



# PRESS RELEASE

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**TISD AWARDED EXEMPLAR GRANT FOR SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES**

**Texarkana, TX** – Texas High School Project (THSP) and Communities Foundation of Texas (CFT) have selected Texarkana Independent School District (TISD) as one of four recipients in the state for a 2010 Exemplar Grant in the amount of \$51,000.

The purpose of the Exemplar Program for Successful Practices is to identify and promote secondary schools, universities and nonprofits with exceptional programs providing innovative instruction and leadership to enhance college readiness, career and technology education, and professional development designed to serve high-need students including low-income, high minority, Limited English Proficient (LEP) and special education populations.

“From specialized math and science education to leadership programs to pre-college centers, these schools are leading the charge in producing students who are ready to face the challenges and opportunities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century,” said John Fitzpatrick, Executive Director of THSP at the Communities Foundation of Texas.

According to THSP, “Texarkana ISD, in partnership with Texas A&M University – Texarkana, has utilized the STEM professional development model to train more than 200 teachers and administrators. Our objective is to see that the District has the opportunity for every teacher and administrator to benefit from the P-16 professional development model.”

“TISD will use these grant funds to strengthen the technology component of our P-16 STEM training, visit STEM models throughout the nation in order to learn from the best and the brightest and to host workshops through which we share our P-16 STEM model with STEM academies throughout the state of Texas,” stated James Henry Russell, Superintendent of Schools. “We are committed to empowering TISD educators with the tools needed to transform teaching and learning methods for the new century. In doing so, we build on state and local efforts to improve mathematics and science achievement among all students and focus on increasing the number of students who study and enter science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers.”

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This is the second grant awarded to TISD through the Texas High School Project. In January 2009, TISD received an \$840,000 grant for the purposes of developing STEM academies for students in grades 7 and 9 during the 2009-10 school year, grades 8 and 10 during the 2010-11 academic year, grades 6 and 11 during 2011-12 and grade 12 during the 2012-13 school year.

Communities Foundation of Texas administers the grant funds, which were provided by the Texas Education Agency, U.S. Department of Education, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Mike & Susan Dell Foundation and National Instruments. Through these grants, schools are able to provide detailed information about the formation, implementation, funding and process for replicating their respective exemplar programs so that they can be easily understood by and accessible to other schools and non-profit organizations. In addition, grant funded schools develop the capacity to host and educate visitors who want to learn about the featured program. Funds have helped selected organizations to expand the scope or depth of their respective programs to foster an atmosphere of continual growth and adapt to fit students' changing needs.

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