

**Over 500 HISD students expected to attend HISD’s College & Career Forum**

*Three HISD students in grades 6-12 will win a $1,000 college scholarship*

*Feb. 9, 2018* – Hundreds of HISD students and their parents are expected to attend the **fifth annual College & Career Readiness Forum** to explore potential career pathways, as well as college and campus life. The event will highlight the importance of choosing the right career based on interests and personality styles, and how planning a career pathway can help achieve professional fulfillment. Additionally, three $1,000 college scholarships will be raffled off throughout the course of the event.

**The forum will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17 at Chávez High School, located at 8501 Howard Drive, Houston, TX 77017.**

“We are excited to host the fifth annual College & Career Readiness Forum,” said Chávez High School Principal Rene Sánchez. “In previous years, this forum was only open to students in the Chávez High School feeder pattern, but we realized that it’s a special day during the school year that really taps into the curiosity and work potential of students. They go on to prepare for majors and apply to colleges with their eyes wide open based on the information they received at the forum.”

Moderated by HISD Board of Education Trustee **Diana Dávila**, the forum will begin with remarks by HISD Superintendent **Richard Carranza**, District III Trustee **Dr. Sergio Lira** and Houston Police Chief **Art Acevedo**, who will be honored for the acts of bravery exhibited by HPD both during and in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Keynote speaker **Dr. Juan Sánchez Muñoz**, president of the University of Houston-Downtown, will also be honored for his commitment to ensuring HISD students have the highest-quality access and opportunity to higher education. Both Acevedo and Sánchez Muñoz will be presented with student-produced artwork.

“We need to educate parents and students about the various higher education options and career opportunities available,” said Dávila. “This program is unique because it is designed to prepare middle schoolers for high school and ensure a successful path to pursuing a college education. You’re never too young to start dreaming of your career or college of choice.”

To guide students and their families who are preparing for college, more than 50 breakout student and parent information sessions and workshops will be offered by various HISD departments and university representatives to learn about International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, and dual credit programs, as well as sessions on how to begin earning college credit in high school, financial aid, and college admissions. All information sessions for parents will be held in both English and Spanish.

“To all parents and high school students, do not miss this great opportunity to learn how to navigate and remain on the right path to college or a great career,” said Lira.

More than 50 information sessions about career paths for students will be presented by professionals currently working in their field. Select industries that will be discussed during the breakout sessions include law, education, journalism, engineering, business, and hotel and restaurant management.

Admission to the College & Career Readiness Forum is free. Students and parents interested in attending should register online before Feb. 16 at <http://chavezforum.com> to ensure they will receive free breakfast and lunch.

For more information, contact the HISD College Readiness Department at 713-967-5231 or visit <http://www.houstonisd.org/>.