

KINDER FOUNDATION

For Immediate Release

TWELVE HOUSTON EDUCATORS RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS KINDER EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Top educators from KIPP Texas Public Schools – Houston, YES Prep Public Schools, Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Galveston – Houston, and Teach For America Houston granted gifts of recognition totaling \$300,000

HOUSTON – September 25, 2023 – Twelve (12) Houston-area school teachers were recently honored with the annual Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award and a gift of \$25,000 each from [Kinder Foundation](#). In total, \$300,000 was granted to teachers 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.

"It is an honor and delight to recognize some of Houston's great educators every year with the Kinder Excellence in Teaching Awards. Every student deserves to have a teacher who cares about their success, and these 12 teachers go above and beyond to ensure their students succeed. We hope this recognition and financial award will serve to highlight their outstanding commitment to teaching," said Nancy Kinder, President and CEO of the Kinder Foundation.

The Kinder Excellence in Teaching Awards (KETA) has awarded over \$4.8 million in grants to more than 299 teachers since the program was established in 2001. The program was created in honor of Rich Kinder's mother, Edna C. Kinder, who taught special education students for many years in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

2023 Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award Winners:

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON – HOUSTON

Jackie Nguyen-Meza: Kindergarten, Saint Augustine Catholic School

Peter Rispin: 9th Grade Biology / 12th Grade Human Anatomy & Physiology, Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory School of Houston

KIPP TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS – HOUSTON

Dr. Shatonya Sinclair: ELA, KIPP Texas Public Schools - Houston

Peter Willett: 9th Grade English - Literature 1, KIPP Texas Public Schools - Houston

Fendi Baggs Kerlegan: Dance, KIPP Texas Public Schools – Houston

Anjuli Crouch: Pre-K 4, KIPP Texas Public Schools - Houston

TEACH FOR AMERICA HOUSTON

Sarah Honore: English I, East Early College High School, Houston ISD

Narda Terrones: 5th grade Language Arts, Sherman Elementary School, Houston ISD

YES PREP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Patrick Adre: 7th grade ELA, YES Prep Southeast Secondary

Diana Rodriguez: Pre-K, YES Prep Southeast Elementary

Ike Moten: 6th Grade Science, YES Prep North Central Secondary

Timmy Woyan: 6th-8th Grade Math/Science Special Education, YES Prep Southwest Secondary

The Kinder Excellence in Teaching Awards have a transformational impact on the lives of the educators who earn 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.

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2023 recipient biographies, headshots and additional images can be found [here](#).

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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.

About The Archdiocese of Galveston – Houston

Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston make up the largest private school system in Texas and have served students since 1847. With 56 schools throughout the 10 counties of the Archdiocese, the schools serve more than 17,000 students in PreK-3 through 12th grades. Amongst the 56 schools, five grade schools and 11 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.. Check us out at www.choosecatholicschools.org or <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicSchoolsHouston>

About KIPP Texas Public Schools – Houston

[KIPP Texas](#) is an open-enrollment, public, tuition-free charter school network of 57 schools with nearly 35,000 pre-K-12 students across 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. 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 Houston works in partnership with local districts and charter schools to expand educational opportunities for children. Founded in Houston in 1991, Teach For America recruits and develops a diverse corps of outstanding leaders who make an initial two-year commitment to teach in high-need schools and become lifelong leaders in the effort to end educational inequity. Today, TFA Houston is a force of over 2,100 alumni and corps members impacting more than 31,000 students in pursuit of profound systemic change. From classroom to systems-level positions, their leaders are reimagining education to realize the day when every child has an equal opportunity to learn, lead, thrive, and co-create a future filled with possibility. Teach For America is a proud member of the AmeriCorps national service network. For more information, visit www.teachforamerica.org/houston and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

About YES Prep Public Schools

With 23 campuses serving more than 18,000 students, YES Prep Public Schools leads Houston forward by redefining what is possible in public education when children have access to excellent schools from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Nationally ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*, YES Prep is open to and tuition-free for all children. In addition to rigorous education and enrichment programs, YES Prep schools provide meals, devices, transportation, special education, English language learning, and access to healthcare, mental health, and other student support services. To learn more, visit www.yesprep.org.