

# North East ISD and Goodwill San Antonio Celebrate the Medical Professions Academy with Ribbon Cutting



Pictured L to R: Dr. Brian Gottardy, NEISD Superintendent, Janie Espinoza, Senior Manager of Workforce Development for Goodwill, and Mark Milton, Director of Workforce Development for Goodwill.

North East ISD (NEISD) in partnership with Goodwill San Antonio celebrated the opening of their Medical Professions Academy, a premier training center for the district's high school students enrolled in Dental Assistant, Medical Assistant, Certified Nurse Aide, Emergency Medical Technician, and Pharmacy Technician programs. An official ribbon cutting was held on Friday, December 7, highlighting the partnership between NEISD and Goodwill San Antonio.

**"I am excited about our partnership with Goodwill and I look forward to the opportunities we will provide together for students," said Justin Missildine, Career and Technical Education Center Director.**

In 2014, the two organizations began collaborating as community partners in the Career and Technical Education department. The program provides a beneficial opportunity for students to gain instruction in high-growth occupations and positions students to leave high school with the skills and industry-recognized credentials needed to enter the workplace or post-secondary education.

"This partnership is an impactful example of the collaboration between a premier school district and a non-profit agency investing in the future of our community," says Mark Milton, director of workforce development for Goodwill San Antonio. "By leveraging our collective resources, together, we are positively impacting our community by building a sustainable, scalable pathway for our youth and creating the foundation for future learning opportunities."

Students also have the opportunity to receive high school credit and Continuing Education (CE) credits or dual credit with Alamo Colleges. NEISD students from all seven high schools started attending the Medical Professions Academy in August of 2018.

In appreciation of the successful partnership that has resulted in positive gains for the district's students, NEISD recently recognized Goodwill San Antonio with the Superintendent's Partnership award. We are humbled and proud to have been recognized by North East ISD's superintendent, Dr. Brian Gottardy, for our long-standing partnership focused on providing sustainable and scalable career pathways for NEISD high school students. Starting with a dual-credit Diesel Technology course, our partnership has expanded to seven current pathways in the Medical and Welding fields, with plans for further expansion in the years to come. Students are gaining hands-on, real world experience and earning industry-recognized certifications within their program of study. Thank you NEISD for your partnership and this collaborative opportunity to elevate our community's youth!