



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Scott Milder, President
214-497-6411 cell
smilder@fotps.org

Brandie Cleaver
254-291-4623 cell
brandie@fotps.org

FROST BANK'S TOM FROST NAMED TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS "FRIEND OF THE YEAR"

A reception honoring Mr. Frost is scheduled for November 1st
at the Pearl Brewery Stables, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Tom Frost, Senior Chairman of Frost Bank, has demonstrated a legacy of support for public education in Texas and Friends of Texas Public Schools is proudly honoring him for that commitment as its 3rd Annual Texas Public Schools *Friend of the Year*.

"We are proud to recognize Mr. Frost's legacy of commitment to, and support of, public education in Texas," said Scott Milder, President and CEO of Friends of Texas Public Schools. "This award further underscores our growing mission to publicly and loudly support elementary, primary and secondary public schools."

Frost enthusiastically accepted the honor and invitation to attend a reception that will celebrate his many contributions to public education, as well as the collective achievements of Texas public school educators and students. The reception is scheduled for Thursday, November 1st, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Pearl Brewery Stables in San Antonio. For more details, table sponsorship information or ticket sales please contact Brandie Cleaver at brandie@fotps.org.

"The future of our society lies in public education's responsibility to teach citizenship and, at the same time, provide the opportunity to attain the skills to compete in today's economy," Mr. Frost said. "This award is an honor to me personally and a tribute to all who volunteer their time and resources to providing the best possible opportunities for our youth."

The Friend of the Year Award was established to honor those rare individuals in the private sector who clearly see beyond the sensational headlines and often negative politics and understand that the success of Texas public education is everyone's business. "Like past honorees Charles Butt of H-E-B and Michael Boone of Haynes & Boone, Mr. Frost recognizes that true motivation for students and educators lies not with heavy handed and harsh criticism, but rather in hope, optimism and encouragement."

Charlene "Charlie" Fern, vice president of Friends of Texas Public Schools and former White House speechwriter, said, "The Friend of the Year award is a way to show public schools that some of our greatest leaders are their greatest advocates. Every day in Texas, people who are products of Texas public schools are out there changing the world, changing lives, and making history as leaders in every field imaginable. They aren't succeeding in spite of public schools. They are succeeding *because* of public schools."



More and more Texans agree that criticism and condemnation of our public schools is plentiful, yet *public* support from the private sector is a rare commodity. “Mr. Frost’s efforts represent the positive energy we believe is so desperately needed in our public schools,” Milder added. “We are delighted to call attention to his years of service in this important area of public life.”

Throughout his life Mr. Frost has exhibited a strong commitment to public education. Following are few highlights of his service to public education.

San Antonio ISD

He has helped to raise more than \$1 billion in school bonds, which he felt were essential to building San Antonio ISD and educating the city's young people. Among the many projects, these funds built early childhood facilities at 62 elementary schools to serve an additional 6,000 3- and 4-year olds, as well as the SAISD Advanced Academic Center in partnership with UTSA Downtown campus, which now offers high school and college credit classes.

UTeach at UTSA

In 2001, Tom Frost and his wife Pat helped to establish the T.C. Frost UTEACH program at the University of Texas at San Antonio to help prepare college students for public school math and science teaching careers. Through the Tom and Pat Frost Charitable Foundation and the Frost Bank Charitable Foundation, the Frost’s have invested \$485,000 in this program. This innovative program, which was designed to prepare students majoring in math and science for careers in teaching in Texas secondary schools, provided 20 scholarships a year for five years, to cover program costs, stipends and salaries, along with the scholarships.

San Antonio Education Partnership

The SAEP was established in 1988 to address the educational needs of at-risk youths and encourage all students in several school districts to pursue high education goals. Through the promise of a scholarship the SAEP makes college possible for students who take personal responsibility for their own future. The educational partnership encourages academic achievement and increases graduation rates and college enrollment for San Antonio youth. Through Mr. Frost’s leadership, Frost Bank was one of the early corporate partners and has continued to support this important scholarship initiative. Since 1989 they have given away \$10 million in scholarships to San Antonio high school students and produced more than 2200 college graduates. The program has more than 2400 students currently attending college.

Friends of Texas Public Schools believes that the people of Texas have a right to know that, in spite of the many challenges they face, our public schools are achieving more today than ever. The Friends mission is to educate Texans about the strengths and achievements of our Texas Public Schools and to encourage continued good work. “It is our honor, our pleasure, and our mission to salute the success of Texas public schools,” Milder said.

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