



## Hitchcock Independent School District

OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE

**Dr. Darryl J. Henson**  
Interim Superintendent  
409-316-6545 ext 1501  
dhenson@hitchcockisd.org

**Jaree Hefner**  
Director of Communications  
409-218-1410 (cell)  
jhefner@hitchcockisd.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Hitchcock ISD Superintendent Dr. Darryl J. Henson Receives National Award for Previous District Leadership**

HITCHCOCK, TX (December 15, 2025) – Hitchcock Independent School District is proud to announce that Superintendent Dr. Darryl J. Henson was named the recipient of the prestigious 2025 Ida B. Wells Risk Taker Award by the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) this past weekend for his previous work as superintendent of Marlin ISD.



Dr. Henson received the honor during the 53rd NABSE International Conference held in Chicago, Illinois. The award was presented by Congressman Jonathan Jackson, who represents the First District of Illinois, and Dr. Latoyna Goffney, President of NABSE.

The Ida B. Wells Risk Taker Award is one of the highest honors in Black educational leadership, bestowed upon individuals who have undergone great personal and professional sacrifice in service of educational advancement for students.

Dr. Henson was recognized for his work during the 2023 graduation cycle for Marlin High School. Despite significant public scrutiny and legal challenges, Dr. Henson upheld the district's obligation to ensure every member of the Class of 2023 met all attendance, credit, and grade requirements as outlined by the state of Texas. His commitment to maintaining high standards while providing comprehensive support resulted in 100% of the Class of 2023 meeting all state requirements and graduating.



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Upon accepting the award, Dr. Henson stated: "Our obligation is to ensure that every student is truly prepared for their future by upholding the highest standards of compliance and rigor. This commitment is often difficult, especially when faced with public scrutiny, but we must never waiver in doing what is right for our children. Graduation was delayed, but it was not denied, because our students and staff showed incredible resiliency and met the standard. This award is a testament to the fact that accountability and support must go hand-in-hand in the pursuit of educational equity."

Board President Chad Allen emphasized the significance of this recognition for Hitchcock ISD: "This national recognition of Dr. Henson's previous work gives us confidence in the leadership guiding our district through its own transformation. The same principles that earned him this award - high standards paired with strong support, courage in the face of challenges, and an unwavering commitment to students - are exactly what Hitchcock ISD needs. The national educational community has validated the approach Dr. Henson is bringing to our district, and we are so proud to have him at the helm."

Dr. Henson currently serves as Superintendent of Hitchcock Independent School District, where he is leading the district's comprehensive transformation focused on operational excellence, financial transparency, and instructional improvement.

"This award recognizes what Dr. Henson accomplished in his previous district," Allen added. "It gives our community confidence that the same commitment to doing what's right for students - even when it's difficult - will guide our transformation here at Hitchcock ISD."

### **About the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE)**

NABSE is a nonprofit organization dedicated to furthering the academic success for the nation's children, particularly children of African descent. Founded in 1970, NABSE provides professional development, advocacy, and resources to Black educators and educational leaders across the country.

### **About Hitchcock Independent School District**



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Hitchcock ISD serves over 2,000 students across five campuses in Galveston County, Texas: Kids First Head Start, Hitchcock Primary School, Stewart Elementary, Crosby Middle School, and Hitchcock High School. Under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Darryl J. Henson, the district is committed to operational excellence, financial transparency, and instructional improvement.