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Gregory-Portland Independent School District

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G-PISD honored with Two (2) State Awards in Business-Finance from the Texas Association of School Business Professionals (TASBO)

Gregory-Portland ISD received two highly coveted state awards this month from the Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO): The 2024 Award of Merit for Purchasing Operations, and also the 2024 Award of Excellence in Financial Management. Superintendent Dr. Michelle Cavazos cited the district's long-standing commitment to financial management and exercising good stewardship of taxpayer dollars as reasons for these recognitions at the highest level of achievement.

"We have a strong, experienced, and dedicated finance team," said Cavazos. "They are leading the way in terms of financial transparency, budgeting, long-term fiscal planning, and most of all: Consideration for the fact that every dollar and cent we receive is the result of taxpayer support, whether industrial or residential, and we aim to make the right decisions for our community because they fund our schools."

Dr. Ismael Gonzalez III, the district's Assistant Superintendent for Business-Finance and Operations, emphasized that these recognitions are a "clear indication" that his team at G-PISD is committed and focused on continuous improvement for their community. "Everything we do is for our students, staff, families, and our taxpayers," he said. "Every decision we make, and every effort to improve processes and communication for the management of taxpayer dollars in our district is done with the people we aim to serve in mind."

Dr. Gonzalez stated that the TASBO organization is the "leading source" for identifying excellence in finance and operations for public schools throughout the state, and as a long-standing member of the organization he realizes the weight these recognitions carry. "These awards are a testament to the team in G-PISD, and we could not be more proud of each and every one of them."

The Award of Excellence in Financial Management was established to recognize educational entities that abide by sound professional standards, best practices, and employ innovations in financial management. The Purchasing Award of Merit was established in 2009 to recognize Texas schools and education service centers who are committed to following professional standards in the acquisition of goods and services. Criteria to qualify for these awards is stringent and based on financial reporting guidelines identified by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Financial Accountability System Resource Guide (FASRG).

TASBO's Executive Director Tracy Ginsburg highlighted the commitment that recipients of these honors must exhibit, including having "gone above and beyond" to demonstrate transparency by meticulously documenting their district's policies and procedures. "Not only have they showcased the ways they monitor spending, improve budgeting, implement controls, and enhance financial reporting," she said, "but they have shared their best practices with colleagues throughout Texas helping even more educational organizations to better utilize taxpayer dollars."

The G-PISD Board of Trustees will publicly recognize and celebrate the success of the district's Business-Finance team at an upcoming school board meeting on March 25, 2024, following receipt of their awards at the state TASBO conference this month. The following individuals are those who serve in the Business-Finance office:

- Dr. Ismael Gonzalez III – Assistant Superintendent for Business-Finance & Operations
- Alberto Silguero – Director of Business Services
- Laurie Williams – Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent for Business-Finance & Operations
- Vicki Schmidt – Secretary to the Director of Business Services
- Buffy Longoria – Senior Accountant/State & Federal Programs
- Lee May Gonzalez – Bond Accountant
- Chris Casarez - Purchasing Coordinator
- Ashley Ballew - Purchasing Clerk
- Delaina Kashner – Accounts Payable Clerk
- Wendi Browning – Payroll Supervisor
- Jackie Aragon – Payroll Specialist
- Tonya Lorberau – PEIMS/Database Administrator
- Nicole Geerdes-Lyon – PEIMS Specialist

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