

KINDER FOUNDATION

For Immediate Release

TWELVE HOUSTON EDUCATORS RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS KINDER EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Top educators granted gifts of recognition totaling \$240,000

HOUSTON – September 22, 2018 – Twelve (12) Houston-area school teachers were recently honored with the annual Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award, receiving a collective total of \$240,000 from the [Kinder Foundation](#). Award recipients hail from KIPP Texas Public Schools - Houston, YES Prep Public Schools, Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Galveston – Houston, and Teach for America - Houston. Each was nominated by their School Leader and School Director, has taught at the same network school for at least three years, is a positive motivator to students and faculty, and has led students to academic growth.

The Kinder Excellence in Teaching Awards have awarded more than \$3.4 million in grants to approximately 200 teachers since the program was established in 2001. The program was created in honor of Kinder Foundation Chairman Rich Kinder's mother, Edna C. Kinder, who taught special education for many years in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

2018 Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award Winners:

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON – HOUSTON

Kimberly Anderson: 9th Grade English Composition, Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory School of Houston

Chassidi Younger: Kindergarten and 1st Grade, Queen of Peace Catholic School

KIPP TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS – HOUSTON

Paige Cockrell: 1st Grade Reading and Writing, KIPP CONNECT Primary School

Matthew Cush: 4th Grade Reading, KIPP Dream Prep

Ashley Minor: 5th Grade Math, KIPP Intrepid Preparatory School (TFA)

Rebeka Solis: 8th Grade Science, KIPP Sharpstown College Prep

TEACH FOR AMERICA – HOUSTON

Jared Braun: 5th Grade Reading, Terrace Elementary (SBISD)

Elizabeth (Liz) Rodriguez: 4th Grade ELA and ELA Transitional, B.C. Elmore Elementary School (HISD)

YES PREP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Claudia Lozano: Algebra I, YES Prep North Forest

Maria Nunez: 6th Grade Math, YES Prep Fifth Ward (TFA)

Chris Peck: Algebra II, YES Prep North Central

Jesse Ruiz: 6th Grade Math, YES Prep Southeast (TFA)

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.

2018 Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award Winners. Photo credit Mike Charlton. From left to right: Superintendent of Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Catholic Schools Debra Haney, Teach for America Houston Executive Director Tiffany Cuellar Needham, Ashley Minor, Chassidi Younger, Paige Cockrell, Kimberly Anderson, Jared Braun, President & CEO of KIPP Texas Public Schools – Houston Sehba Ali, Matthew Cush, Rebeka Solis, Claudia Lozano, Maria Nunez, Chris Peck, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Jesse Ruiz, CEO of YES Prep Public Schools Mark DiBella, Nancy Kinder, Rich Kinder.

About the Kinder Foundation

The Kinder Foundation, a family foundation established in 1997 by Rich and Nancy Kinder of Houston, Texas, provides transformational grants that impact urban green space, education, and quality of life. More at kinderfoundation.org.

About The Archdiocese of Galveston – Houston

The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Catholic Schools are the largest private school system in Texas and have served students since 1847. With 60 schools throughout the 10 counties of the Archdiocese, the schools serve more than 19,000 students in PreK-3 through 12th grades. Amongst the 60 schools, five grade schools and ten high schools are owned and/or operated by religious orders or a Board of Directors. 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, we teach the values of our faith and tradition, serve our community, and ensure academic excellence. Our schools are committed to the evangelizing mission of the Church to educate and form witnesses who transform the world. All schools offer need-based tuition assistance for students. The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston serves 1.7 million Catholics and is the largest Roman Catholic diocese in Texas and the 5th largest in the United States. Check us out at www.choosetholichschools.org or <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicSchoolsHouston!>

About KIPP Texas Public Schools – Houston

KIPP Texas Public Schools is a nonprofit public charter school network, dedicated to preparing students in educationally underserved communities for college success and choice-filled lives. Today, KIPP Texas operates 52 public charter schools educating over 27,700 students across four regions – Austin, Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio. KIPP Texas is part of the national KIPP network of college-preparatory public charter schools in 20 states and the District of Columbia. KIPP schools are part of the free public school system and enrollment is open to all students. Nationwide, KIPP students complete four-year college at a rate of 36 percent, comparable to the national average for all students and approximately three times higher than the average of students from low-income families. www.kiptexas.org

About Teach For America – Houston

Teach For America works in partnership with urban and rural communities in more than 50 regions across the country to expand educational opportunity for children. Founded in 1990, Teach For America recruits and develops a diverse corps of outstanding leaders to make an initial two-year commitment to teach in high-need schools and become lifelong leaders in the effort to end educational inequity. Currently, 202 corps members teach in school districts across greater Houston. They join a Teach For America alumni community that more than 1,500 strong locally. Today Teach For America is a force of 56,000 alumni and corps members committed to profound systemic change. From classrooms to districts to state houses across America, they're reimagining education to realize the day when every child has an equal opportunity to learn, to grow, to influence and to lead. Teach For America is a proud member of the AmeriCorps national service network. For more information, visit www.teachforamerica.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About YES Prep Public Schools

For twenty-one years, YES Prep has increased the number of students from underserved communities who graduate from college prepared to lead. With 18 schools serving 13,300 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. To learn more, visit: www.yesprep.org.

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