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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders Advisory Board Members Announced

AUSTIN, Jan. 22, 2007 – The Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, opening in the fall of 2007, will be supported by a precedent-setting partnership between the Foundation for the Education of Young Women, the Austin Independent School District, and an advisory board whose members were announced today.

Ann Richards, the former governor of Texas, was involved in planning for the school in the last months of her life, including recruiting the members of the advisory board. After her death on Sep. 13, 2006, Richards' family asked that memorial contributions be directed to the school via the Austin Community Foundation.

Ellen Richards, youngest daughter of the former governor, has been appointed to replace her mother as the chair of the advisory board by AISD Superintendent Pat Forgione. Along with school principal Jeanne Goka, Richards visited Zavala Elementary School in East Austin in November to announce the opening of the application process for admission.

“This school will help create future generations of strong women leaders in government, business, science, education, the arts and technology,” Richards said. “We want these students to go to college, be leaders, and be healthy.”

An open house for prospective students will be held from 10:00 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 27, in the cafeteria of the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, located at Porter Middle School, 2206 Prather Lane. There will be opportunities to meet the principal, ask questions, receive assistance on student application letters and tour the new school.

The school application deadline is February 9. Application forms are available from every AISD elementary school and middle school counselor and can be downloaded from the AISD website, www.austinisd.org or from www.an-richardsschool.org.

The Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders will be a college preparatory school for grades 6-12, with a rigorous curriculum emphasizing math, science, wellness, and leadership skills. At least 75 percent of the school's students will come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The school will serve 115 young women per grade level, reaching 805 young women when at full capacity in 2012.

The Foundation for the Education of Young Women donated \$1 million for the school's first year of development and three years of implementation. The Austin ISD will support regular school operations. The advisory board will provide outreach and fundraising support.

The advisory board's responsibilities will also include serving as advocates for the school and its students in the community, with the school district and in state and national forums; raising money to supplement the funds provided



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by the school district; working with the school's principal and staff in providing direction for the use of supplemental funds; building community support for the school; and creating networks of support for the school's students, including connections for mentoring and internships.

Advisory board members were selected based on community leadership, professional and academic achievement. While the AISD superintendent and board of trustees have ultimate responsibility for the school, the advisory board will play a crucial role in the specialized school's creation and support.

The members of the advisory board are:

Sylvia Acevedo

Founder, president and CEO of CommuniCard, which provides bilingual communications products and consulting solutions for a diverse workforce.

Cathy Bonner

Founder and president, Austin advertising firm Bonner Incorporated; former director of the Texas Department of Commerce in the Richards administration; founder of The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future, affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution; founder of Leadership Texas, Leadership America and Power Pipeline.

Sandra Bullock

Accomplished actress, producer and philanthropist.

Pat Forgione

Superintendent of the Austin Independent School District; ex officio member.

John Hall

President, John Hall Public Affairs in Austin; former chair of Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.

Rebecca Lightsey

Executive director of Texas Appleseed; former Texas Commissioner of Insurance.

Lora Livingston

Judge, 261st District Court of Travis County; first African-American woman to serve on a district court in the county.

Michele Moore

Retired vice president of corporate communications for Dell, where she founded the corporate communications department as the company's first female executive; consultant.

Eva Muñoz

Director of external affairs for AT&T; former assistant in the Texas House of Representatives.



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Carmyn Neely

Executive director, Foundation for the Education of Young Women.

Nona Niland

Physician co-founder and vice-president of Pharmaco; president, Niland Foundation.

Lee Posey

Founder and chairman emeritus of Palm Harbor Homes; founder of the Foundation for the Education of Young Women, based in Dallas, which was created to support the Dallas ISD's Irma Rangel Girls' Leadership Academy and now the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders. The Foundation for the Education of Young Women plans to open similar schools in every major city in Texas over the next several years.

Chula Reynolds

Private investor; a director of the Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation.

Ellen Richards

Chair of Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders; community volunteer.

Geoff Rips

AISD development director; former member, AISD board of Trustees; Soros Foundation Fellow; former editor, Texas Observer.

Catherine Robb

Special counsel at the law firm of Sedgwick, Detert, Moran & Arnold, LLP; founder and chair of LBJ Library Future Forum.

Eddie Safady

Chairman for the Austin area of Prosperity Bank; also serves on board of directors and executive committee.

Brenda Thompson

President of Austin public relations firm Brenda Thompson Communications.

Doyle Valdez

President of Valco Resource Management, Inc.; former president of AISD Board of Trustees.

Mary Yancy

Doctor of educational psychology; experience in social/psychological services in school and community settings.

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