

April 15, 2019 Update

EDUCATION

1. Board of Visitors (BOV) Task Force on Third Ward Schools



A. Visit to Thompson Elementary school
 BOV Task Force members met with the principal of Thompson elementary school on April 2, 2019 and introduced Judy Cook as the Task Force liaison to Thompson. Principal Edwards expressed appreciation for the assistance she was already receiving from UH. Additional needs she identified include: (1) one-on-one subject matter tutors for specific students struggling with STARR tests; (2) volunteers to assist generally on field trips and big events such as fairs and egg hunts.



B. Blackshear Elementary Community Fair - On **May 18th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Blackshear will host its annual community fair. BOV Task Force member Michelle Verma is working very closely with Blackshear to make the fair a success.

C. Cullen Middle School - When the Task Force met with the Hartsfield Elementary school principal on February 8th the members were told that HISD had no nearby middle school with a robotics program that his graduates could attend. With that in mind the Task Force and College of Education (COE) representatives had a lengthy conference call with Principal Thompson of Cullen Middle school to discuss how to establish such a program at Cullen. Amegy Bank has shown some interest in supporting this initiative and C-STEM, a non-profit specializing in STEM education, is interested if adequate resources can be found. Jevaugh Sterling, the Task Force liaison to Cullen and Amegy banker, is leading the effort to pilot a robotics program during the summer that could become a regular Cullen course in the fall.

D. Spring Reception for Principals – Planning will soon begin for an end of year reception and/or luncheon for the principals of the targeted schools sponsored by the BOV Task Force.

E. Summer Books – The Barbara Bush Foundation has agreed to provide summer books for all of the students in the four targeted elementary schools at the request of the College of Education. The BOV Task Force will recruit volunteers to assist those elementary schools that might need assistance packaging and distributing the books to their students.

2. Yates High School



A. UH Staff Address Potential Cougars - Yates alumni association asked VP Elwyn Lee to arrange for UH enrollment staff to speak to talented juniors. On March 18th four UH enrollment staff provided information on the (1) the advantages of attending UH; (2) criteria and process for admission; (3) the cost of attending UH; and (4) scholarship and financial aid opportunities, deadline and process.



B. Yates Student Accepted to UH Honors Program – While at Yates, Senior Counselor, Mr. Robert Dooley, introduced the UH contingent to Jordan Pemberton who was recently accepted to UH and the UH Honors College. Dr. Lee and Mr. Dooley congratulated him and demonstrated the proper way to make the Cougar sign.

C. Tutors – UH continues to provide paid and volunteer tutors at Yates.

3. Grant Applications – COE Professors Jonathan Schwartz and Anne McClellan have submitted a federal grant in the amount of \$4 million to serve the four targeted Third Ward elementary schools plus Lockhart and MacGregor elementary schools. They are also submitting an AmeriCorps Literacy continuation grant in the amount of \$279,000 to pay tutors at all four

elementary schools.

HEALTH

1. Third Ward Health Summit



On February 23rd at the Third Ward Multi-Service Center stakeholders involved in Third Ward health came together for four hours to network, define challenges, identify resources, and strategize for the future. Among the UH representatives were Dr. David Buck and Dr. Kendra Smith from the College of Medicine, and Dr. Luis Torres from Graduate College of Social Work. The summit was organized by the *Families, Children, and Seniors* subcommittee of the Northern Third Ward Project. The NTW project is funded by a \$750,000 five year grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation.

2. Third Ward Health Collaborative – Building on the TW Health Summit, discussions are underway on how to structure a Third Ward Health Collaborative that would facilitate future discussion and collaboration on health initiatives. Potential participants include (1) the NTW Project (2) the Health Committee of the Third Ward Complete Communities Initiative, (3) TSU Pharmacy school, and (4) UH representatives from several key health oriented Colleges. Potential future projects include harvesting fruits from backyards for distribution to the needy. Another suggested project was teaching residents how to identify early signs of mental illness and how to access available mental health resources.

3. Lone Star Clinic Opens – This clinic opened on the UH campus on April 1st and is open to the campus community and the broader community. As a Federal Qualified Health Center (FQHC) the clinic has a sliding rate scale that provides discounts for patients who are low income. An open house is being planned to which community leaders from Third Ward and the East End will be invited along with others.

4. Dental Fair Planning –The planning for the scheduled **May 16-18th Dental Fair** that will provide dental services to hundreds of residents is continuing. UH representatives from the College of Medicine, the Honors College and NSI have met twice with leaders of this project. The greatest needs are more volunteers, assistance with parking, and help recruiting patients.

5. Exploratory Meeting with Project Row Houses (PRH) – On April 12th UH representatives met with the leadership team of Project Row Houses to explore ways in which UH and PRH could establish more partnerships beyond the art fellowships. Present from UH were Drs. David Buck, Luis Torres, Kendra Smith, Daniel Price and Elwyn Lee. Since PRH is engaged with many families through its PRH Preservation block of renovated homes, the many duplexes operated by Row House CDC, and its young mothers program there is a possibility that the service learning aspirations of various UH units will complement the work of PRH in working to empower residents to become their best selves in a comprehensive manner.

6. Sight for Success – This collaboration between the College of Nursing, the College of Optometry, and the Honors College operated in fall of 2018 to improve the vision screening process in several schools. Although a grant proposal for funds to support expansion of the program was submitted to UH Cougar Initiative to Engage (CITE), it was not approved.

7. **Safety and Cullen Boulevard** – Campus administrators have shared information on reconstruction of Cullen Blvd. from N. MacGregor to I-45 with the Faculty Senate, Student Government, and Staff Council leaders. The county has now published a notice of request for bids for work that should begin by the end of May. Details of the plan can be found at <http://www.uh.edu/facilities-planning-construction/fpc-projects/spotlight/cullen-transformation-project.php>

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

1. **The SURE Entrepreneur Academy Graduation**



On **April 27th at 10:00 a.m.** the SURE participants from the fall and spring semesters will receive their graduation certificates at a special ceremony. On hand to witness will be UH administrators, successful entrepreneurs along with family members and well-wishers. Over 203 entrepreneurs will be graduating.

2. **Spring Semester Third Ward Participants** – Fifteen (15) of the eighteen (18) SURE participants who live in Third Ward are graduating. Of the 33 participants who had previously lived in Third Ward, 28 are graduating. In summary, SURE is graduating 43 of 51 entrepreneurs who are currently living in or have cultural or economic ties to Third Ward.

3. **Service Learning Workshop** – SURE cosponsored a workshop on service learning on April 5, 2019. Faculty who attended learned about resources and opportunities available to those interested in incorporating service learning in coursework and co-curricular programs. Dr. Jonathan Schwartz of the College of Education and Dr. Saleha Khumawala were among the workshop presenters. Forty-five (45) faculty members attended the workshop. Moving forward Dr. Khumawala will begin to make presentations at specific UH colleges using the UH SURE program as a model to follow.

4. **EEDC Launches Entrepreneur Training** – Since its start in 2015 as a group of residents meeting to discuss how to halt gentrification, the Emancipation Economic Development Council (EEDC) has grown into a 501 © (3) nonprofit with a board and paid executive director, and assistant director, with its own offices located in a brick former home on Wentworth (corner of Wentworth and Live Oak). This month it launched an entrepreneur training program modeled after the SURE program with 10 students who will meet on Tuesday nights for 11 weeks.

ART and CULTURE

1. **Kathrine G. McGovern College Arts (KGMCA) – PRH Fellowships** – Each summer the fellows mentor college students for six weeks in partnership with Project Row Houses. Recently the UH CITE grant program approved \$4100 to support this work during the summer of 2019. CITE also approved \$11,000 in to help establish an undergraduate fellowship program connected to Professor Rick Lowe's fall class that will begin to implement the Third Ward Cultural Loop.

2. **Underpass Murals** – Students from the Graphic Arts department will soon work with noted graffiti artist, Gonzo247, to paint murals on the pillars under I-45/Cullen. The images painted on the pillars will symbolize Third Ward, Eado, Eastwood and UH. The enhanced underpass will contribute to the safety of pedestrians.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. **Change Happens** — Ms. Helen Stagg has been promoted to Executive Director at Change Happens replacing Rev. Leslie Smith following many years of serving as the senior staff member. On March 15th, Vice President Lee spoke to 50 staff members at the Change Happens Staff orientation. This talk focused on the geography, history, and significance of Third Ward as well as the many reasons to be proud and hopeful for a bright future.

2. **25th Anniversary of Third Ward Community Cloth** — A celebration of the 25th anniversary of “the Cloth” was held on March 29th at the St. James Episcopal Church on Southmore. It was noted that the UH College of Social Work and the UH African American Studies Program were involved from the beginning. Representatives of the founding groups were asked to make remarks. Dr. Elwyn Lee spoke on behalf of the UH.



3. **African American Studies (AAS) 50th Anniversary Scholarship Banquet**

This event will take place **May 18th at 6:00 p.m.** at the UH Hilton Hotel, Waldorf Astoria Ballroom. In addition celebrating its 25 years, it will also celebrate AAS' recent approval to have a major. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Molefi Kete Asante from Temple University. The awards will be presented to outstanding individuals: Omawale Luthuli, Dr. Terrence Fontaine and Dr. Rhea Lawson.

Elwyn Lee
Vice President for Neighborhood & Strategic Initiatives