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Texas Instruments Foundation Announces \$1 Million Gift to Dallas Achieves Initiative

Dallas ISD's Plan to Win Coveted Broad Prize for Urban Education Gets Significant Boost with Financial Gifts and Community Support

DALLAS (October 9, 2007) – Three Dallas foundations, each with \$1 million gifts in hand, have embraced the Dallas Independent School District's (ISD) mission to ensure that every student graduate college and workforce ready. The Texas Instruments Foundation, Harold Simmons Foundation and W.W. Caruth, Jr. Foundation of Communities Foundation of Texas were honored on October 9 at a celebration along with almost 50 other donors who are helping fund Dallas ISD's mission to achieve academic excellence for all students and ultimately win the nationally coveted Broad Prize for Urban Education by 2010.

"Today we celebrate three extraordinary gifts illustrating the community's belief in and support for Dallas ISD, along with other significant gifts from Dallas individuals and institutions, some of whom began helping us almost two years ago," said J. McDonald Williams, Co-Chair of the Dallas Achieves Commission and founder/chairman of the Foundation for Community Empowerment. "Their generous acts of early giving, together with courageous leadership from Dr. Michael Hinojosa and the school board, have launched Dallas ISD's journey on the 'Road To Broad.' "

Announcing the gifts were Thomas J. Engibous, chairman of Texas Instruments; Charles J. Wyly, Jr., chairman of the board of Communities Foundation of Texas; and Betsy Healy, program officer of the Harold Simmons Foundation.

"Dallas Achieves represents the most promising educational reform initiative that we've seen, and the TI Foundation is very pleased to support this outstanding effort. We believe this is the first time the principles of campus and principal empowerment, data collection and best practices deployment have been systematically put into use in a major urban school district," said Mr. Engibous. "Everywhere these principles have been implemented effectively, they've worked, and Dallas ISD has shown progress over the past two years. This is an ambitious project with a critical mission, and resources from the private and non-profit leaders in this community will be essential if it is to succeed. We must do all we can, and, until every student is achieving, we cannot rest."

The funding will support the execution of the Dallas Achieves Transformation and Implementation Plan, which was formally adopted by the Dallas ISD Board of Trustees in April 2007. The Transformation Plan focuses on two key components – an Education Plan (emphasizing rigor, aligned common curriculum, instructional improvement via data and professional learning) and a comprehensive set of recommendations (and commendations), developed in conjunction with Dallas ISD staff and trustees with the Dallas Achieves Commission, an influential group of Dallas business and community leaders.

Also delivering remarks at the announcement were Dallas ISD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Hinojosa; Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert; Jack Lowe, president of the Dallas ISD Board of Trustees; and the three Dallas Achieves Co-Chairs: Arcilia Acosta, Pettis Norman and J. McDonald Williams. Special guest was Kerri L. Briggs, Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education for the U.S. Department of Education. Brent Christopher, president and CEO of Communities Foundation of Texas, hosted the event.

During his remarks, Dr. Hinojosa emphasized the importance and the long-lasting impact of the community's backing of Dallas ISD.

"It will take the support and effort from everyone in the city, including donors, sponsors, the board, parents and, of course, district staff and students, to reach the ambitious goals of the Dallas Achieves initiative," said Dr. Hinojosa. "Thankfully, the donors who were announced today, as well as those who have already contributed, understand our collective commitment to making certain that all Dallas students are college and workforce ready."

"With the Dallas Achieves Transformation Plan now in place, we have a roadmap to change the culture to one that focuses on students and the campuses that serve them," said Dr. Hinojosa. "It's an exciting time at Dallas ISD, and to know that the community so strongly supports our mission is powerful and energizing."

For more information about the 'Road To Broad' mission or to contribute to Dallas Achieves, please go to www.dallasachieves.org or call the Foundation for Community Empowerment at 469-221-0700.

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The Texas Instruments Foundation, founded in 1964, is a non-profit corporation providing philanthropic support for educational and charitable purposes primarily in the communities where Texas Instruments has a presence. With a primary focus of education, the Foundation has a national reputation for its role in fostering early childhood programs involving several university partnerships. More information can be found at <http://www.ti.com/tifoundation>.