

| <i>HISD Press Release Number</i>                                   |                  | <i>2007-0110</i>  |
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| <i>2007-0110-Partnership Between HISD and Community Successful</i> |                  |                   |
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| Hotline Press  | 02/01/2007       |                   |
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| Times Tribune  | 02/01/2007       |                   |
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Hempstead Independent School District  
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 Public Information  
 Submitted by: Laurie Bettis

### **Partnership Between HISD and Community Successful**

Hempstead – It has been said that it takes a community to raise a child and the Hempstead community is coming together to help students at Hempstead Independent School District be successful. HISD, the City of Hempstead, Prairie View A&M University and local community residents are working together to provide the necessary tutoring students need to be successful on the TAKS exit level tests.

In order to meet the requirements for graduation, students not only must earn the necessary credits required to graduate, but they also must pass four exit level TAKS tests that are administered for English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. These tests are first administered to students in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. If a student fails the exit level test, he/she is given several opportunities to take it again. In addition to helping those students who did not graduate because they were not successful on the exit level test, the community partnership is working hard to intercede early so students are successful in meeting the requirements for graduation.

HISD offers many opportunities for students to receive additional help. Each campus offers tutorials before and after school to help students with homework. Through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers and the Hempstead Community Education, each campus runs an after school program Monday through Thursday. HISD also provides an extended day intervention program for students that are at risk of passing TAKS. The extended day program provides additional instruction in the targeted areas where the students are struggling. PVAMU provides tutors for students at the high school. HISD teachers and staff are dedicated to providing the extra help that students need to be successful.

Local residents organized the Hempstead Alumni Group in September to assist high school students prepare for the exit level tests required by the state. The Hempstead Alumni Group works with students every Monday and Wednesday evening at the fire station to help them master the TAKS objectives in the particular subject they are struggling with.

The partnership has been successful. Community leaders and school district officials got together with the alumni group at one of the Monday night sessions to celebrate the success the partnership is having with the students at HISD. Willie Van Duren (pictured back row center) and several other students were successful on the TAKS retest day in October.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources that are being made available through the partnership between the school district and community to help them be successful. All students can be successful with the support of their family, the school, and the community.

*Supporting Photos: HISD-Partnership-1568*

Hempstead ISD has joined forces with the City of Hempstead and the Hempstead Community to provide students with additional resources to help them be successful. Several members of the community along with school district officials were on hand at one of the Monday night sessions to celebrate the success the Hempstead Alumni Group is having. (back row left to right) Lonnie Garfield, HISD School Board President; Dr. Pam Obiomon, Professor at PVAMU; Anneta Buenger, HISD Superintendent; Willie Van Duren; Willie Tate; Anthony Hill, HISD Director of Technology; and Mike Lawson, HHS Principal (front row left to right) Michael Wolfe, Mayor of Hempstead; Mary Ragston, retired HISD Administrator; and Diane Tate. Katrina Garfield (not pictured) is also working with the group.



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