

The Houston Endowment awards grant for \$150,000 toward engaging low-income parents at schools.

Houston Endowment awards a grant of \$150,000 to Parents Alliance



The Houston Endowment awarded Parents Alliance \$150,000 toward engaging low-income parents in their children's education through school-based adult learning programs. In the photograph Toni Moreno, Grant Officer, hands the check to Jose-Pablo Fernandez, Founder of Parents Alliance. Martin Mireles, PACT Program™ Director, and George Grainger, Houston Endowment's Senior Grant Officer witnessed the event.

The Houston Endowment provides funds to organizations that support and promote the arts, community enhancement, education, the environment, health, human services and neighborhood development. In 2007, Houston Endowment's allocation for grants was \$80.6 million.

About our PACT Program™

Parents, especially those with students trapped in low-income or low-performing schools, desperately want to be involved and want their children to succeed.

PACT Program™ in Action

We have offered our PACT Program in four Texas' cities: Dallas, DeSoto, San Antonio, and Houston:

School Districts	6
Schools	12
Certificates awarded	147
Parents currently enrolled	100

What parents need is an access point — a way into schools — so they can become partners in helping students learn and achieve."

Our PACT (Parents Alliance Computer Technology) Program™ provides this access point for parents in a non-threatening environment: the school's computer labs where they learn a marketable skill and are empowered in the educational process.

PACT Program™ in English

We now offer our program in English. This option has been welcomed by Hispanic parents who do not speak Spanish, and by immigrants from English-speaking countries.



Technology Platform

Our Learning Management System will be fully operational at the start of the 2009-2010 school year. It will allow us to keep in touch with facilitators, students and alumni. The database compiled for the platform will allow us to learn what parents have accomplished with their newly acquired skills, and keep them abreast of new courses and networking opportunities.

One of our goals is to find out how low-income parents are using technology to learn and help with their children's educational attainment.

PACT Program™

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



Mr. Luis Pratts is school principal at Landrum Middle School in Spring Branch ISD.

Why did you bring the PACT Program to your school?

I like the flexibility of the program that allows parents to earn a certificate for the first 8-week course and a diploma after finishing the second 8-week course. Finishing shorter courses are attainable goals. Parents feel empowered and make an effort to finish the 16-week program.

What effect have you seen on your students?

Our students are in their formative stage — they begin to demand certain independence — and they need their parent's advice. Seeing their parents making the effort to learn a new skill makes them proud and more receptive to their advice.

What is the importance of parental involvement?

Parents that come to our school on a regular basis learn about the educational needs of their children and are able to help them to go to college. This creates a real impact on their children. Parents volunteer at school and this is great. We just had a mother who finished the course and volunteered to make all the dresses for our folkloric ballet.

What would you tell other school principals about our PACT Program?

Sign up right away. It is worth it.

DONATE NOW

Help us bring our program to other schools!