



# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

March/April 2021

## Empowering the Future



### Women's Empowerment Summit

On March 3 and 4, Waco ISD partnered with the Junior League of Waco to host the Women's Empowerment Summit, which was themed "Becoming." Secondary students participated via Zoom. The event speaker emphasized the importance of valuing one's own self, embracing individuality and staying true to yourself.



### Men's Empowerment Summit

Baylor University's Community Relations-Cultural Wealth Department hosted the Men's Empowerment Summit on March 17. Secondary students joined the virtual summit, which was themed "A Tie that Binds." Each gentleman received a tie to symbolize the importance of building strong ties to succeed.

## Classroom Close-Ups



Baylor PDS



Tarleton PDS



McLennan Community College

Does social distancing have you feeling out of touch? Check out our video series, Classroom Close-Ups! Above are just a few examples of how the community makes such an impact in our classrooms, even during these distant times. Click [HERE](#) for more videos!

## Message from the School Board President

Dear Waco ISD Community,



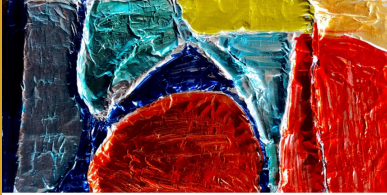
March offered a number of opportunities for our students to interact with some wonderful community partners.

**Empowerment Summit Success**

The Junior League of Waco and Baylor University hosted the Women’s and Men’s Empowerment Summits, respectively. I am thankful for these strong partnerships that continue supporting our students and staff.

**Vaccination Clinics**

These kinds of collaborations have become even more essential during this pandemic, particularly with the mobilized efforts to get local educators vaccinated. Most recently, area school districts, the City of Waco, McLennan County, Waco-McLennan County Public Health District and Ascension Providence worked collaboratively to provide 1,500 COVID-19 vaccinations to area school employees during a clinic held March 11-13. In addition, H-E-B provided local school employees the opportunity to get vaccinated.



**Stimulus Funds and Public Education**

I want to acknowledge advocates like [Raise Your Hand Texas](#), a group working to ensure that federal funds intended for public schools reach those schools. Our total COVID-19 expenditures since last March was just under \$7.5 million. We received just under \$6.7 million in federal funds tied to the CARES Act; however we effectively only received \$1.9 million of that \$6.7 million because the Texas reduced its share of our funding. I am hopeful the State will allocate the approximately \$72 million in new stimulus funding to Waco ISD.



**Community Advisory Committee**

I continue to be impressed with the engagement in our long-range facilities planning meetings, particularly the community support of Waco ISD's educational vision to grow students and staff to **create a better future for all**. There is a strong sense of momentum around the work we’re doing to increase student achievement and how improving facilities aligns well with that vision. At our upcoming meeting next Monday, we will focus on elementary facilities needs.

Sincerely,

**Angela Tekell**

Waco ISD Board of Trustees President



## Outstanding Community Partners

Each month, we recognize a community partner making a difference with the Waco ISD Award for Outstanding Community Partners. Thank you for the continued support!



March - City of Waco

## Growing Together



Since January, the Waco ISD Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and WISD staff have met publicly to study the District's facilities needs and provide input into the development of a 10-15-year strategic plan for facilities improvements, known as a Facilities Long-Range Master Plan.

To learn more about the CAC and see presentations and recordings of previous meetings, please visit [wacoisd.org/LongRangePlanning](http://wacoisd.org/LongRangePlanning).

## Message from the Superintendent

Dear Waco ISD Community,

With regional-qualifying performers, state-bound artists and a Dell Scholar finalist, Waco ISD students are continuing to excel this spring!

For the first time in the school's history, University High School has advanced to the regional round of the state one-act-play competition. Their performance of "The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek" was a big hit, with students receiving awards for all star cast, best performer and all star technician. I can't wait to watch their performance at the Region contest on April 14.

Another group advancing to regionals is the Waco High School UIL Academic team. Students will participate in categories such as informative speaking, poetry and prose interpretations, and writing.

Even more students will be representing Waco ISD in a big way as they prepare for upcoming state competitions for Texas History Day and the Central Texas Science and Engineering Fair.

Fine Arts success keeps coming as members of choir and band at both Waco High and University High have solo & ensemble state qualifiers. Also, two high school students are advancing to the state Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE) after their recent region competition victory. And for the third year in a row, Waco ISD students had their work selected for display in the Youth Art Month State Capitol Artwork Exhibit in Austin. I'm very proud of University High School's Brenda Hernandez-Sanchez and Cesar Chavez Middle School's Natalie Rodriguez for representing us.

Also, I am delighted to share that University High School senior Darryl Thomas was named a 2021 Dell Scholar. Since starting the program in 2004, the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation has supported thousands of students with a \$20,000 scholarship, a laptop and textbook credits. What I love best about the program is how it nurtures and empowers students on their path to a college degree.

And speaking of empowering and valuing students, we're now hiring for the 2021-2022 school year. I hope you will help us spread the word about our upcoming Virtual Job Fair on April 10. Teacher candidates will have an opportunity to meet and chat with our principals. Prospective candidates should register prior to the event at [wacoisd.org/jobfair](http://wacoisd.org/jobfair).

Sincerely,

**Dr. Susan Kincannon**  
Waco ISD Superintendent

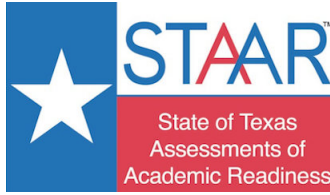


# Calendar Updates

We know that sometimes our community plans around the district calendar. That is why we always want to keep you updated!



On March 25, the Board of Trustees approved the 2021-2022 instructional calendar. An English and Spanish version is available [HERE](#).



STAAR and EOC Testing will take place during the months of April and May this year. For more information testing and schedules click [HERE](#).



Graduations this year will once again take place at the WISD Stadium. Waco High's evening ceremony will be on June 11 while University's evening ceremony will be on June 12.

For the most up-to-date information on schedules and events, visit our district calendar page [HERE](#).

## Prekindergarten Roundup Fun Fest



Waco ISD's Early Childhood department is hosting the annual Pre-K Roundup Fun Fest where parents and guardians can register children for prekindergarten for the 2021-22 school year. Visit [wacoisd.org/PreK](http://wacoisd.org/PreK) or call our Pre-K Hotline at 254-799-0035 to learn more about the benefits of early childhood education. And we'd love for you to share these informational flyers within your organizations and to families in our community.

[Pre-K Roundup English Flyer](#)

[Pre-K Roundup Spanish Flyer](#)

## Student Success

### Top of TEAM

The Texas Art Education Association hosts the annual Texas Elementary Art Meet (TEAM), a visual arts event recognizing exemplary elementary student artwork. Eleven of Waco ISD's elementary campuses competed this year, with Waco ISD submitting the highest number of entries at the regional level and earning a total of 69 gold medals and five ribbons. Additionally, the following Waco ISD students earned the designation of "Top of TEAM," the TEAM equivalent to qualifying for state, given to works in the top 10% of entries submitted.



Enjoy the artwork recognized by TEAM within the letters above.

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## 2021 Dell Scholar Program



Dell Scholars is a scholarship and college-completion program that has assisted thousands of students. In January 2021, two Waco ISD seniors were announced as semi-finalists for this prestigious honor, and in March, one of these semi-finalists was surprised with the good news of being named a 2021 Dell Scholar. We are incredibly proud of both students!

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## University High School One Act Advances to Region



For the first time in the school's history, University High School has advanced to the regional round of the state one-act-play competition. They are scheduled to perform at 1 p.m. on April 14 at Prosper Rock Hill High School in Frisco.

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## Texas Youth Art Month State Capitol Artwork Exhibit

The Texas Art Education Association recognizes March as Youth Art Month, and each year, districts across the state are invited to submit artwork made by pre-kindergarten through 12th grade student artists to be selected for exhibition in the Youth Art Month State Capitol Artwork Exhibit in Austin. The 2021 exhibit, which features student art from more than 60 school districts, was on display March 7-27 at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. This is the third year in a row that Waco ISD students have had their work selected for this honor!



Natalie Rodriguez, Grade 8  
Cesar Chavez Middle School



Brenda Hernandez-Sanchez, Grade 12  
University High School

## State Qualifiers

Click on the images below to see more state qualifiers representing Waco ISD

### UIL REGION 8 SOLO & ENSEMBLE *State Qualifiers*

<b>SAXOPHONE QUARTET</b> Jacob Dunn (9) Emmanuel Olguin (9) Archie Hatten V (10) Javier Alvarado (12)	<b>MARIACHI</b> Alejandro Vazquez-Olguin (11) Jhony Vivanco-Rodriguez (11) Cierra Walker (11) Nubia Arias Alvarado (12) Azarel Estupinan (12) Agustin Jaimes (12) Anette Jaimes (12) Cierra Martinez-Crawford (12) Elsa Romero (12)	<b>FRENCH HORN SOLO</b> Sierra Martinez (12)
<b>EUPHONIUM/BARITONE QUARTET</b> Carlos Cruz (10) Juan Gonzalez (10) Alejandro Vasquez (11) Agustin Jaimes (12)	<b>CHOIR</b> Daneida Hernandez (9) Kantence Slack (11)	<b>TROMBONE SOLO</b> Alejandro Vazquez-Olguin (11)
<b>BRASS SEXTET</b> Elizandro Greer (9) William Prather (10) Dario Contreras (11) Zarrío Greer (11) Ivan Lorenzo (11) Chris Yount (12)	<b>CELLO SOLO</b> Kayla Cho	<b>EUPHONIUM/BARITONE HORN SOLO</b> Agustin Jaimes (12)
<b>CHOIR</b> Andrew Eggers (9) Kathryn Shackelford (9) Faith Allen (12) Angela Gonzalez (12)	<b>SAXOPHONE QUARTET</b> Brandon Vega (10) Shakya Cooper (12) Cole Ellison (12) Isabella Riggs (12)	<b>KEYBOARD PERCUSSION SOLO</b> Archie Hatten V (10)

### HOT REGIONAL HISTORY FAIR STATE QUALIFIERS

<b>SENIOR DOCUMENTARY</b> Lily Coffman - Waco High 1st Place ★ Baylor Film & Digital Media Award ★	<b>JUNIOR DOCUMENTARY</b> Lily Howell - ATLAS 1st Place ★ McLennan County Historical Commission Award
Isabella Riggs - Waco High 2nd Place	Lydia Allen - ATLAS 2nd Place
<b>JUNIOR GROUP WEBSITE</b> Asa Sutton & James Ticarat - ATLAS 1st Place	<b>JUNIOR GROUP EXHIBIT</b> Crosby Davis & Addison Roark - ATLAS 1st Place
<b>JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL WEBSITE</b> August Zimmerman - ATLAS 1st Place	Tyrone McNary & Elicia Ochoa - ATLAS 2nd Place
David Bode - ATLAS 2nd Place ★ McLennan County Historical Commission Award ★	<b>JUNIOR PAPER</b> Daisy Barco - ATLAS 1st Place ★ W.R. Poage Legislative Library Award ★