

# KINDER FOUNDATION

*For Immediate Release*

## **TWELVE HOUSTON EDUCATORS RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS KINDER EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD**

*Top educators granted gifts of recognition totaling \$300,000*

HOUSTON – September 30, 2019 – Twelve (12) Houston-area school teachers were recently honored with the annual Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award and a gift of \$25,000 each, for a collective total of \$300,000 this year, 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 recipient was nominated by their school leader or school director, has taught at the same network or 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 has a transformational impact on 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, their students, and their communities.

### **2019 Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award Winners:**

#### **THE ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON – HOUSTON**

**Tracy Sanchez:** 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA, Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School, Galena Park

**Greg Adragna:** 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Physics, Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory School of Houston

#### **KIPP TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS – HOUSTON**

**Chae Ray:** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Teacher, KIPP Courage College Prep

**Kristina Jenkins:** Kindergarten, KIPP Unity Primary School

**Minhtam Trinh:** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science, KIPP Academy West

**Elvira Marquez:** 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Biology and AP Chemistry, KIPP Generations Collegiate

#### **TEACH FOR AMERICA – HOUSTON**

**Ryan Beeler:** 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Environmental Science, Spring Woods High School (Spring Branch ISD)

**Sarah Tredway:** Kindergarten, BakerRipley Elementary (BakerRipley)

#### **YES PREP PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Jonathan Martinez:** 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science, YES Prep Southeast (TFA)

**Marla Trujillo:** 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math, YES Prep Northline

**Caitlin Wales:** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies, Senior Seminar, YES Prep North Central

**Kristal “Krissy” Watson:** 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Environmental Science, AP Environmental Science, YES Prep Brays Oaks

The Kinder Excellence in Teaching Awards has gifted more than \$3.7 million to more than 250 teachers since the program was established in 2001. The program was created in honor of Kinder Foundation Chairman Rich Kinder’s mother who had a long career as a school teacher.

**2019 Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award Winners.** Photo credit: Mike Charlton

Group photo: 2019 Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award winners top row from left to right: Marla Trujillo, Minhtam Trinh, Kristal Watson, Sarah Tredway, Chae Ray, Kristina Jenkins, Ryan Beeler; bottom row from left to right: Caitlin Wales, Tracy Sanchez, Elvira Marquez, Jonathan Martinez, Greg Adragna, Nancy and Rich Kinder



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### **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 [www.kinderfoundation.org](http://www.kinderfoundation.org).

### **About The Archdiocese of Galveston – Houston**

The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Catholic Schools is the largest private school system in Texas and has 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.choosecatholicschools.org](http://www.choosecatholicschools.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 55 public charter schools educating over 29,000 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.kipptexas.org](http://www.kipptexas.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, about 200 corps members teach in school districts across greater Houston. They join a Teach For America alumni community that more than 1,600 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](http://www.teachforamerica.org) and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

#### **About YES Prep Public Schools**

For twenty-two years, YES Prep has increased the number of students from underserved communities who graduate from college prepared to lead. With 19 schools serving 14,000 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.

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