



News release

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BAHEP welcomes HIGHER Up Texas, a youth-centered pilot non-profit

BAY AREA HOUSTON, TEXAS – Founded in 2019 by Tony Annunziato and Rick Gornto, HIGHER Up Texas, a pilot non-profit organization, is seeking to make a difference in the lives of economically disadvantaged Galveston County students.

Bob Mitchell, president of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, welcomed HIGHER Up Texas as a new BAHEP member saying, “Employers have been telling us for a long time that their job applicants are highly qualified but often lack interpersonal and communication skills that enable them to work well with others. HIGHER Up Texas is working to bridge that gap which will make positive changes in lives and career opportunities.”

Founding Executive Director Hillary Gramm stated, “BAHEP knows full well the power of partnerships. Through our partnership with BAHEP and its members, we hope to build on the foundation already established by HIGHER Up Texas so that we can be of greater service to the region and its many deserving families.”

She explained the organization’s mission saying, “HIGHER Up Texas is empowering young people to think first and then act. We are doing this through the development of major life skills, critical thinking skills, etiquette lessons, and a core value system. Our curriculum is built on experiential learning. We take our students out into the field to experience life beyond high

school. We invite guest speakers who have stories of hardship turned to success. We teach our students that they are not to be defined by their circumstances, but by their choices. This is how you cultivate positive change in a community, support the future workforce that stands tall among their peers, and break poverty cycles.”

HIGHER Up Texas is currently operating at Dickinson High School with 25 seniors. Gramm anticipates nearly 50 percent in growth in school year 2020-2021.

For additional information, call 281.705.4167 or email Hillary@highertexas.org. Visit www.highertexas.org and www.facebook.com/highertexas to learn more about HIGHER Up Texas’ initiatives.

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