underrepresented students by awarding them academic honors and connecting them with universities across the country. This year, in addition to recognizing the academic achievements of Hispanic, African American, Indigenous, and/or Rural/Small Town students, the College Board extended the value of its program by adding a fifth award category that will help clear a path for more even students nationwide: the First-Generation Recognition Scholar. The College Board National Recognition Programs award academic honors to students who take eligible administrations of AP®,

PSAT/NMSQT® or PSAT™ 10 exams and score in the top 10% of test takers from their award program in their state, have a GPA of 3.3 or higher, and identify as African American, Hispanic, Indigenous, attend high school in a rural area or small town, and/or are a first-generation college student. The program grants academic honors that can be included on college and scholarship applications. Colleges use these honors to identify students from underrepresented groups who have excelled on tests/exams and in their classrooms. Although the recognition does not award a scholarship, it is considered a prestigious honor that helps colleges and universities identify academically exceptional students.

Tonight, we will honor students from Fossil Ridge High School, Timber Creek High School, and the Keller Collegiate Academy. Students from Central High School and Keller High School will join us at the October 24 Board Meeting. Congratulations to the following students:

### **Fossil Ridge High School**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>National Recognition Received</b>
Paula	Achingale	National African American
Barak	Ackermann	National First-Generation
Anas	Amrohvi	National First-Generation
Ikechukwu	Anicho	National African American
Jadrix	Ballinger	National First-Generation
Khushi	Baral	National First-Generation
Florencia	Boldt	National Hispanic
Genesis	Carter	National African American
John	Corley	National First-Generation
Bryson	Cristiano	National Indigenous, Hispanic, and African American
Tram	Dang	National First-Generation
David	Do	National First-Generation
Daniel	Duong	National First-Generation
Aldo	Espino	National First-Generation and Hispanic
Dominique	Fantroy	National African American
Samantha	Fisher	National Indigenous and African American
Tatum	Flemming	National African American
Aubry	Gaskill	National First-Generation
Othmar	Gispert-Pena	National Hispanic
Cesar	Gonzalez Ayala	National Hispanic
Jake	Harden	National First-Generation
Mary	Hnem	National First-Generation
Isabelle	Hurst	National First-Generation and Indigenous
Kamiya	Jackson	National First-Generation
Keiana	Jerry	National African American
Jayden	Johnston	National First-Generation
Brian	Juarez Garcia	National First-Generation and Hispanic
Sally	Kemokai	National African American
Andre	LaPointe	National Hispanic
Katherine	Lam	National First-Generation

Ashley	Lam	National First-Generation
Lilliana	Landeros	National Hispanic
Kingston	LeDoux	National Hispanic
Isabella	Lipscomb	National First-Generation
Sophia	Lofton	National First-Generation
Kent	Lok	National First-Generation
Dallas	Long	National Hispanic
Alejandro	Lopez	National First-Generation and Hispanic
Ella	Luhrssen	National First-Generation
Evelyn	Lydick	National Indigenous
Jeannie	Mai	National First-Generation
Savio	Mang	National First-Generation
Renee	Mendoza	National First-Generation and Hispanic
Miles	Miller	National First-Generation
Leslie	Mutambaie	National Hispanic and African American
Alessandra	Perez	National Hispanic
Truc	Pham	National First-Generation
Jordan	Phanthamany	National First-Generation
Kamryn	Potter	National First-Generation
Lila	Quintero	National First-Generation and Hispanic
Deebob	Rai	National First-Generation
Izabella	Reyes	National First-Generation and Hispanic
Aiden	Rivera	National First-Generation and Hispanic
Ethan	Roach	National First-Generation
Ava	Roberts	National First-Generation, Hispanic, and Indigenous
Marc	Sanchez	National First-Generation and Hispanic
Yaritza	Santiago	National First-Generation, Hispanic, and African American
Valeria	Tamayo	National Hispanic
Ryan	Thai	National First-Generation
Andrea	Tovar	National Indigenous
Crystal	Tran	National First-Generation
Uyen	Tran	National First-Generation
Thy	Vu	National First-Generation
Peter	Vuong	National First-Generation

### Timber Creek High School

First Name	Last Name	National Recognition Received
George	Bakradze	National Hispanic
Raegan	Blake	National First-Generation and African American
Luke	Bowen	National Indigenous
Arrenia	Brown	National African American
Amelia	Cabreja	National African American

Megan	Calhoun	National First-Generation
Alexandria	Chancellor	National Hispanic
Ammon	Cruz	National Hispanic
Julie	Duong	National First-Generation
Wyatt	Erlanson	National Hispanic
Rebekah	Fleitas	National Hispanic
Abraham	Garabete	National Hispanic
Yabesira	Geremew	National First-Generation and African American
Caila	Green	National African American
Daniel	Guardado	National Hispanic
Chau	Ha	National First-Generation
Chase	Harden	National African American
Brooke	Harris	National African American
Melody	Hernandez	National Hispanic
Payton	Hoston	National First-Generation and African American
Kylee	Hunt	National African American
Jessie	Key	National First-Generation and African American
Grace	Kjellsen	National First-Generation
Caden	Martinez	National Hispanic
Mark	Miako	National African American
Eliana	Ortiz	National Hispanic
Sofia	Puerto	National First-Generation and Hispanic
Daniel	Quiroz	National Hispanic
Alena	Robalino	National First-Generation and Hispanic
Miles	Rock	National African American
Taylor	Silvestri	National First-Generation
Kendall	Splawn	National First-Generation
Zyla	Stack	National First-Generation and Hispanic
Evan	Swindell	National First-Generation
Colton	Thorpe	National Indigenous
Penelope	Venegas	National Hispanic

### Keller Collegiate Academy

First Name	Last Name	National Recognition Received
Rana	Abbas	National First-Generation and African American
Lila	Ateya	National First-Generation and African American
Eric	Avalos	National First-Generation and Hispanic
Jose	Baquera	National First-Generation
Marwa	Barriz	National First-Generation and African American
Corben	Gullinese	National Hispanic
Keira	Kaminski	National Hispanic
Trang-Dai	Le	National First-Generation

Ethan	Mack	National First-Generation and Hispanic
Jonathan	Martinez	National Hispanic
Pelle	Mazibuko	National African American
Cadence	McClean	National Indigenous
Makenna	McIntyre	National Indigenous
Christopher	Nanevie	National African American
Cameli	Negron-Nieves	National Hispanic
Jaycob	Nguyen	National First-Generation
Chad	Nguyen	National First-Generation
Christine	Phan-Nguyen	National First-Generation
Sophie	Prieto	National First-Generation and Hispanic
Eliana	Tarin	National Hispanic
Sofia	Thoreson	National Hispanic
Yemaj	Ussuf	National First-Generation and African American
Bailey	White	National First-Generation