

The Firstmark Foundation awarded \$100,000 to SAMSAT's Educator Fellows Program, helping teachers who serve in underserved communities.

Firstmark, SAMSAT Helping Teachers in Underserved Communities

The Firstmark Foundation is pleased to announce its grant award of \$100,000 to SAMSAT, the San Antonio Museum of Science and Technology, in support of the SAMSAT Educator Fellows Program. The program will train twelve teachers over one year in methods of project-based learning (PBL), including three teachers with prior experience who will also serve as mentors. With a focus on aiding teachers who serve underrepresented populations via Title I schools, the program is designed to provide professional development and an overall unique experience.



"The Firstmark Foundation believes in giving back to our education community where it leads to access and opportunity, and this program will do just that. We are beyond excited to partner with SAMSAT, to play a role in helping this program come to life, and thankful to Power of the Dollar® members for making this all possible."

Marisa Pérez-Díaz
Executive Director/Firstmark Foundation

Professional development opportunities are limited and, oftentimes, come at an added expense to the educator, which could impact their growth in the field. By merging both practice and training through PBL, it will provide teachers advantages toward their real-world transition. The program will also give each teacher the chance to make two visits to SAMSAT AREA 21® on field trips with their students, where they will receive direct assistance integrating new approaches into daily practice.

This is the first high impact grant the foundation has awarded SAMSAT.

Cunningham Scholarship Recipients

Firstmark is excited to announce the Cunningham Scholarship recipients – each receive \$1,000!

Alexandra Daniel | Reagan HS
Alexia Mendoza | Eagle Pass HS
Audry Pomeroy | Clark HS
Brigette Bettice | East Central HS
Camila Diarte | Brandeis HS
Carlee Hoffmann | Samuel Clemens HS
Claire Koeck | San Antonio Christian School
Daniela Garcia | Young Women's Leadership Academy
Elizabeth Sanchez | Pieper HS
Giselle Prado | Oliver Wendell Holmes HS

Haileigh Christley | Texas Online Preparatory HS
Jacob Marshall | Floresville HS
Jane Garrett | Great Hearts Northern Oaks
Kayla Aquino | Harmony Science Academy
Lucas Campbell | La Vernia HS
Magdalena Micklitz | Johnson HS
Rachel Laleman | John Marshall HS
Siena Skinner | Health Careers HS
Taylor Sublett | Fredericksburg HS
Tivoli Martinez | Sandra Day O'Connor HS

Educator of the Month



Alexander Olivarez - April
Harlandale ISD
Harlandale High School



Maggie Toney - May
East Central ISD
East Central High School

Educators Honored at Bluebonnet Parade



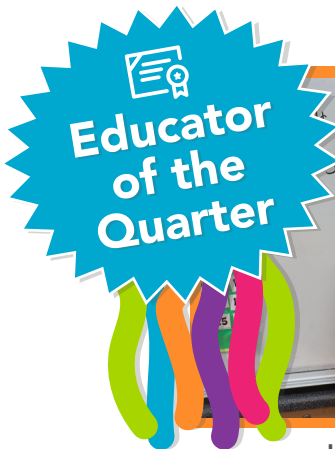
Bonnie Harker (left) and Shirley Tucker (right).



Firstmark paid tribute to the unsung heroes of La Vernia's community: teachers! Bonnie Harker and Shirley Tucker, educators at La Vernia ISD, joined Firstmark in the annual Bluebonnet Parade on April 6 for their outstanding contributions to education!

Teacher Appreciation

Each year, Teacher Appreciation Week falls in the month of May, and Firstmark celebrated by distributing goodies to local educators. Firstmark also ran a Teacher Appreciation Giveaway where 13 educators walked away with Santikos movie packages!



Linda Friesenhahn
La Vernia ISD
La Vernia Primary School



Firstmark FOUNDATION™

These contributions would not be possible without Firstmark's Power of the Dollar® members, who continue to provide a stream of resources to fund important initiatives that help create sustainability within the education system. With the Firstmark Foundation, we will continue to make a tangible, positive impact in the education community through the collective giving of the credit union's membership.