

For Immediate Release

**TWELVE HOUSTON EDUCATORS RECEIVE THE KINDER EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD,
GRANTED A COLLECTIVE \$240,000**

HOUSTON – September 26, 2017 – Twelve (12) school teachers were honored recently with the Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award receiving a collective total of \$240,000 from the [Kinder Foundation](#). Four teachers, each from KIPP Houston Public Schools and YES Prep Public Schools, and two teachers from the Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and Teach For America-Houston, received grants of \$20,000 each. Five of the 12 winners are Teach For America alumni.

The Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award was established in 1996 in honor of Edna C. Kinder, who taught special education students in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Her son, Rich Kinder, Co-Founder and Executive Chairman of Kinder Morgan, and his wife Nancy, President of the Kinder Foundation, created the awards to recognize innovative and results-oriented teaching and to raise public awareness of the importance of effective and committed teachers. To date, 126 teachers have been recognized and \$2.07 million granted.

2017 Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award Winners:

ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON

Katherine Shadley: 1st grade, Our Lady of Fatima School

Alison Wilson: 5th and 8th grade Reading, History, and Religion, Queen of Peace Catholic School

KIPP HOUSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Thaint Elliott: 2nd grade Reading, KIPP Legacy Preparatory

Erin Gallagher: 1st grade, KIPP SHINE Prep

Mirella Sales: 6th grade Math, KIPP CONNECT Houston Middle School

Lisa Sandifer: 9-12th grade, KIPP Houston High School

TEACH FOR AMERICA-HOUSTON

Sabastian Berry: 9th grade Biology, Sharpstown High School, HISD

Hillary Smith: 4th grade Reading and Writing, DeAnda Elementary School, HISD

YES PREP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Marco Estrada: Middle School English I, YES Prep North Central

Earin Fritz: 7th grade Math, YES Prep Southside

Amanda Terwelp: 9th grade Algebra I, YES Prep Gulfton

Madeline Williams: 9th and 10th grade Seminar, YES Prep Southwest

The Kinder Excellence in Teaching Awards have changed the lives of the educators who have earned them. In the past, teachers have used the award money in various ways to help improve the quality of life for themselves, their families, and their communities.

About the Kinder Foundation

The Kinder Foundation, a family foundation established in 1997 by Rich and Nancy Kinder, has committed nearly \$300 million in gifts to transformational projects in the areas of urban green space, education, and quality of life. Visit kinderfoundation.org.

About KIPP Houston Public Schools

KIPP was founded in Houston in 1994 and has since grown to 209 public charter schools in 20 states and D.C. educating 88,000 children. Houston is KIPP's largest region and educates 14,500 students in 28 schools and serves an additional 2,300 alumni in college and beyond. While only 10.6 percent of students from low-income communities in Houston graduate from college, nearly 50 percent of KIPPsters, tracked from the 8th grade, graduate college. www.kipphouston.org.

About YES Prep Public Schools

For twenty years, YES Prep has increased the number of students from underserved communities who graduate from college prepared to lead. With 17 schools serving 12,600 students, YES Prep leads Houston forward by redefining what is possible in public education when children have access to excellent schools. YES Prep received the inaugural Broad Prize for Public Charter Schools, is nationally ranked by the U.S. News and World Report, The Washington Post, and others, and has consistently been named one of Houston's "Best Places to Work" by the Houston Business Journal. www.yesprep.org.

About Teach For America-Houston

Teach For America works in partnership with communities to expand educational opportunity for children facing the challenges of poverty. Founded in 1990, Teach For America recruits and develops a diverse corps of outstanding college graduates and professionals to make an initial two-year commitment to teach in high-need schools and become lifelong leaders in the effort to end educational inequity. Today, nearly 200 corps members are teaching across 6 school districts in Houston, and more than 1,500 alumni are working across different sectors to ensure that all children have access to an excellent education in our city. Teach For America-Houston has been an important force in the region's educational landscape for 27 years.

About Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston call young people to holiness and prepare them to live and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In collaboration with families, Archdiocesan Catholic schools teach the values of faith and tradition, serve the community, and ensure academic excellence. Catholic schools are committed to the evangelizing mission of the Church to educate and form witnesses who transform the world.

The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Catholic Schools make up the largest private school system in Texas. There are currently 59 schools throughout the Archdiocese, with more than 18,400 students enrolled. The schools serve students PreK-3 through 12th grade and all schools offer need-based tuition assistance for students. The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston serves 1.7 million Catholics in 10 counties. It is the largest Roman Catholic diocese in Texas and the 5th largest in the United States. www.choosecatholicschools.org.

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