

November 27, 2018 Update

EDUCATION

1. Since all the targeted schools Met Standard under the August 2018 TEA accountability ratings except for Yates High School that had a waiver due to hurricane Harvey, the COE and the BOV Task Force discussed the GOALS for the coming years. There was consensus that working with partners the Third Ward Schools Initiative led by COE should:

- **Maintain** a TEA 2019 rating of Met Standard (MS) in the Cullen Middle school and the four targeted elementary schools
- **Elevate** the TEA rating of Yates High School to Met Standard in 2019
- **Improve** the Achievement domain scores for all six targeted schools to 60

2. CULLEN Middle School meeting with Principal

On November 12th Board of Visitors (BOV) Task Force representatives, Wayne Lockett (Pres.) and Jevaugh Sterling along with UH representatives Dr. Jonathan Schwartz (COE), Dr. Anne McClellan (COE) and Dr. Elwyn Lee met with the new principal of Cullen: Ms. Jacqueline Thompson. She identified her challenges as:

- No Parent Teacher's Organization (PTO)
- Academic Struggles 6-8th grade reading deficiencies; 7th grade writing; and 6th grader math.
- Need for more Social Engagement
- Reduced Enrollment due to students leaving for charter schools such as Yellowstone, KIPP, Yes Prep, A+ UP, and the Lawson Academy. Enrollment is at 357, but she fears that it could dip below 350. Each lost reduces her budget and makes being successful harder.

After discussion Dr. McClellan detailed possible UH contributions:

- Five hundred hours of tutoring in collaboration with Dr. Davis, HISD's Asst. Superintendent for Equity and Outreach.
- A full time social worker at Cullen paid via a Meninger Grant; that person starts before December. 0
- Continued mentoring of 80 students under the guidance of COE professor Sara Jones
- Professional Development and training for the Cullen faculty and staff
- Field trip and financial literacy coordinated by Jevaugh Sterling of AMEGY bank.
- Students to act as reading pals starting in the spring 2019 semester
- Possible volunteer help with obtaining khaki pants and other uniform parts

3. YATES High School Meeting with Principal

On November 16th BOV Task Force representatives Wayne Lockett and Helen Shaffer joined Anne McClellan, Jonathan Schwartz and Elwyn Lee in a meeting at YATES with new principal Tiffany Guillory and two members of her staff. Principal Guillory described challenges as:

- Deficient reading skills
- Low parental involvement
- Weekend mentoring program for girls

After discussion the following assistance from UH was identified:

- Cougar Tutors supervised by the ACE Director, Ms. Farard. These tutors are trained and paid \$22 an hour. Tutors are supplied in part by the UH Urban Experience Program which has grant money to pay students.
- Continuation of weekly tutoring by BAUER student organization ENACTUS
- Assistance organizing the PTO
- Collaboration on a career development event
- Faculty and staff professional leadership training



Ascending to Men (ATM) – HISD has launched this large mentoring program for minority HISD males with a goal of involving 300 young men. The launch has suffered a setback due to the fact that the grant funds ATM was counting on have been designated for HISD as a whole, and not for ATM exclusively as promised. Therefore, to implement all of the plans funds will have to be raised. Dr. Lee is a member of the ATM Advisory Committee that is close of finalizing the ATM curriculum.

HEALTH

1. TOUCH diabetes project

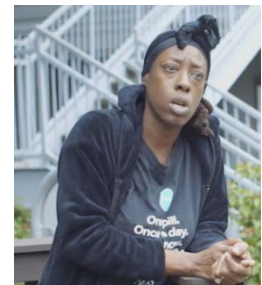
Despite expanding into the East End TOUCH continues to provide and expand diabetes prevention services in Third Ward. Two more prevention classes in Third Ward were started in October. The classes are provided through a partnership with the YMCA Diabetes Prevention Program. About 2600 people engaged in TOUCH in one way or another.

2. College of Medicine Issues

Dr. David Buck, the new UH Community Outreach Doctor for the UH College of Medicine has secured commitments from two community leaders who have agreed to help identify families for medical students to partner with. Work on the orientation materials for future students continues.

3. Third Ward Cleanup – In partnership with Third Ward Clean Up dozens of UH volunteers—students, faculty and staff joined other Third Ward organization to conduct several clean up events during 2018. Dr. Jerry Evans of the College of Technology coordinated the UH volunteers who focused on cleaning up around Blackshear because flowers, trees and beautiful surroundings enhance positive psychological states of mind conducive to learning. Recently that initiative received recognition from the Mayor’s office.

5. Community Health Workers – Dr. Dan Price of the Honors College has trained students from the UH Honors College and residents of the Cuney Homes to be community health workers. With grant funding he pays the CHWs \$15 an hour to use the knowledge and skills they have learned. They have worked in HISD schools to assist nurses with vision screening. Additionally, they have educated residents about diabetes, HIV prevention, and asthma prevention. **On November 30 this CHW program will receive an award from The Houston AIDS Foundation.**



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

1. The SURE Program

The weekly SURE sessions are moving along. Almost all of the 130 prospective entrepreneurs are still attending. This is certainly true for 20 Third Ward affiliated participants who remain enthusiastic.

2. Houston Anchor Collaborative (HAC)

Scheduling conflicts have kept the Leadership Team from meeting. In addition, the major community partner, the EEDC has been restructuring as a non-profit with a board and a new paid Executive Director.

3. Cooperative Construction Company - Thanks to the College of Technology two members of the EEDC’s Cooperative Construction Company are auditing an online construction management course this fall.

ART and CULTURE

1. KGMCA – PRH Fellowship

a. Current Fellows Regina Agu and Eyakem Gulilat will present their research on November 27th at 7 pm. in FA 110. Agu's talk is a multimedia performative lecture on Emancipation Park. Gulilat's talk is an investigation of "informal urbanism" where community members are creating spaces of empowerment outside of traditional systems.

b. Over 60 individuals applied for the 2019 Fellowships. Half of the applications are from out-of-state with 3 international applications. Sixto Wagan (UH CASE) and Ryan Dennis of Project Row Houses (PRH) will announce the new fellows in late December.

2. Arts Mile and Rick Lowe – Professor Lowe and his students are exploring the possibilities of activating the area between Holman and Elgin from Emancipation Avenue to Scott Street with public and creative activity. Implementation of the ideas may begin in the spring.

3. Third Ward Public Art Map--CASE is working the Third Ward Community Cloth to develop a public art and cultural asset map. Mike Guidrey has identified the featured works from UH Public Art to be included. Estimated completion has been pushed back past January. Below are examples of recent new public art in Third Ward. One is a mural of former tennis great Zina Garrison at MacGregor Park. The other is a wall along the Columbia Tapp bike trail near Blodgett honoring social justice activists. The work was paid for by Commissioner Rodney Ellis.



4. Bridge Celebration – The Houston Parks Board has asked NSI to help with planning a festive celebration for the opening of the new pedestrian bridge connecting both sides of the bayou at Wheeler and MLK. The KMGCA will participate in this planning along with other parts of the campus.

5. Juneteenth 2019 – Several Third Ward groups are coming together to make next year's Juneteenth celebration a huge event. Committees are being formed and NSI hopes to secure UH representation.

Elwyn Lee, Vice President for Neighborhood & Strategic Initiatives