



I HAVE A DREAM...

I refuse to give up...

Only love can overcome hate...

There is Always Hope for future generations...

That right eventually wins over wrong...

Proudly Serving District 109

In This Issue

Giddings' Highest Priorities:

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- Preparing your kid (s) for college
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Lancaster High School- Jabreal Arrington heads to West Point: Major Eric Mosely and Rep. Helen Giddings



Proud to be a Longhorn: Cedar Hill High School wins State Football Championship



Congress for Future Medical Leaders : Michael Thornburg, Jr. - DeSoto High School

Dear Friends & Neighbors

It is an honor and privilege having the opportunity to serve as your State Representative for District 109. As always, I enjoy hearing from constituents and I encourage you to stay involved and connected. Hopefully this newsletter will give you a glimpse of how my office continues to work on your behalf in and out of Austin. Thank you for continuing to allow me to represent you in the Texas House.

February 6, 2014 - ACA Education and Enrollment Event

Representative Giddings will be hosting an Affordable Care Act (ACA) Education and Enrollment event at **UNT-Dallas on Thursday, February 6, 2014, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 pm**. The purpose of this event is to help educate the community about the healthcare options under the ACA, as well as CHIP and Medicaid. We hope you can join us to learn more about these programs, as well as have the opportunity to begin your enrollment process through the healthcare marketplace, CHIP, and Medicaid. Please contact our office if you should have any questions. Representatives from HHSC, Texas Organizing Project, Community Council of Greater Dallas, and Organizing for Action will be present at this event to assist with on-site enrollment.

Event Location: 7300 University Hills Blvd, Dallas, Texas 75241 (formerly Houston School Road) / 7300 Building

What you will need to bring to enroll on-site:

- Copy of birth certificate for each person applying
- Copy of Social Security Card for each person applying
- Non-US Citizens should bring Registration Card (I-551) or a copy of the front and back of the card
- Proof of each family member's income - this includes: recent paycheck stub, tax return, or employer letter stating earnings.

Higher Education Spotlight: Preparing Your Family and Children for College

Any type of higher education for your child is an investment in their future, and it is a serious decision that needs to be discussed with your child, as a family. With the cost of higher education growing each year, it is important to make sure that your child will be as prepared as possible to take on this task. This includes: speaking with your child's high school counselor to make sure they are on the correct track to qualify for college, signing up for the ACT and SAT testing dates, researching grants and available scholarships and putting finances in order.

Texas has a number of colleges and universities across the state that are viable options for many high school students looking to apply. Some of these institutions are much more competitive than others, and it is important to understand what options are available based on your child's GPA, standardized test scores, and extracurricular activities.



Congress for Future Medical Leaders: Antonia Flor Rodriguez-DeSoto High School

MLK 2014 ...A DAY of SERVICE and CELEBRATION:



North Texas Food Bank Day of Service with Jack N Jill -Dallas Chapter



Speaking to Health Equality: Rep. Giddings speaks at Texas Organizing Project's MLK Press Conference



Lancaster MLK Trailblazer Award honorees: Mayor Marcus Knight and Rickey Childers



Lancaster MLK Parade: Rep. Helen Giddings with Lancaster High Mascot

Here are some resources to help you with preparing your child for college:

- <http://gentx.org/financiaid/>
- <http://gentx.org/story/understanding-fafsa/>
- <http://www.hhloans.com/>
- <http://www.everychanceeverytexan.org/planning/childhood.php>
- <http://sat.collegeboard.org/home>
- <http://www.actstudent.org/>

Here are some important testing dates:

ACT (American College Testing) - It is the standard test for college admissions in US by ACT, Inc. This test includes 4 subjects, English, Math, Reading comprehension and Science. In most College and Universities in US will consider this test in the admission.

Visit the following site for more information:

<http://www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html>

- Costs between \$58.00-\$70.00 (based upon individual testing needs)
- Registration Deadlines
 - February 8, 2014
 - March 7, 2014
 - April 12, 2014
 - May 9, 2014
 - June 14, 2014

SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) - It is intended to let students demonstrate their verbal and math abilities without regard to the kind of schooling they've had. According to the College Board, the test looks for a student's ability to understand and analyze written material, to draw inferences, to differentiate shades of meaning, to draw conclusions and solve math problems -- all skills that are necessary for success in college and the work world. Visit following site for more information:

<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/testing/sat-reasoning/register/test-dates>

- Cost \$51.00
- Registration Deadlines
 - February 7, 2014
 - April 4, 2014
 - May 9, 2014

Our office is committed to helping you and your child understand the benefits and responsibilities of obtaining higher education. Please contact our office with any questions, and we can help connect you to the offices and organizations that can help you.

Student Spotlight

This month, I have had the opportunity of meeting and hearing about students throughout our district who are achieving above the standard and setting the course for remarkable futures. I am not surprised that there are many outstanding students throughout our district achieving beyond the expectations of conduct, setting a responsibility of citizenship and an intellectual depth and lifelong learning amongst their peers. There is nothing that a tremendous student, athlete, and volunteer cannot conquer.

Congratulations to Lancaster High School's *Jabreal Arrington* on her admittance to West Point, the *Cedar Hill Varsity High School football team* as the new State Champions, DeSoto High School's *Michael Thornburg, Jr.* and *Antonia Flor Rodriguez* who have been chosen by the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to attend the Congress for Future Medical Leaders.

Contact Us

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[District 109 Home Page](#)

For upcoming events & info, visit
www.helengiddings.net

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the many teachers, counselors and principals who saw sparks of excellence in our many talented students and decided to light fires. As with you, the future of a child has the greatest potential.

If you would like to submit a student to be featured in our student spotlight please send us an email at district109giddings@house.state.tx.us

A Day of Service and Celebration...A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



North Texas Food Bank: Daryl Gelender, Rep. Helen Giddings and Cynthia Gary

Dr. King's influence and the impact of his work did not stop with our borders but rather he touched the world in a very positive and very powerful way. His work and his focus went beyond his own race and the oppression that African Americans suffered. Indeed he understood that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

It was what he said in the in those difficult places that made his life significant and meaningful and his accomplishments possible. My favorite quotation from Dr. King. Dr. King said and I quote:

"The ultimate test in life is not where we stand in moments of comfort and moments of convenience-but where we stand in moments of challenge and moments of controversy.

On some positions cowardice asks, is it safe? Expediency asks, is it politic? Vanity asks, is it popular? But conscience always asks the question, is it right? Is it the truth?

There comes a time when a person must take a stand that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but take it because you have decided that the ultimate question in life is not what happens to my job, my prestige, my popularity.

But the ultimate question is what happens to the cause of truth? When we don't stand up for truth and righteousness, the very moment that we fail to stand up-it is that very moment that we die."

And so, where will you stand?

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this monthly newsletter. Working together we can make our community a better place to live work and play. We hope that you share this information with your friends and neighbors. Please do not hesitate to contact our office should you have any questions or require additional information.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen Giddings".

Helen Giddings