



# HOLLOWAY FAMILY FOUNDATION

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## SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to our foundation newsletter! We hope to engage you, as members of the Board, in the foundation's latest efforts, news, and accomplishments including seasonal goals and outreach, updates on our partners, and an overall pulse on research and philanthropy. Enjoy!



...And that's a wrap!

As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, all applicants were notified of the board's decisions regarding their applications for the 2021 grant cycle. We are so excited about HFF's partnerships and to begin our multi-year support with 20 of those organizations! Thank you for your dedication,

time, and consideration given to every request and decision. Onward!



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HFF &  
Advocacy:

### 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session

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The biennial event has continued to be a large topic of conversation in the worlds of Texas education, economic development, and the social sector at large. The unusual session began in January with a mix of virtual and in-person meetings at the capitol due to the ongoing concerns of Covid-19 and in-person advocacy efforts. It then endured delays associated with a horrific winter storm, also known as "Snowvid," which resulted in several additional special sessions already planned for late summer/fall at its conclusion in May.

As members of [Philanthropy Advocates](#), we were able to attend a virtual legislative briefing regarding education priorities in school funding, early grade success, effective teaching, broadband expansion, and HFF's main interest, career and college pathways. There was a lot to

unpack! The priorities heading into session as developed by Philanthropy Advocates, and subsequent outcomes, are summarized below:

❖ *Investments in Education =*

HB 3 (school finance bill from 2019) remained fully funded; Community College funding on performance based funding; state and federal funding for targeted programs for students and schools affected by pandemic; Covid-19 acceleration supports including added investment for P-TECH, Texas Regional Pathways Network, and Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program

❖ *Broadband Infrastructure =*

Establish Broadband Development Office for a state plan, mapping, and grant program for incentivized build out of broadband network

❖ *Pathways to College & Career =*

**Higher Education Finance (SB 1230) Community College Finance Commission –** Focus is state appropriations for public community and junior colleges; **Workforce demand and skills gap**; Dual credit programs and costs; **Student graduation, transfer, and success metrics**

Dual Credit (SB 1277) Dual Credit Advising

Data Sharing (SB 788) Model Data Sharing Agreements for Texas Education Agency (TEA), Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) & Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) (aka Tri-Agency)

**Work-based Learning (HB 1247) Tri-Agency Work-Based Learning – Calls for TEA, THECB, and TWC to develop a strategic framework to encourage work-based learning in Texas**

**Workforce Alignment (HB 3767) Tri-Agency Education and Workforce Alignment Act – Establishes the Tri-Agency initiative in statute and calls for shared goal-setting and improved evaluation of career education and training programs**

**Reskilling & Upskilling (SB 1102) Texas Reskilling and Upskilling through Education (TRUE) – Establishes a competitive grant program to support eligible colleges in creating, redesigning, or expanding workforce training programs that lead to industry certification or other workforce credentials.**

Regional University Support (SB 1295) Financial Support for Regional Universities through performance-based incentives.

SAVE THE DATE

Asheville, NC | November 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>

Holloway Family Foundation 2021 Board Retreat at the Historic Grove Park Inn

\*Please fill out survey [HERE](#)\*

We look forward to following the progress of the Tri-Agency and TRUE bills, in particular, regarding their potential to streamline and better integrate Texas workforce systems with higher education and career pathways.

In addition, **HB 3797** has been receiving local and national attention, with some referring to it as the “Critical Race Theory” bill. Philanthropy Advocates hosted a workshop for members to explain how the bill was passed into law, what will be focused on in the special session, and conversation about the factual details and language of the bill. It was a helpful presentation and HFF will continue to follow any information and updates as they become available. Philanthropy Advocates also provided ‘pre-reads’ for further context prior to the conversation, which can be accessed [here](#) , if you are interested in learning more.

## HFF & Equity

We have been continuing to participate in listening sessions and conversations on the [Advancing Workforce Equity](#) report with our Pathways to Work (PTW) advisory and funders’ groups, part of the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, to develop strategies to amplify the research and data compiled in the report for Dallas and Collin counties.

Now that we have access to data that clearly presents the current racial disparities among opportunity, access, advancement, and professional development in the workplace, the question remains: *what will we do with it?*

The Holloway Family Foundation has been asking this question and sharing our equity journey among our funder work groups and workforce partners in order to promote philanthropy’s role in targeting employer engagement through distribution and implementation of the reports’ findings.

PTW continues to develop several initiatives that align with this effort, from a collaborative workforce equity fund to a weekly job equity “challenge” for local businesses to encourage best practices. We are excited about these efforts to advance the findings of the report into tangible employer practices and policies.

## *Grantee Spotlight: Junior Players*

### Rosaura Cruz receives HFF’s 2021 Visionary Leadership Award



Valerie met with Rosaura for lunch on July 14<sup>th</sup> to present the \$5,000 Leadership Award to the Executive Director of Junior Players. Earlier in the year, Rosaura had shared the innovative ways that Junior Players has continued to serve students and deliver creative content during the pandemic, which in turn opened the door to a much larger and diverse audience than they had previously imagined.

Rosaura is leading her team in the effort to expand JP programming beyond Dallas, and even Texas. It is a bold and exciting vision, of which HFF feels lucky to be a small part.

We will look forward to hearing about how this award elevates Ms. Cruz as a nonprofit leader, personally and professionally. Congratulations, Rosaura!



[Left:  
Rosaura  
models a  
face mask  
designed  
by a 10-  
year-old  
Junior  
Players'  
student!]

## HFF Summer Reading List

[Become America](#) by Eric Lui

[The Warmth of Other Suns](#) by Isabel Wilkerson

[Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?](#) by Beverly Daniel Tatum, PhD

*We would love to hear from other board members and highlight any recommendations here! Feel free to send any titles/authors you would like to share to [Jenny@hollowayfamilyfoundation.org](mailto:Jenny@hollowayfamilyfoundation.org) to be included.*