

# In the NEWS



# Project GRAD

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## PROJECT GRAD AWARDS \$2.4 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO GRADUATING SENIORS

Seventeenth year of awards for Davis, Houston, Reagan, Wheatley, and Yates students

*HISD CONNECT*

For the seventeenth consecutive year, Project GRAD Houston has awarded college scholarships totaling \$2.4 million to graduating seniors from five HISD high schools.

More than 600 students from the 2008 graduating classes of **Jefferson Davis, Sam Houston, John Reagan, Phillis Wheatley, and Jack Yates High Schools** received a non-competitive \$4,000 scholarship, which they may use at any accredited college or university in the country.

The scholarship recipients were recognized on May 15 during a Scholarship Award Ceremony held at the University of Houston's Cullen Performance Hall. The theme for the ceremony, "From Diplomas to Degrees," reflected Project

GRAD Houston's efforts to not only increase the number of students who graduate from high school and go to college, but also to increase the number of students who graduate from college.

Over 1,000 students, parents, and guests attended the event and the speakers included scholarship recipients from each of the HISD/Project GRAD high schools, Mayor Bill White, HISD Superintendent of Schools Abelardo Saavedra, and the founder and chairman of Project GRAD, Mr. James Ketelsen.

Representatives from the HISD Board of Education and other key district leaders joined the distinguished speakers, school principals, and parents in congratulating the students on their accomplishments.

"I would like a

hundred percent of this class to enter the college of their choice," founder and chairman of Project GRAD James L. Ketelsen told program participants. "Do it! Take advantage of the opportunity you have. The second part of the dream is that every one of you will leave with a degree from the college that you've chosen."

"As an educator, I strongly believe that the only way for our young people to have a better future—and the only way that a community has a better future with an improved quality of life—is if our young people are fully educated," added Superintendent of Schools Abelardo Saavedra.

Wheatley High School graduate Bonnie Culberson, who plans to attend Prairie View A&M University this fall, encouraged



Recent Reagan High School graduate Anna Huynh accepts congratulations from HISD Superintendent of Schools ABELARDO SAAVEDRA on May 15 during a ceremony honoring Project GRAD scholars. Huynh was one of more than 600 students to receive a non-competitive \$4,000 scholarship to use at any accredited college or university in the United States.

future program participants to "be a part of Project GRAD, because it will prepare you for college and your future."

This year's graduates join almost 4,000 other qualifiers who have been awarded the scholarship since the program began in 1992—an investment by Project GRAD Houston and its community partners of more than \$15 million dollars in the future of our communities, our city, and our nation.