

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Richardson Independent School District
Richardson, Texas

Date: April 4, 2005
Department: Communications
Submitted by: Pam Smith

Briefing Date(s):
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Study Session
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INFORMATION ITEM

TOPIC: Commendations – Recognition of Board Members, the Community, Staff, Schools and Students

Community

The Board recognizes the exceptional partnership efforts of **DeVry University, Dallas**. Although a new partner with RISD and the RISD Tomorrow Foundation, DeVry has already exhibited its generosity and interest in quality public education by establishing the DeVry University Fund with a \$15,000 contribution to the Tomorrow Foundation. Initially the fund will support the efforts of the Richardson High School Robotics Magnet Program. Other support includes the availability of DeVry electrical engineering staff for consultation with RISD students and instructors. Ongoing support from DeVry University includes math and other robotic program initiatives in the district. The Board thanks DeVry for its support of innovation, enrichment and excellence in education in RISD. Representing DeVry are **Randall Stratton**, Dean of Electronics Program Academics, and **Brenda Caruthers**, Director of Public Relations and Outreach.

Staff

The Board recognizes **Distance Learning** Elementary Spanish Teacher **Sarah Thompson** for being named the *2005 Texas Spanish Teacher of the Year* by the Texas Foreign Language Association. She will receive the honor later this week in Fort Worth at the Southwest Council on Language Teaching and Texas Foreign Language Association Conference.

The Board recognizes **Northrich Elementary** physical education teacher **Terry Wade** for being recognized as a *Sam's Club Teacher of the Year*. She was nominated by one of her students, and Northrich will receive \$1,000 from Sam's Club in honor of Ms. Wade.

The Board recognizes **Christine Simpson** of the **Purchasing Department** for being designated a *Certified Texas School Business Specialist* by the Texas Association of School Business Officials. The certification is earned through a combination of coursework, school business experience, training in area of specialization, and active membership in the association.

The Board recognizes **Director of Child Nutrition Rose Ann Martin** for completing the requirements necessary to earn certification as a *Registered Dietician*.

Students

The Board recognizes the following students for being *National Merit Finalists*; one of the most prestigious academic honors available to high school students in the United States. As National Merit

Finalists, these students represent the top one percent of academic achievers in the country, and are eligible to receive National Merit Scholarships.

Albert Alexander, Pearce
Christine Barron, Berkner
Kevin Brown, Lake Highlands
Adam Cason, Lake Highlands
Joshua Chansard, Pearce
Ruijun Chen, Richardson
Audra Clark, Lake Highlands
David Gebhart, Berkner
Daniel Gelband, Richardson
Charles Ingram, Lake Highlands
Eric Johnson, Lake Highlands
Kyle Johnson, Lake Highlands
Jessie Lin, Berkner
David Lowrimore, Pearce
Ran Ma, Pearce
Rachel Manny, Lake Highlands
Henry McFadyen, Pearce
Eric Mirochna, Lake Highlands
Esther Nie, Pearce
Philip Rose, Lake Highlands
Casey Sedden, Lake Highlands
Winnie Wang, Pearce
Amy Wilson, Lake Highlands
Rachel Yeates, Lake Highlands

The Board recognizes **Richardson West Junior High** student **Alyssa Davis**, who created a poster in recognition of the “*Year of Languages*” that was chosen to represent North and East Texas to be displayed at the Texas Foreign Language Association and Southwest Council on Language Teaching Spring Conference this week in Fort Worth. Her teacher is **Vicky Loney**.

Alyssa’s poster was chosen from among posters submitted by students from Region Education Service Centers 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, which collectively represent hundreds of school districts.

The Board recognizes the following students for qualifying to compete at the highest level of *Academic Decathlon* competition in Texas, the state meet.

These students competed in up to 10 academic events including Interview, Speech, Essay, Art, Mathematics, Music, Economics, Language & Literature, Social Science and Super Quiz.

From **Richardson High School**: **Alexander Frolov, Giulia Ippolito, Hannah Jones, Martin Kamp, Mehwish Khanum, April Leeder, Scott Pullen, Auburn Rutledge** and **Yifei Zheng**. Coaches are **Lucio Benedetto** and **Darlene Jones**.

From **Pearce High School**: **Ava Baustian, Colin Hankinson, Drew Jacoy, Chris Kraft, Aaron Levine, Nathan Lewis, Steven Loh, Winnie Wang** and **Drew Whitfield**. Coaches are **Carol Hewitt** and **Susan Maute**.

From **Berkner High School**: **Kathleen Chase, Amy Fulbright, Sonia Ghelani, Daniel Jumper, Alex Lue, Linda Pham, Luke Schaffmer, Eric Stout** and **Rochelle Trachier**. Coaches are **Tanya Gregson** and **Dean Webb**.

The Board recognizes **Richardson High School** student **Mary Glaros** for taking first place at the annual *Japanese Speech Contest* held by the Japanese Association of Dallas and the Japan America Society of Dallas. Her teacher is **Mihoko Nakashige**.