



Media Invitation: From VeteranTutors Dropout Intervention Program
What: Graduation Ceremony - Accelerated Summer Session Program
When: Wednesday, July 2, 2008, 2pm.
Where: Hendrickson High School, 2905 FM 685, Pflugerville, TX 78660

Statistically, 30% of America's kids are dropping out of school before graduation. The Texas dropout rate is an abysmal 38%.

A Pflugerville high school principal has teamed with a group of Texas military veterans to wage war on the nation's dropout rate, making their first stand in the Lone Star State. Although the war is not yet won, the coalition of military veterans and educators has proven victorious in their first battle - and some hard-working Pflugerville students are the ultimate winners.

We are inviting you to participate in our celebration of the successful completion of Hendrickson High School's FOCUS Accelerated Summer Session! In little more than three weeks, 12 students who were on track to drop out have resolutely worked to recover their missing credits and get back on track to graduate with their classmates.

VeteranTutors, a non-profit Texas corporation working with disabled veterans, were assisting a select cadre of teachers. Working alongside students and acting as tutors and assistants, they significantly boosted the teacher-to-student ratio and contributed to the overall success of the program.

"Our job is to graduate these kids on schedule, college ready, and with valuable workplace skills. To accomplish this, Hendrickson High School will do whatever it takes, and we appreciate VeteranTutors' support to accomplish these goals," said Dr. Nelson Coulter, Principal.

"This has been the most challenging and rewarding three weeks I've ever spent. These kids have done a phenomenal job, and I fully expect some of these kids to go to Harvard, Yale and Stanford. This kind of success in our pilot programs is integral to our plans for future expansion programs into other school districts," said Richard Ehrlich, CEO of VeteranTutors.

You will be joined by Dr. Nelson Coulter of Hendrickson High School and Richard Ehrlich of VeteranTutors. Also in attendance, and presenting the certificates, will be a young Army veteran from Round Rock, Alan Babin. Mr. Babin earned the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for Valor early in the Iraq war as a medic with the 82nd Airborne Division when he rushed to help a wounded comrade and suffered grievous injuries from enemy fire. Alan's story of his military service and his long fight for recovery from his wounds inspired the FOCUS students to adopt the motto: "If Alan can, we ALL can."

VeteranTutors provides services to two distinct populations: disabled veterans and students at risk of dropping out of school. VeteranTutors provides usable, marketable technical skills to veterans, as well as enabling at risk students to recover credits, graduate, and enter college or pursue technical careers. It is the intent of VeteranTutors to cut in half the number of unemployed disabled veterans, as well as cut in half the number of students dropping out of school. For more information, visit: <http://www.veterantutors.org>

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, July 2nd!

Sincerely,
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