



# PRESS RELEASE

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HISD Media Relations Department

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## Shearn Elementary Receives \$100,000

### *Leonore Annenberg Grant will provide science and technology opportunities for students*

July 16, 2010—HISD is pleased to announce that Shearn Elementary is one of only ten schools nationwide to receive the Leonore Annenberg School Fund for Children Grant. The \$100,000 grant will be used to provide Shearn students with integrated science and technology learning opportunities.

The grant will go toward purchasing computers, interactive whiteboards, lab furniture and supplies and will fund books and field trips for students during the 2010–11 school year. “This grant will provide our children with opportunities to access scientific information through technology and increase their hands-on exploration and discovery,” said Shearn Principal Bill Buck. “We want them to become scientific problem solvers, which in turn will lead to academic improvement and understanding in all subject areas.”

The Leonore Annenberg School Fund for Children only accepts applications from elementary schools that have at least 90 percent of students enrolled in the free- and reduced-price lunch program. The school must also be nominated by an outside organization; Shearn was nominated for an award by Houston A+ Challenge.

Now in its third year, the Annenberg School Funds program was established by the late, well-known philanthropist Leonore Annenberg and reflects her lifelong commitment to education and her unparalleled efforts to improve the lives of the nation’s youth. The Fund is managed by the Annenberg Public Policy Center, part of the University of Pennsylvania’s Annenberg School for Communication.

“We expect these grants to have a direct impact on teaching and learning strategies that will lead to improved student achievement, and to catalyze positive changes both within the schools and in the surrounding communities,” said Gail Levin, Ph.D., director of the Leonore Annenberg Scholarship and School Funds.

The Shearn staff has been working over the summer to ensure that all the computers, supplies and lab items are purchased and in place by the time students start school in late August.

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The **Houston Independent School District** is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest in the United States with 297 schools and more than 200,000 students. The 301-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area with nearly 30,000 employees. As a result of tremendous academic gains in recent years, a record 205 HISD schools achieved Texas' top ratings of Exemplary or Recognized in 2009.

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