

HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD's top male and female athletes taking their talents to Kentucky State and University of Texas

Feb. 7, 2019 – With their parents, coaches, and friends looking on, two of the Houston Independent School District's top athletes announced they will attend Kentucky State and the University of Texas to pursue their athletic and academic careers.

Mesi Wilson is a standout in volleyball at Bellaire High School who has been offered a scholarship to play at Kentucky State.

North Forest High School's Javonne Shepherd, one of the top offensive tackles in the state, has accepted a scholarship to play at the University of Texas.

The two joined over 150 other HISD student athletes at the district's National Signing Day as they officially committed to participate in basketball, soccer, baseball, football, lacrosse, swimming, tennis, track and field, volleyball, water polo, golf, softball, cross country, and wrestling at colleges and universities throughout the nation.

The speaker at this year's event was former WNBA star and Olympic gold medalist Ruthie Bolton, who told the students to celebrate their success without forgetting their purpose.

"Greatness is what happens beyond today," Bolton said. "If you lose your 'why,' you lose your way. This is your journey, don't give it away."

National Signing Day took place on Wednesday at HISD's Delmar Fieldhouse and was attended by HISD Interim Superintendent **Grenita Lathan**, HISD Board of Education Trustee **Sergio Lira**, HISD Athletics Director **Andre' Walker**, students, coaches, parents, and school administrators.

Media wishing to do interviews with any student athletes should contact the HISD Press Office at 713-556-6393 or pressoffice@houstonisd.org.

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The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest in the United States, with 284 schools and more than 214,000 students. The 333-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area, with more than 27,000 employees.

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