



GREATER TEXAS FOUNDATION

**Charitable Activities Committee  
2007 Annual Report**

**Grants Approved in 2007:**

*Scholarships (Access to Education)*

**Generation Proud (10) \$250,000**

The Generation Proud scholarship program provided assistance to students that were the first of their family to attend college. The program was meant to encourage and support first generation college students and provided a total of \$250,000 in need based aid in the 2007-2008 school year. (Sam Houston, Sul Ross, UH-Clear Lake, UH-Downtown, UT at Brownsville & Texas Southmost College, UT at Dallas, UT at El Paso, UT of the Permian Basin, UT at San Antonio, West Texas A&M University.)

**Rising to the Challenge (10) \$250,000**

Community colleges play an important role in Texas' post-secondary educational environment. Students often find it difficult, however, to make the transition from a community college setting to a four-year institution of higher education. The foundation's Rising to the Challenge scholarship program was meant to encourage and support students making that transition. The scholarship program provided a total of \$250,000 in need based aid in the 2007-2008 school year. (Midland College, Sul Ross, TAMU, TAMU at Galveston, TAMU at Texarkana, UH-Downtown, University of North Texas, UT at El Paso, UT of the Permian Basin, UT at San Antonio.)

**Removing Educational Barriers (10) \$522,000**

In 2003 the foundation offered \$20,000 scholarship grants to each public four-year post-secondary institution in the state. During 2004-2006 these awards were made on a matching basis. In 2007 the foundation's board established a goal to create a \$200,000 scholarship endowment to each public four-year post-secondary institution in the state. To that end, the foundation offered matching funds (on a 1:1 basis) up to \$100,000 to institutions. Matches were based on the remainder of previous funding so that each institution could obtain up to \$100,000 in matching funds from 2004-2007. In 2007 a total of \$522,000 was matched with another \$439,000 queued for disbursement in 2008 due to exhausted funds. (Sam Houston, Sul Ross, Tarleton State, TAMU, TAMU-International, TAMU-Texarkana, TWU, UH, UH-Downtown, UH-Victoria)

**Linda Lorelle Scholarships \$24,000**

This grant funded two \$12,000 scholarships for recipients selected in their junior year and who participate in a mandatory college readiness program throughout their senior year. GTF scholarships went to Sharon Ariaya and Joel Flores, both seniors at Lee High School in Houston.

*Math & Science Programs (Math & Science)*

**UNTeach at the University of North Texas \$1,400,000**

UNTeach at the University of North Texas is a replication of the UTeach program at the University of Texas at Austin. The goal of this program is to increase the number of math and science teachers in high need areas of the state who exhibit both a deep understanding of secondary level math and science content as well a knowledge of curriculum development for instructional strategies. The project is in the planning stage through August 31, 2008. To date \$50,000 of this grant has been disbursed.

**Dana Center Mathematics Capstone Course \$410,000**

In response to the new graduation requirement that Texas high school students complete four years of mathematics, the Dana Center, through this grant, is developing a rigorous and engaging capstone high school course designed to follow Algebra II. A public discussion draft was posted on the Dana Center website in September. On January 11<sup>th</sup> a meeting will take place to write teacher professional development requirements. To date \$166,470 of this grant has been disbursed.

**Canutillo Early College High School Project \$864,000**

This grant will support establishment of an Early College High School to be operated by El Paso Community College and Canutillo Independent School District. The grant recipient is the Texas High School Project (through the Communities Foundation of Texas) which is responsible for administering the grant on behalf of GTF. The Northwest Early College High School Groundbreaking Ceremony took place on November 5, 2007. A new principal has been appointed and will begin work on January 7, 2008. Teacher and student recruitment will soon follow. To date \$375,481 of this grant has been disbursed.

**Head Start of Greater Dallas \$50,000**

This grant supports implementation and evaluation of the Hands on Science Outreach curriculum at Head Start of Greater Dallas. The curriculum includes lessons in anatomy, chemistry, earth science, color and light, sound, and solar energy. The first report for this grant is due February 1, 2008.

**TAMEST Sponsorship \$40,500**

This grant sponsored the October Forum of the Academy of Medicine, Engineering, and Science of Texas: Texas Confronts the *Gathering Storm*. TAMEST was created at the behest of Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson in response to the growing concern about K-12 public education in mathematics and science. The forum was held on October 12-13 at Rice University. TAMEST is currently in the process of summarizing the education forum. A synopsis of the key points that emerged from the conference will be completed by January 11, 2008.

*Outreach/Teacher Skill Development/ School-Community Partnerships***Collaborative “Road to College” \$150,000 – outreach**

*Road to College* is a college readiness program intended to promote college and university attendance among underserved and economically challenged student populations, many of whom will be first-generation college attendees. A project manager was hired for the project and as planned both IDEA Public Schools and Uplift Education, two Chartered Management Organizations, are conducting pilot Road to College classes using locally developed materials supplemented with acquired curriculum. To date \$50,000 of this grant has been disbursed.

**Brazos Valley Worldfest \$10,000 – school community partnerships**

This one day educational event was intended to promote and celebrate the international diversity of the Brazos Valley. The event was held on November 17, 2007 in historic downtown Bryan.

**GFE Annual Conference \$20,000 – outreach**

This grant provided support for the Grantmakers for Education 2007 annual conference, “Crossing borders and boundaries: Re-envisioning education philanthropy for a new era.” GTF was recognized in the conference brochure, the conference booklet, and the GFE website. In addition, Wynn Rosser participated on the Host Committee and introduced and moderated a plenary session.

Educational Matching Grant Program

The Educational Matching Grant Program is intended to encourage giving by Greater Texas Foundation officers, board members, committee members, and employees to educational institutions or organizations supporting education.

**Blinn College Foundation** (2) \$20,000  
**Henry McClelland Scholarship Fund** \$200  
**Texas A&M Foundation** (2) \$12,000  
**Texas State University-San Marcos** \$10,000  
**The University of Texas at Austin** \$1,000

**Total Grants Approved in 2007:**

<b>Funding Area</b>	<b>Number of Grants</b>	<b>Amount of Funding</b>
Scholarships	31	\$1,046,000
Math/Science	5	\$2,764,500
Other	3	\$180,000
Educational Matching Grants	7	\$43,200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>\$4,033,700</b>

**Total Requests Declined in 2007:**

<b>Type of Request</b>	<b>Number of Declinations</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
<i>Letters of Inquiry</i>		
General	7	\$771,200
<i>Proposals</i>		
Generation Proud	8	\$200,000
Rising to the Challenge	13	\$325,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>\$1,296,200</b>

**Additional 2007 Initiatives:**

Math & Science Development

**Theory of Change**

With the assistance of Don Thompson, a planning session was held during the March 2007 Board workshop to expand on the Board's idea to focus on improving math and science instruction in Texas middle schools. From this session came the development of a Theory of Change that was presented to the Board in the July 2007 meeting. The theory is grounded in the following statement: "We believe in the importance of the individual classroom teacher. We believe outstanding teachers and high quality teaching lead to increased retention rates and contribute to an increased number of students matriculating through the education pipeline and into our state's community colleges, vocational schools, and four-year institutions. We seek to raise the intellectual capital of our state." This theory of change led to the *Greater Texas Teachers* RFP.

**RFP- Greater Texas Teachers**

Released on November 1, 2007, the purpose of the *Greater Texas Teachers* RFP is to solicit proposals to develop a program that will increase the number of highly qualified middle school math and science teachers with deep subject content matter in Texas middle schools. Letters of

inquiry are due on February 1, 2008. Invited proposals are due June 15, 2008. The board has approved a list of judges who will be invited to participate within the next month. Inquiries about the RFP can be emailed to the foundation through the GTF website. Staff will respond to these questions in writing and post them on the website so that everyone has the opportunity to view the questions and answers. Several questions regarding cohort size, recruitment of teachers, percentage of math/science content and program enhancements have already been posted and answered by staff.

### Grantmaking Process

#### **CyberGrants**

The Board approved the purchase of CyberGrants in July 2007. Carol Miller worked with the CyberGrants account manager to implement the grantmaking software and customize it for GTF purposes. On November 19<sup>th</sup> the link to submitting a letter of inquiry online was added to the GTF website. Following a process designed by Carol Miller all historical grant information was added to the database with the assistance of Dr. Rosser, Leslie Chavez, Judy Holt, Judy Lee and McKenzie Watkins. As of December 14<sup>th</sup> all historical data entry has been completed.

#### **Evaluation**

In the long-term staff is working on developing a recommended evaluation plan for the foundation's grant portfolio and funding principles. In the short-term, evaluation is built into all proposal submissions as well as grant agreements. Reporting procedures require evaluation data as outlined in the proposal. Staff will continue to work on this topic in 2008 and make recommendations to the Charitable Activities Committee.