

BAHEP extends its sincere appreciation for the continued support of the *Houston Chronicle* through this monthly supplement.

February 2016



Pictured left to right are Victor Pierson, president and CEO of Moody National Bank and BAHEP's 2015 Chairman of the Board; Congressman Randy Weber; Congressman Brian Babin, DDS; Dr. Greg Smith; Texas State Senator Larry Taylor; Texas State Representatives Dennis Paul and Greg Bonnen, MD; John Elbon, vice president and general manager, Space Exploration, a division of The Boeing Company, and 2016 BAHEP Chairman of the Board; and BAHEP President Bob Mitchell. The elected officials presented Dr. Smith state and national resolutions honoring him for his many accomplishments spanning a 35-year career in education. (photo by Bill Stafford)

Smith honored for outstanding leadership during BAHEP's annual Quasar Award Banquet

For the past 23 years, the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership has honored a variety of men and women with its Quasar Award. This special award recognizes an individual who has contributed greatly to the economic vitality and diversity of the Bay Area Houston region.

Although the honorees have come from many backgrounds, they all have shared a particular quality — respected leadership.

Dr. Greg Smith, superintendent of Clear Creek Independent School District since 2008, is that kind of leader, and BAHEP honored him on Jan. 29th with its 2016 Quasar Award presented at the organization's much anticipated annual banquet held at South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center.

Clear Creek ISD has more than 41,000 students and 5,000 staff members. Under Smith's guidance, student performance has increased in all state indicators as well as college entrance exams. Today, Clear Creek ISD is considered one of the largest high performing school districts in Texas.

Cornyn congratulated Smith by way of a special video presentation, since prior commitments prevented a personal appearance by the senator.

A congressional resolution, as well as a resolution from the State of Texas, which were presented by numerous of the region's elected officials, recognized Smith's leadership, dedication, commitment and perseverance over a 35-year career in education.

Smith gives heartfelt acceptance speech

When Bob Mitchell, BAHEP president, first notified Smith that he would be the Quasar Award honoree, Smith said that he was personally humbled, thrilled, and felt a bit unworthy of the great honor. Those who know the good Dr. Smith would not be surprised at his reply, since the superintendent is the first to recognize others' accomplishments before his own.

In fact, he did so several times throughout his acceptance speech. He spoke of a student who overcame great odds to become a "rock star pediatric nurse" at UTMB-Galveston and another student, a sopho-

more, who is taking on and changing the world through his inventions.

Smith recognized other leaders throughout the community who are making a difference every day.

He said, "Bay Area Houston is also a destination; it is not a place where you simply journey through. People here have purpose. It is that 'can do' attitude that has created a sturdy foundation for early learners and propelled this school district to record graduation rates with more minorities enrolling in and finishing college than ever before."

"It is because of people like you in this room that children in this community will realize their hopes, dreams and aspirations for generations to come, because we don't rest on our laurels but use past success as the fuel to a brighter tomorrow."

Smith's remarks were followed by a long, standing ovation. His speech was thoughtfully written and presented well. However, the applause was not for the words but for the man who delivered them, a truly respected leader in Bay Area Houston — Dr. Greg Smith.

BAHEP plays significant role in successful grant application to replace damaged control tower at Houston's Ellington Airport

Dan Seal, director of Special Initiatives for the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, and BAHEP Marketing Manager Jimmy Spence met with representatives from the Houston Airport System (HAS), Ellington Field Military Operations and other stakeholders, including Rep. Dennis Paul (TX House District 129), over several weeks in 2015 to develop an application for the DEAG Program for Ellington Airport.

The Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant Program (DEAAG), created in 1997, is an infrastructure grant program designed to assist defense communities. DEAAG funding is available to local municipalities and counties, as well as other entities. DEAAG funding can be used for the purchase of Department of Defense property, new construction or rehabilitation of facili-

ties in support of job creating projects and opportunities.

The Texas Military Preparedness Commission (TMPC) announced on Dec. 10, 2015, that the DEAG grant application was approved. The \$3.1 million grant, along with additional funds from the Federal Aviation Administration and the HAS, will be used to build a \$7.1 million state-of-the-art airport control tower to replace the airport's tower that was heavily damaged by Hurricane Ike in 2008.

On Feb. 8, 2016, Seal traveled to Austin, Texas, with Arturo Machuca, general manager of Ellington Airport and the Houston Spaceport, Tim Joniec, director of International and Intergovernmental Development for the Houston Airport System, and Martin Buzak, senior assistant city attorney for the City of Houston, to

meet with Keith Graf, TMPC director, and Alexandra Taylor, TMPC program manager, to discuss details of the grant.

Graf and the TMPC have been working diligently to position Texas military installations favorably in the light of future BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) activity. Houston Regional TMPC Commissioner Tom Duncavage, along with BAHEP's Ellington Field Task Force Chair John Martinec and Gene Tulich, chairman of the Houston Military Affairs Committee, have worked to demonstrate the strategic importance of Ellington to the entire TMPC.

Seal stated, "We were very excited to be awarded this significant grant. The match funding from the City of Houston, the FAA and the State of Texas for the new tower shows important collaboration, which will help Ellington in the long run."



Mike Shields, executive director, Baytown / West Chambers County Economic Development Foundation, introduces himself to other members of the Houston Region Economic Development Alliance (HREDA).

BAHEP hosts HREDA meeting at Space Center Houston

On Feb. 11, 2016, the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership hosted the 2016 kick-off meeting for the Houston Region Economic Development Alliance (HREDA) at Space Center Houston (SCH). HREDA is comprised of approximately 35 economic development

organizations that meet quarterly to network, share information and discuss best practices.

The attendees learned about the TARGET initiative. TARGET is the acronym for Texas Alliance for Responsible Growth, Environment & Transportation.

TARGET's Richard H. Cron and Jeff Wiley, president / CEO of the Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council, explained that on June 29, 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers finalized their joint Clean Water Act "waters of the United States" definition and rule.

Information provided by Cron and Wiley stated, "If the Texas specific part of the rule is permitted to stand, the economic vitality of the region will be severely damaged."

"While other lawsuits seek to take down the entire new rule, our legal strategy is designed to remove the weakest, most capricious, and scientifically vulnerable portion of the rule — the Texas Coastal Prairie Wetlands provision." Cron and Wiley spoke of the impacts of the rule and the importance of the lawsuit.

Kim Morris, director of the Bay Area Houston Advanced Technology Consortium, BayTech, then gave an update on the organization's successful

cyber security training and workshops.

The training is an intense 320-hour cyber security and communications curriculum provided to unemployed military veterans, displaced aerospace workers, and other unemployed.

Following Morris, keynote speaker Arturo Machuca presented on the Houston Spaceport. Machuca is the general manager of Ellington Airport and the Houston Spaceport.

On June 30, 2015, the Federal Aviation Administration announced that the City of Houston had been approved as home to the United States' 10th licensed commercial spaceport, to be located at Ellington Airport. The Houston Spaceport will be a focal point for aerospace innovation — a regional center for a cluster of aerospace activities.

At the conclusion of the meeting, BAHEP's Dan Seal, executive director of Special Initiatives and event moderator, announced that everyone was invited to take a special VIP tour of the newly-opened Independence Plaza, arranged by Richard E. Allen, Jr., president/CEO of SCH.

Independence Plaza features the shuttle replica, Independence, mounted on top of the historic and original NASA 905 shuttle carrier aircraft. It is the world's only shuttle mounted on an SCA and the only one allowing the public to enter both.

Additional recognition given

Prior to the award presentation, Texas Sen. John

BAHEP welcomes new member Langan Engineering & Environmental Services

Langan Engineering & Environmental Services is a 46-year-old, 1000-person site development engineering, environmental sciences, and regulatory permitting firm working on challenging projects worldwide.

Langan is among the newest members of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership in 2016.

Kyle Bogardus, vice president, and Ed Geibert, senior associate, will represent Langan within BAHEP. Bogardus noted, "We bring an unmatched level of expertise and responsiveness to our private and public sector clients. There is a huge, growing market in the petrochemical/specialty chemical, aviation, maritime and

provide integrated solutions for complex oil & gas, petrochemical/specialty chemical, industrial, retail, mixed-use, institutional, hi-rise tower, infrastructure, ports/waterfront and remediation projects.

The company's diverse service mix includes: 3-D laser scanning and mobile mapping; GIS/data visualization; site grading optimization; natural resource/FERC permitting; due diligence; expert testimony; stormwater management; and master plan engineering.

Langan's Houston office is located at 16225 Park Ten Place, Suite 500, with additional offices throughout the United States and the world. For additional information, visit www.langan.com or call 713.338.3460.

LANGAN

"In today's world, there is a critical need to grow economies and to protect our natural resources in the process. Langan Engineering has the practical experience and technical excellence that are required to expedite such growth," stated Bob Mitchell, BAHEP president.

other industries. We hope to further engage with these industries through our relationship with BAHEP and to advance regional growth and opportunities."

Langan's core geotechnical, site/civil, seismic, environmental and traffic engineering disciplines

BUSINESS to BUSINESS is a monthly Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership publication in partnership with the *Houston Chronicle*. BAHEP is a member-driven organization in southeastern Texas that includes more than 265 business partners encompassing 14 cities, Galveston and Harris counties, the Houston Airport System, and the Port of Houston Authority. For membership information, contact Membership Director Harriet Lukee at 832.536.3250. Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership 18045 Saturn Lane Houston, TX 77058 832.536.3255 "Like" us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BayAreaHoustonEcon): BayAreaHoustonEcon Follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/BAHEP): @BAHEP