

## HISD PRESS RELEASE

### HISD Launches “Reach the Hilltop” Scholarship and Entrepreneurship Program

*Hilltop Securities and Hilltop Holdings donating \$333,000 for HISD programs*

May 25, 2021 – The Houston ISD Foundation is partnering with Texas-based municipal investment bank Hilltop Securities Inc. and its parent company, Hilltop Holdings Inc., to fund programs and a new scholarship for HISD students. Hilltop is generously donating \$333,000 to create the “Reach the Hilltop” Fund, the Hilltop Fellows Innovation Fund, and the HISD by Design Program, and to provide additional operating support for the Houston ISD Foundation.

Of the donated funds, Houston ISD Foundation will use \$90,000 to launch the “HISD by Design” program—a leadership and entrepreneurship program aimed at tapping into HISD’s pool of teachers and teacher leaders with the most promising ideas to best support students’ needs. The foundation will equip them with the business knowledge and acumen needed to bring their ideas from conception to execution, including crafting a complete business plan and pairing them with a mentor.

“We are grateful that Hilltop Holdings is supporting our students and staff during a financially difficult year,” said HISD Interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan. “It speaks to the commitment of our partners and stakeholders in recognizing the impact they can make in our communities by helping us make opportunities available. By investing in the future of HISD students, Hilltop is a partner in setting them on a path for success.”

Seventy thousand dollars in donation funds will be set aside for the “Reach the Hilltop” Last-Dollar Scholarship Fund and the “Reach the Hilltop” Career Readiness Fund. The scholarship fund will award up to \$1,500 to students who have a gap between financial aid and the cost of attending a post-secondary institution. The career readiness fund will pay for the cost of student vocational certifications for students demonstrating financial need.

“Hilltop is committed to supporting the communities we serve across Texas and the nation,” said Hilltop Holdings President and CEO Jeremy Ford. “Investing in education is a priority for us, particularly for underserved students and the teachers who mentor them. We’re proud to partner with the Houston ISD Foundation to provide more opportunities for local students to reach their full potential.”

HISD educators will also have the opportunity to become Hilltop Fellows. Carving out a portion of the established Houston ISD Foundation Innovation Fund with \$123,000, the “Hilltop Fellows” Educator Grants program will provide grants to support projects and creative ideas that improve equitable outcomes for students from underserved demographic populations and to improve academic and life outcomes for students.

“As a leading municipal investment bank, HilltopSecurities is deeply invested in the success of communities across Texas,” said HilltopSecurities President and CEO Brad Wings. “There is no better way to support that mission than by providing resources and opportunities for our students and the educators who guide them. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Houston ISD.”

<b>HilltopSecurities &amp; Hilltop Holdings Donations to the HISD Foundation</b>	
“Reach the Hilltop” Scholarship Fund and Career Readiness Fund	\$70,000
HISD by Design	\$90,000
Hilltop Fellows Innovation Fund	\$123,000
Operating support for HISD Foundation	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$333,000</b>

### **About HISD Foundation**

Founded in 1994 by a group of committed community members with a vested interest in the success of Houston’s public school students, the Houston ISD Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) organization that has supported the needs of HISD for more than twenty-five years. The foundation’s goal is to ensure Houston ISD is fully equipped to meet the demands of this critical moment in time, by ensuring students in the nation’s fourth largest city are prepared to achieve economic independence and contribute to the betterment of society throughout their lives.

### **About Hilltop Holdings**

Hilltop Holdings is a Dallas-based financial holding company. Its primary line of business is to provide business and consumer banking services from offices located throughout Texas through PlainsCapital Bank. PlainsCapital Bank’s wholly owned subsidiary, PrimeLending, provides residential mortgage lending throughout the United States. Hilltop Holdings’ broker-dealer subsidiaries, Hilltop Securities Inc. and Momentum Independent Network Inc., provide a full complement of securities brokerage, institutional and investment banking services in addition to clearing services and retail financial advisory. As of March 31, 2021, Hilltop employed approximately 4,980 people and operated approximately 430 locations in 47 states. Hilltop Holdings’ common stock is listed on the New York Stock

Exchange under the symbol "HTH." Find more information at [Hilltop-Holdings.com](http://Hilltop-Holdings.com), [PlainsCapital.com](http://PlainsCapital.com), [PrimeLending.com](http://PrimeLending.com) and [HilltopSecurities.com](http://HilltopSecurities.com).

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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 280 schools and more than 209,772 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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