



GISD Earns Prestigious MENNINGER BRIDGE-UP GRANT

BridgeUp at The Menninger Clinic awarded \$900,000 in Magic Grants, with the Galveston Independent School District (GISD) receiving \$260,000 for their innovative proposal to promote social and emotional learning and mental health through community partnerships. GISD was one of 10 Houston-area organizations receiving funding. Family Service Center, Teen Health Center, Inc., and Behavioral Health and Research in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) are teaming up with GISD to bring this program to Galveston's students.

Designed as a one-year pilot project called "Causeway Galveston," "the program aims to foster the development of a whole school model using a strengths-based approach," said Julie Purser, PhD, Executive Director of Family Service Center. Students will receive both social and emotional education to enhance their relationship skills and counseling supports to address their mental health needs. The program will be implemented at Central Middle School, Collegiate Academy, and Ball High School during the 2017-18 school year with the long-term goal of disseminating the program district-wide.

"Students will be taught healthy relationships skills in their classrooms using a program that has been fully tested and shown to improve kids' relationship and decision-making skills," said Jeff Temple, PhD, Associate Professor in UTMB Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. In addition, students from the Ball High Media Team will assist with the roll out of a media campaign that will include radio announcements and text messaging on healthy relationships. Support teams developed at each site will identify students in need of additional care and offered on-campus group or individual counseling. "By providing mental health services in schools where kids are every day, we remove barriers to care and increase access to services that will help our youth develop into healthy young

adults,” said Beth Auslander, PhD, Mental Health Director of the Teen Health Center, Inc.

The Menninger Clinic, which has served as a leader in mental health for decades, awarded the grant to GISD after a competitive review process of 37 proposals submitted from agencies across the Greater Houston area. “GISD is excited and proud to receive this prestigious award to improve the social and emotional health of our students. As a private-public collaborative partnership, connections between schools and community will be strengthened, enhancing academic performance,” said Kelli Moulton, EdD., Superintendent of GISD.

For more information about the project, please contact Molly Allmond, Coordinator of Secondary Education for GISD at mollyallmond@gisd.org or Nancy Trowbridge, Menninger Public Relations, ntrowbridge@menninger.edu