

Calallen Education Foundation NEWSLETTER

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. ARTIE ALMENDAREZ ON HIS RETIREMENT!

Dr. Almendarez was instrumental in founding the Calallen Education Foundation (CEF). The original Articles of Incorporation were signed in October 2008 and the initial funding came in February 2009 via donations made in memory of Ricardo Almendarez, Dr. A's father. Those donations provided the necessary funds to file the required paperwork and payments with the IRS to establish the non-profit.



Dr. Almendarez was a dedicated member of the CEF Board of Directors for 13 years. He rarely missed a meeting and always contributed significantly to the fundraising efforts and distribution of educator grants.

We are grateful for his dedication and commitment to the Calallen Education Foundation, and ultimately the students and staff of this district. He will be missed, but we wish him much joy and happiness in his retirement!

HELLO CALALLEN ISD FAMILIES AND SUPPORTERS,

Welcome to another Calallen Education Foundation (CEF) blooming springtime. It's Teacher Appreciation Week and no better time to share what a rewarding 2021-2022 we have had so far. CEF board members have been buzzing around the district. We've been spreading our wings in new directions by adding people, projects, and programs to our growing foundation. We can always use more worker bees and would love all the support we can get. It's a lot of fun to be a part of touching Calallen kids' lives. Read on and see what's new at CEF. If you see a program or project that interests you, drop us a line and help CEF grow some exciting new ideas and happy kids.

Have a wonderful final month of 2021-2022 at Calallen ISD.

Sincerely,

Mia Taylor
CEF Board President



MEMORIAL DONATION HONORING MIA BALKO

Butch and Cindy Roecker and Family provided a \$250 gift to the Calallen Education Foundation in memory of Mia Balko. Mia had a passion for education and throughout her life impacted hundreds of students across Texas. While some of us did not personally have the pleasure of knowing Mia, her legacy lives in the success of students, and that legacy continues with this contribution that will benefit many Calallen students in the future.

FUTURE FOCUS LUNCH & LEARN EARNS 2022 TEFN OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD HONORABLE MENTION

Texas Education Foundation Network (TEFN) awarded the Calallen Education Foundation 2022 TEFN Outstanding Achievement Award Honorable Mention and a \$1,000 grant for the work accomplished on the Future Focus Lunch & Learn, a new program this year. On the first and third Thursday of each month, during all three lunch periods, a guest speaker from our community visits the high school and talks with the students about topics important to them related to college, career, and life. We conducted a survey to help us prioritize the specific topics the students were most interested in and built our guest speaker series around those priorities.

Special thanks to TEFN and our 2021/2022 Future Focus Lunch & Learn Guest Speakers:

- **Careers in Information Technology and Computers**
Brooke Parker
- **Careers in Veterinary Medicine**
Dr. Robert Perkins
- **Careers in Real Estate and Buying Real Estate**
Amber Bozeman
- **How to be a College Athlete**
Keith Miller & Kyle Brown
- **Careers in Nursing and Healthcare**
Patricia S. Helmick
- **How to Stay Organized, Focus, Study and Get Good Grades**
Robin Ritchey-Roy
- **Careers in Design/Engineering/Architecture**
Clark Underwood
- **How to Budget, Keep Track of Debt, and Pay Bills**
Shelly Whitlock Floyd
- **What is it Really Like in College?**
Rivers Roy, Megan Barrera, & Lauren Silva
- **Careers in Wildlife/Ranching/Agriculture**
Walter Priestly
- **How to do a Work Resume and Find a Job**
Kannon Hall



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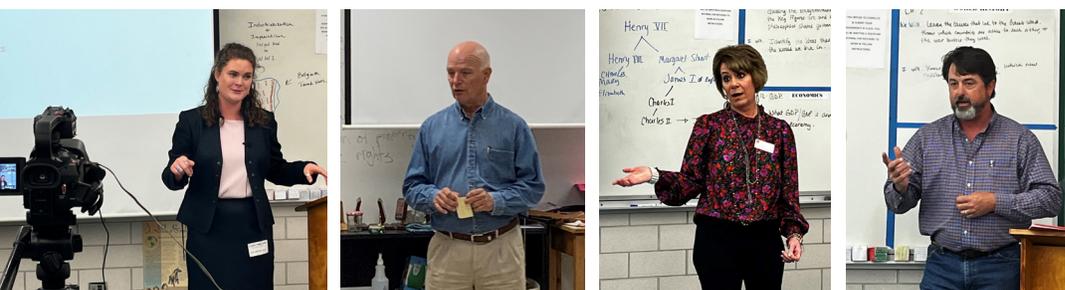
Value Bank

Thomas Rote

Edward Jones

Sue Wishard

Calallen ISD





OVER \$50,000 AWARDED IN CEF GRANTS TO INNOVATIVE EDUCATORS AT CALALLEN ISD

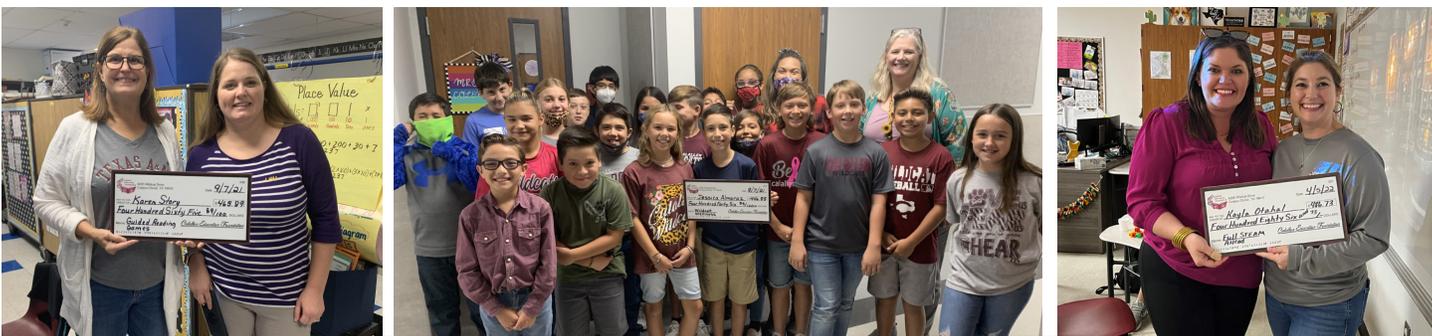
Tuesday, February 22, 2022 was an exciting day considering it was 2/22/22! But that wasn't all the excitement that day at Calallen ISD! The Calallen Education Foundation loaded a school bus for Grant Patrol!!! They made surprise stops to award eight grants to educators across four district campuses.

Mia Taylor, Calallen Education Foundation President said, "Grant Patrol is our favorite activity of the year! We work hard all year long to raise funds and Grant Patrol is a big celebration where we give money away to teachers who have great ideas for their students and classrooms."

The Grant Winners begin the process by completing a written application which is submitted and evaluated by a panel of judges. Innovation, lesson plans, sustainability, and overall objective are some of the evaluation criteria. Then, big grant checks are awarded during Grant Patrol where the Calallen Band, Calallen TV and media, local employer partners, and the Education Foundation Board of Directors go together for the surprise celebration.

MINI-GRANTS MAKE A HUGE IMPACT ON TEACHERS

In addition to Standard Grants, the Calallen Education Foundation awards monthly Mini-Grants to educators who have needs that do not exceed \$500. With a simple 5-7 minute presentation to a panel of judges, the Mini-Grant applicant makes a request and hopefully wins their Mini-Grant. So far this year the Calallen Education Foundation has awarded 18 Mini-Grants totaling \$7,553.44.





10TH ANNUAL CASINO NIGHT WAS A HIT!

On March 5 we held our 10th Annual Casino Night Fundraising Event. It was great to be back together after a year away due to COVID. Our silent auction was held online and guests explored the items when they entered the facility. Our live auction was led by our MC, Alan Harwell and our Auctioneer, City Councilman Mike Pusley. They did a wonderful job helping us raise funds. And you cannot have a Casino Night without Casino games!!! The St. Thomas Knights of Columbus served as our Casino dealers and made the evening extra fun. The delicious food was provided by:



WELCOME EMILY LORENZ, OUR NEW SUPERINTENDENT AND CEF BOARD MEMBER!

Mrs. Emily Lorenz officially became the Calallen ISD Superintendent on February 1, 2022. She was born and raised in McAllen, TX and earned both a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio. Prior to moving to the coastal bend, she was an Educational Specialist at Education Service Center, Region 20 in San Antonio. In 2007, she and her husband moved to Portland, Texas where she worked at Gregory-Portland ISD as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction. In 2015, she became the Director of Curriculum at Calallen ISD and quickly earned the title of Assistant Superintendent. She worked closely with Dr. Almendarez and was named Superintendent upon his retirement.

She has been married to Ronnie Lorenz for 22 years and they have a daughter, Hannah, who attends the University of Alabama. Mrs. Lorenz enjoys traveling and spending time with her family.

When asked about the Calallen Education Foundation she said, "Calallen ISD and Calallen Education Foundation (CEF) both target student achievement. The CEF is key to providing opportunities that support District goals. We want kids to have a choice upon graduation to live the life they choose because of solid preparation."

Welcome Emily!

