



PROJECT GRAD HOUSTON'S 6TH ANNUAL PARENT CONVENTION: "PASSPORT TO COLLEGE"

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(Houston, TX) – On March 5, 2010 Project GRAD Houston hosted its 6th annual Parent Convention at Houston Community College – Northeast. This year's theme, "Passport to College," reminded us that access to higher education is much like traveling; it requires planning and preparation so that nothing keeps us from our individual destinations. Admission, lunch and transportation to the Convention were FREE for parents whose children are enrolled in Project GRAD partnering schools!

Over 350 parents of elementary, middle and high school students in Houston Independent School District's GRAD-affiliated schools in the Davis, Sam Houston, Reagan, Wheatley and Yates High School feeder patterns received

information to help their children in college readiness, college access, and college success. Sessions in both English and Spanish were offered. In addition, community and college/university partners were also on-hand to share information on saving and planning for college.

Peggy Wilson, parent of two students (3rd and 5th grade) currently attending Atherton Elementary School said, "This is my first time attending this wonderful convention. I have always talked to my children about going to college and this convention provides me with the information that I need to help them get into college. Next year, I would like



to see more parents attend this convention because the information is so important and so useful to all parents who wish for their kids to go to college!"

"I've been to all 6 Project GRAD Parent Conventions and I always learn something new every time," said Crystal Jones, Project GRAD Parent Board of Trustees' member and parent of a Yates High School senior. "I take all of this information home and I not only talk to my children but I talk to my neighbors and their children. I talk to my friends and their children. I talk to anyone that will listen about Project GRAD and the opportunities available to them and their children. The Parent Convention has opened my eyes to so many options and Project GRAD is always available and helpful with personalized support



and experience."

Project GRAD Houston serves five HISD high school feeder patterns (67 schools with approximately 45,000 students from low-income communities). Since its inception in 1994, GRAD has awarded over \$16 million in college scholarships to more than 4,000 HISD students. For more information about Project GRAD Houston, please visit our web site at: www.projectgradhouston.org or call 832-325-0467.

The mission of Project GRAD is to ensure a quality public education for all students in economically disadvantaged communities so that high school and college graduation rates increase.