



Calallen Education Foundation NEWSLETTER

FORMER TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR AT CALALLEN ISD STILL MAKING AN IMPACT



Barbara (BJ) Palmer Wilson



Dorothy Dodge Stroech

Barbara (BJ) Palmer Wilson, former Principal of Annaville Elementary School, Calallen ISD, provided the Calallen Education Foundation a gift of \$500 in honor of Dorothy Dodge Stroech, former Calallen ISD Technology Director! The gift was given in recognition of Dorothy's position at Calallen ISD as the Technology Director and the work she did at Annaville Elementary School in setting up the first elementary computer labs in the district. According to Ms. Wilson, "The design was particularly innovative in that the students were able to make eye contact with the teacher in the front of the room during initial instruction. Other districts, which I visited at the time, installed plugs along the walls thereby forcing students to sit facing the wall! The Annaville labs had store-front windows (thanks to Dr. A's innovative ideas) allowing personnel, students, and the campus guests to observe students actively learning."

This gift from Ms. Wilson is telling of the innovation and inspiration Ms. Stroech brought to Calallen ISD. We are grateful for this contribution and generous recognition.

DEAR CALALLEN COMMUNITY,

The Calallen Education Foundation (CEF) has had such an eventful Fall 2021 that we decided to provide a Fall Newsletter to highlight our busy Fall semester. As of this year Calallen ISD teachers and students have received a total of more than \$500,000 in grant money from caring donors of CEF. It's been a fabulous year to celebrate our 10 Years of Giving. In this Newsletter we will share some of our most exciting and memorable events of this Fall with you.

The Calallen High School Band finished 8th in the State of Texas. The band is a huge supporter of the Calallen Education Foundation by playing at our events and Grant Patrols. They always add an extra level of excitement and entertainment. We appreciate all they do and congratulate them on their accomplishment.

We also want to give a shout out to Calallen TV for streaming the Calallen sporting events. Families across the country are able to enjoy the high level of play that is delivered throughout our athletics programs. The Education Foundation is pleased to have been able to provide so much of the equipment that makes those live streams possible.

We thank you, our teachers thank you, and most of all our students thank you now and in the future for your commitments to the Calallen Education Foundation! Innovation spurs learning, and actually making learning an exciting thing for students is a positive for us all.

Sincerely,

Mia Taylor
CEF Board President



STATE OF THE DISTRICT FEATURES CALALLEN ALUM AND FIVE TIME OLYMPIAN, AMY ACUFF

The Calallen Education Foundation was proud to present Amy Acuff as our keynote speaker at the Calallen State of the District Luncheon on October 21, 2021 at the Al Amin Shrine. Amy was the Salutatorian for the Calallen Class of 1993 and had an incredibly successful track and field career in the high jump representing the United States in five Olympics. In addition to hearing a wonderful keynote presentation, luncheon guests were able to fellowship, enjoy a great lunch and hear a brief district update from Dr. Almendarez. The City of Corpus Christi recognized Amy and proclaimed October 21, 2021 as Amy Acuff Day! It was a wonderful celebration of athletic and academic excellence.



FALL 2021 GRANT PATROL ROCKS THE CAMPUSES

After such a challenging and difficult year last year, we were excited to kick off the school year with a Standard Grant opportunity for the teachers. With a deadline of September 1, judges convened and on September 30 Grant Patrol rocked the campuses! There was so much excitement, passion, and emotion as the CEF awarded 11 Standard Grants across four campuses for a total of \$46,000! It was a great day!



WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!



2020/2021 GRANT WINNER RECOGNITION

September 10 we invited our 2020/2021 CEF Standard Grant and Mini-Grant Winners to Wildcat Stadium to be recognized. While not all were able to make it, we are so proud to honor the 20/21 innovative educators at Calallen ISD. There were 23 grants awarded in 20/21!

TOP DOLLAR DONOR NIGHT

Fall brings football games and there is no better place to recognize Top Dollar Donors than on the football field! October 15 the CEF recognized 2020/2021 Donors that contributed between \$1,500 and \$10,000 to the Calallen Education Foundation. In all, 19 Donors were recognized under the Friday Night Lights! Thank you Donors! We could not meet our goals without your generous support!



NEW TALENT ADDED TO THE CEF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Striving for more direct educator input, we are pleased to welcome **Sue Wishard** to the CEF Board of Directors! Sue has a BA in Culinary Arts that she achieved at Culinary School in Germany. She has a BA in Education and an MA in Occupational Training and Development.



Before working at Calallen ISD, she taught Culinary Arts for eight years at Mathis High School. She has been with Calallen ISD for 15 years, initially teaching Resource English at Calallen High School and now Adaptive Education.

For the past seven years, in addition to teaching, Ms. Wishard has been the Head Coach of the Special Olympics Team. She has a son, Hunter, who attends Calallen High School.

Amber Bozeman, KM Premier Real Estate Agent, is the newest member of the Calallen Education Foundation Board of Directors. Originally, from Alice, TX, Amber moved to Calallen in 2017.



Mrs. Bozeman started her career as a licensed property and casualty insurance professional. After 10 years in personal, residential and then commercial lines of business, Amber decided to expand her knowledge and became a licensed real estate agent. A multi-million dollar producer, she recently expanded KM Premier Real Estate into the Calallen market.

Currently, she has a senior and a junior at Calallen High School and a first grader at Wood River Elementary. She and her husband love to travel and spend time together with their family.

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Calallen ISD

FUTURE FOCUS LUNCH & LEARN

Striving for more student engagement and input, the Calallen Education Foundation surveyed the Calallen High School Students asking them if they were ready to accomplish their goals after high school and what they needed to ensure their success. Over and over the feedback was a resounding "more information about careers, college, and life skills".

With a student-led focus group the Calallen Education Foundation created the Future Focus Lunch & Learn where the first and third Thursday of each month during lunch a guest speaker from our community will talk with the students about topics that matter to Calallen students and will help them find a focus for their future after high school and beyond.

FUTURE FOCUS LUNCH & LEARN

Grab your lunch.
Learn from experts.
Focus your future.

Scan to see topics & speakers

New speaker every 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month during lunch

Hosted by Calallen Education Foundation