



Third Ward Initiative

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Update

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

EDUCATION

- 2022 Texas Education Agency (TEA) Accountability Ratings** - The ratings are in, and the Houston Independent School District has made significant academic gains since the last time letter grades were given by the Texas Education Agency. HISD earned a solid B+ from the TEA and maintained its overall 88 rating from 2019. The TEA did not give grades the last two academic years as school districts navigated the pandemic. Since 2018, the TEA has implemented an A-F rating system. For the 2021-2022 ratings, no campus will be identified as a D or F, but rather “Not Rated – Senate Bill 1365” as a transition from the COVID-19 global pandemic. This year, 10 campuses are Not Rated (SB 1365). In 2018-2019, 50 schools received a D or F rating. HISD schools saw improvements district-wide, with 94% of campuses earning A, B, or C ratings, up from 82% in 2019 and 78% earning A or B ratings, up from 50% in 2019:
 - 96 campuses earned an A rating, up 39 campuses from 2019
 - 117 campuses earned a B rating, up 39 campuses from 2019
 - 43 campuses earned a C rating, down 43 campuses from 2019
- 2022 Preliminary TEA Accountability Ratings for Third Ward Targeted Schools**

School	% of Low Income Students	Rating	Score	Distinctions
Blackshear Elementary School	100	A	91	5 out of 6
Foster Elementary School	98	A	94	5 out of 6
Hartsfield Elementary School	98	B	87	3 out of 6
Thompson Elementary School	99	C	79	1 out of 6
Cullen Middle School	98	C	70	0 out of 7
Jack Yates High School	96	Not Rated - Senate Bill 1365	67	0 out of 0

- Changes in Third Ward Targeted Schools Leadership** – Two of our best elementary school principals have departed. Principal Lewis of Blackshear will begin this year as the Principal of North Forest Middle School. Principal Lightfoot of Foster Elementary will begin this year as the Executive Director of Elementary School Performance of the North Little Rock Arkansas School District charged with improving the performance of each elementary school in the district.

Advancing Community Engagement and Service Institute (ACES)

- **Third Ward Area Schools Initiative Has Expanded** - In addition to the original six HISD schools, Lockhart Elementary (HISD) and Baylor College of Medicine Academy at Ryan Middle School (HISD Charter) have been added. Other charter schools have been added as well: A+ Challenge, Bloom, and Elevate, and Beatrice Mayes Institute.
- **Other Houston Area School Initiative Partners** - Etoile Academy, Whittier ES (HISD), Fraga Middle College (HISD/ HCC (East End) and to be determined select schools in the HISD Advanced Placement initiative.

ACES Institute Successes

- **Cougar Tutors Program** This signature ACES program employs students as academic tutors in high-need schools located in the Third Ward neighborhood surrounding UH and greater Houston. UH students are recruited, selected, and hired as tutors based on a dispositional interview and content expertise and receive an hourly pay for service. UH teacher education majors are given priority in the tutor selection process as the applied instructional practice improves pre-service teacher knowledge and skills. The tutors are in high demand. Overall, the schools we support have increased performance.
- **Support for ACES Has Increased** - There is multilevel support from the University of Houston leadership. The Judy Cook Partnership Building will open in October and host the ACES Institute and programs. Grant funds in the amount of \$2,190,870 were secured and a grant application for more than \$4,500,048 are pending. Additionally, the UH advancement team has secured individual funding to support program operations.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

2021 - 2022 SURE Program Accomplishments

- Completed final semester of SURESM via online education in Fall 2021.
- Successfully resumed **in-person instruction of the SURESM** Program in Spring 2022
- Resumed in person celebration of entrepreneurs with a large in person ceremony on May 7, 2022. Launched the Center for Economic Inclusion (CEI) and SURE Graduation. Secretary Henry Cisneros was the keynote speaker.
- Hosted Wells Fargo Executive Relations Director Mr. Bill Daley in October 2021 and CEO Mr. Charles Scharf and others in February 2022. **Received \$250,000 grant from Wells Fargo.**
- Received a **\$4 million endowment from the Dakri Family** for the establishment of the Center for Economic Inclusion.

Summer Program Updates

- Worked on all the events happening and planning for the current academic year.
SURESM Fall Enrollment coming up on August 27th.

Enrollment data for Fall 2021-Spring 2022:

Fall 2021

- 127 entrepreneurs admitted
- Range of ages: 20 to 67 years old
- **Zip Codes: 71 different zip codes**
- Gender:
 - 106 Female
 - 20 Male
 - 1 prefer not to answer
- Veterans: 11 military veterans
- Race:
 - 103 Black/African American
 - 13 Hispanic
 - 3 White
 - 3 Asian
 - 5 Other

Spring 2022

- 119 entrepreneurs admitted
- Range of ages: 19 to 69 years old
- Zip Codes: 78 different zip codes
- Gender:
 - 86 Female
 - 31 Male
 - 1 trans man
 - 1 non-binary
- Veterans: 6 military veterans
- Race:
 - 81 Black/African American
 - 14 Hispanic
 - 8 White
 - 9 Asian
 - 3 Native American or Alaska Native
 - 1 Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
 - 3 Other

HEALTH

- Presentation to Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine New Students – At the request of Dr. David Buck, Dr. Lee gave a presentation to College of Medicine students, faculty, and staff on the boundaries, history, organizations, and significance of the Greater Third Ward.
- Third Ward Community Cleanup – At the request of Joshua Martin, UH Student Government Association President, NSI joined forces with UH and TSU's SGA and Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church plan an evening cleanup. 187 volunteers signed up. NSI coordinated logistical planning meetings, assisted in marketing, reserved buses for transportation, and secured in-kind security from Houston Police Department. The August 19th Cleanup was postponed due to inclement weather and the threat of lightning and will be rescheduled.

Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine Report on Third Ward Activities July - August 2022

- Clinical Focus Session 1 (Week 1) – Understand relationship of UH with community and introduce social determinants of health. Highlights:
 - History & Significance of Third Ward, *Dr. Elwyn Lee*
 - Third Ward Comprehensive Needs Assessment, *Dr. Assata Richards*
 - Food Insecurity Panel: *Rev. Linda Davis*, Boynton United Methodist Church, *Kenyetta McGowens*, Change Happens! / Northern Third Ward Initiative, *Shawn Owens Lemons*, Emancipation Economic Development Corp./Everybody Eats

- Community Agency Tours: Change Happens!, Magnificat Houses, Healthcare for the Homeless - Houston, and Tony’s Place

Community Outreach

Healthy Connections/Household Centered Care - Navigation program with community health workers and interprofessional student teams (nursing, medical, social work)

- 58 Third Ward residents enrolled
- 4 Home visits with students
- 12 Third Ward Recruitment Events
 - Food Pantry at Project Row Houses (2)
 - Food Distribution at Shrine of the Black Madonna (2)
 - Healthy Start Community Baby Shower at Third Ward Multipurpose Center
 - Health and Wellness Block Party at Restoration Community Development Corp.
 - Third Ward Resource Fair at Jack Yates High School
 - Change Happens! and Generation One Back to School Fair at Cuney Homes
 - Job Fair at SHAPE Community Center
 - Meet the Teachers at Thompson Elementary
 - Emancipation Park Back to School Fair
 - CenterWell Senior Primary Care Open House
- Coordinated a college-wide back to school drive for Blackshear Elementary. Provided all 24 teachers with classroom sets of requested items including electric pencil sharpeners, dry erase boards, tissues, wet wipes, and personal hygiene items. (Photos)

Third Ward Community Working Group

- 2,500 Third Ward Health Resource Directories distributed through Change Happens! at community events and delivered to food pantries. A second printing (1,500) was made for distribution at community health and social service agencies.

Clinical Care - UH Family Care Center (FCC)

Service Area	Number of Unique Patients	% Patients
3rd Ward	22	14%
East End	6	4%

Total FCC Patients **159**

- The FCC is developing a marketing plan to attract more residents to the center.
- Sports physicals provided on-site at Third Ward Resource Fair, Jack Yates High School.
- Providers and medical students participated in Mayor’s Back to School Fest.

Student Pipeline

STEM Rise - The [STEM Research Inquiry Summer Experience program](#) held its first annual research symposium, a culmination of the 7-week summer program. (Photos)

- 6 students, Jack Yates High School
- 16 undergraduates, UH College of Natural Sciences and Math

- 6 medical students, Fertitta Family College of Medicine
- One of the most important benefits to the high school students was the college and career counseling they received; each of the participating students made a presentation on the steps necessary to reach their ultimate career goal.

ART AND CULTURE

- The Turkey Day Classic – It was hoped that the historical marker celebrating the Turkey Day Classic would be ready for installation this fall but we recently received information that there have been delays in the manufacturing and the marker will not be sent to us until sometime in 2023. Vice Chancellor Jason Smith is excited about working with the Office of Neighborhood & Strategic Initiatives (NSI) and the staff of the Texas Historical Commission on how the installation of the marker should be celebrated.
- KGMCA / PRH Fellowship Program – Although there was only one graduate fellow this year she performed admirably in collaboration with the Project Row House staff. At least two fellows have been hired by Project Row Houses since the program's inception. One graduate of the program has been recently promoted and is part of the leadership team at PRH where she provides strategic planning in the area of housing planning and facility usage.
- Mobile Music – This program brought outdoor music presentations to the community due to the COVID 19 pandemic limiting indoor gatherings. Because the performances were much appreciated there are plans to continue the program this year.
- Trinity Stained Glass – The School of Music has commissioned a musical composition inspired by the stained glass of Trinity United Methodist Church (the oldest Black church in Houston). When completed it will be performed at the church.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

- Summer Leadership Institute of the Teen & Police Service Academy (TAPS) took place on campus June 13 – July 1, 2022 and July 11 – 29, 2022 through a collaboration with the Office of Neighborhood & Strategic Initiatives (NSI). Dr. Everette Penn, UHCL professor leads TAPS. 40 % of the 60 TAPS Summer camp participants were from Third Ward or Third Ward Schools.



The students paid no cost for this three-week course using our Texas Education Agency approved curriculum which is certified to award one high school credit. Thus, for many students they earned a high school credit before attending high school this fall. The TAPS curriculum takes students through the role of the police, conflict mediation, creating a 20-year plan, drugs and alcohol prevention, human trafficking, college is not the 13th grade, time management, leadership, effective communication, team building, crime prevention, school safety, active shooter, victimization, anti-gang information, safe driving, first aid, criminal and juvenile justice issues and procedures, and fire safety.

During the three-week camp sessions students learned business etiquette, conducted a mock trial, rode the METRO (with Chief of METRO Police Bumpers), visited Harris County Court House (as they were hosted by judges and other criminal justice staff). They also toured the Houston Police Department headquarters, UH campus, and a highlight was the service-learning project. TAPS students brought personal care items and distributed care packages to senior residents at Beal Village located on North Macgregor across from Bayou Oaks Residence Hall.

- Kid’s University (Mini-Session) July 7 & 8th – In collaboration with Change Happens, the Office of Neighborhood & Strategic (NSI) coordinated a 2-day campus experience that exposed about 30 Third Ward and inner-city youth ages 7 to 18 to campus life and activities consisted of:
 1. Welcome pep rally with remarks from Karl Hearne.
 2. Performances by the UH band, cheerleaders, and Shasta.
 3. Seminars held on admissions and financial aid.
 4. A meditation and vision board activity were facilitated by the current UH Homecoming King.
 5. Tours of the campus and residence halls.



Elwyn C. Lee
Vice President for Neighborhood & Strategic Initiatives