

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Richardson Independent School District**  
**Richardson, Texas**

**Date:** April 9, 2007

**Department:** Communications

**Submitted by:** Celina Cárdenas

**Briefing Date(s):**

N/A

**Study Session**

N/A

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**INFORMATION ITEM**

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

**Community**

The Board recognizes the outstanding efforts of community partner **ELCAN Optical Technologies**, represented by **Paul Klocek** and **Craig Brooks**. The Board also recognizes the **Episcopal Church of the Ascension**, represented by the **Reverend Kai Ryan, Mary Lou Howell, Lyn Hurt, Nancy Vanbreda, and Kay Moore**.

**Staff**

Thurgood Marshall Elementary Principal **Wanda Watkins** recently testified in Washington D.C. before the U.S. Senate Education Committee. She was selected from among principals around the country to talk about the Teacher Advancement Program, which has been implemented at TME since the campus opened last school year.

**Richardson High School** Director of Bands **Scott Taylor** has been chosen for one of 15 statewide recipients of the 2006 UIL Sponsor for Excellence Award.

RISD Executive Director of Professional Development **Pam Smith** is presently serving as the president of the Texas Staff Development Council, an organization comprised of more than 1000 staff developers whose primary purpose is to promote high quality professional development in their district and across Texas.

**Students**

Four RISD students recently advanced to the Dallas County Spelling Bee by winning their attendance competition at the district level. The students include: **Emily White, Moss Haven Elementary; Annie Chou, Forestridge Elementary; Corinne Ryan, Canyon Creek Elementary; and Christian Anniboli, Arapaho Classical Magnet**.

In addition, **Emily White** was the Dallas County Spelling Bee winner and advanced to the regional bee.

Two **Richardson High School** students' artwork was chosen to be featured in the regional calendar published by PBK, an architectural firm. They are **Gavin Maestas and Kyle Johnson**.

The following RISD students won awards at the North Dallas Regional Science Fair:

Sixth-grade winners included: **Sarah Fiore, Arapaho Classical Magnet; Samuel Conwill, Canyon Creek Elementary; Taylor Roberson, RISD Academy; Jeffrey Bradshaw and Mason Puckett, Lake Highlands Elementary; Blake Tarlton and Melissa Tarlton, MST Magnet; and Niklas Ax, Dartmouth Elementary.**

Fifth-grade winners included: **Kathan Trivedi, Audelia Creek Elementary; and Ashley Seaman, Greenwood Hills Elementary.**

Fourth-grade winners included: **Makenzie Hancock, Tea Cao, and Brittany Trunnell, Jess Harben Elementary; and Michelle Grace, Mohawk Elementary.**

Third-grade winners included: **William Nicholls, Alex Monroe, and Ryan Wright, Canyon Creek Elementary; Preston Roe, MST Magnet; Jordan Nguyen, Northwood Hills Elementary; Will Morgan, Merriman Park Elementary; and Truman Kohler-Katz, Mohawk Elementary.**

The **Pearce High School** Boy's Swim Team won the 4A state title for swimming and diving. Team members include: **Nick Kalivas, John Kalivas, Andrew Lin, Stephen Yang, Chuck Zhou and Chad Robinson.** They are coached by **Jeff Clayton.**

The **Pearce High School's** Girls Swim Team placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the 4A state competition for swimming and diving. Team members include: **Lauren Burkert, Elyse Burkert, Erica Stuart, Frannie Mullins, Emily Wilson, and Caroline Maxvill.** They are also coached by **Jeff Clayton.**

The **Berkner** Bowling Team recently placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the Texas State High School Championship. Team members include: **Chelsea Conkel, Kelly Grett, Lauren Jacobsen, Amber McGee, Bambi Pride, Lesli Shockley, Deedi Thames, and Morgan Thompson.** They are coached by **John Gregson.**