



Woodrow Wilson High School Community Foundation

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Woodrow Wilson High School Community Foundation

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WOODROW WILSON HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION CELEBRATES GROWTH, ACCOMPLISHMENTS

For Immediate Release

Dallas, Texas. August 21, 2012. The Woodrow Wilson High School Community Foundation is celebrating its third full year of operation and service. Established in 2009 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the IRS, the Foundation has grown from a handful of committed community members to a full-functioning organization with programs that support public education at the high school level and far beyond.

Richard H. Vitale, founding president, says, "With each passing month, we are gaining visibility as well as financial and other types of support. This past year has been one of great growth and accomplishment."

Here are some of the highlights of the year 2011-2012:

- **The Foundation facilitated an agreement between Woodrow and Texas A&M University-Commerce (TAMU-C).** The University agreed to provide Woodrow students with innovative opportunities for college preparation as well as priority consideration and financial assistance for its Honors College and Regents Scholar Program. In June, 11 Woodrow seniors attended a Leadership Camp on the Commerce campus. Altogether, 63 Woodrow students applied to TAMU-C for the fall of 2012 and 28 were accepted. This compares to 12 applicants and four acceptances in 2011.
- **The Foundation disbursed funds for innovative programs** at the high school, including funds from the Ann Jacobus Folz Fund for IB Financial Assistance to 15 students.
- **The Foundation's Needs Assessment Advisory Committee identified and has begun to collaborate with 10 educational organizations** that can provide programs for intervention and/or prevention strategies for schools in the feeder pattern. The organizations include: The Concilio, HIPPY, Reading Partners, Reasoning Mind, Leaders in Science, AVID, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Teach For America, and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.
- **The Foundation awarded 11 outstanding seniors with 12 scholarships totaling \$18,000** during a reception on hosted by Veritex Community Bank on May 7.

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- **The Foundation extended Business Partnerships** to include local retailers and other organizations that have demonstrated their commitment to the Woodrow Foundation and to public education through direct donations as well as through fundraising events. These include: Lovers Pizza, TCBY, Fuzzy's Tacos, Burger House on Mockingbird, Legal Grounds, Veritex Community Bank, WKA Architects – Gerry Worrall, Norman Alston Architects, Teach for America, YMCA at White Rock, La Popular Tamale House, and School of Rock.
- **In the last year, the Foundation has tripled the number of Cornerstone donors** who commit to monthly donations of at least \$25. In addition, hundreds of donors responding to our press coverage, special events, our website presence, and personal appeals have made one-time donations.
- **The Foundation was honored to have several individuals and organizations establish memorial, scholarship, and other funds** with us. To date, We have been entrusted with 37 funds, including 18 College Scholarship Funds, International Baccalaureate funds supporting Woodrow and J.L. Long; Friends of Stonewall, Lakewood, Lee, Lipscomb and J.L. Long; and several memorial funds honoring beloved Wildcats.
- **The Foundation is extremely proud of the expansion of the board of directors.** In the past 12 months, the board has added 10 members: Patricia Arvanitis, Bruce Bradford, Heather Brooks, Alise Cortez, Charles Glover, Kenneth Sheets, Derek Smith, Leigh Straughn, Tanner Vick, and Lon R. Williams. They join the original board of directors, including Gary Griffith, Paul Dalton, Emily Martin, Susan Schuerger, and Richard H. Vitale, as well as other long-time members, Michael Morath and Jason Kulas. Each of our directors has brought unique and invaluable expertise and energy to our hard-working, hands-on board.

Vitale further reflects, “When we first started the Woodrow Wilson High School Community Foundation, we dreamed of engaging the community in identifying, funding and supporting programs and other ways of achieving educational excellence at Woodrow and all the public schools in its feeder pattern. The growth and accomplishments of this past year show that our dream is becoming a reality.”

Vitale notes, too, that the Foundation’s administrative expenses have been less than one-half of 1 percent of revenues.

He concludes, “Our Foundation and our schools are deeply grateful to all who have been a part of this year’s success: our board of directors, our various advisors, our generous donors, our business and associational partners, and of course the administrators, educators, students and families at the schools we serve.”

The Woodrow Wilson High School Community Foundation was created in 2009 and serves as a central point for fundraising, grants, scholarships, and other programs and projects that benefit Woodrow as well as the public middle and elementary schools in its feeder pattern. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization registered with the Internal Revenue Service and is completely independent of the Dallas Independent School District.

For more information about Woodrow Wilson High School, contact Principal Kyle Richardson at 972-502-4400. For information about the Woodrow Wilson High School Community Foundation, contact Richard H. Vitale at 214-702-1242.

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