# Positive PR for Your District through Education Foundations

Susan Johnson
Corsicana ISD
Executive Director of Communications

Kristin Zastoupil
Corsicana Education Foundation
Executive Director





#### Good PR

Inform your audience to change their attitude. Change their attitude and they will change their behavior.







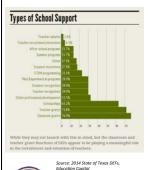
### What ISD's are Fighting

- Media scrutiny & 24/7 news cycle
- Increased competition
- Demographics Personal stake in education
- Governmental cynicism





1		



#### What does your EF do?

- · Teacher grants
- Student recognition (Top 10%, 5%?)
- Staff recognition (Distinguished Teachers)
- Scholarships
- Incentives (Campus Celebrations)
- · Alumni development



## Relationship between ISD & EF

STRATEGIC ROLES. School districts and communities are increasingly reaching out to DEFs to not only provide enthusiastic support, but to help solve complex problems. These increasingly savvy DEF boards will probably use proven models like community asset mapping and collective impact strategies to build consensus around the highest and best use of DEF and other community resources.

- ISD rep (superintendent/board member) give updates to EF Board; EF Board can be an advocate for issues facing ISD in the community
- First lines of defense







#### **Education Foundation Outlets**

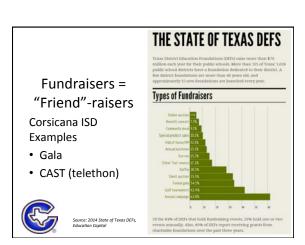
- Website
- Social Media
- Press releases
- E-news
- Video
- Radio/TV
- Direct mailings
- Community Events
- Phone banks
- Personal notes/visits













#### **Teacher Grants**

- Showcases teaching staff
- Showcases classroom programs
- Chance to define what tax dollars do and what donations do – "icing on the cake"









### **New Angles**

- EF Board Member features (Why volunteer?)
- Utilize EF media connections (Twice the pitches)
- EF plugged in to PTOs, Clubs, Organizations Parent advocates
- Shared social media/web content
- EF photo/video contests





## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT Next Generation of Leaders

GROWING LEADERS. Almost two dozen members of the Texas legislature highlight prior service on their local education foundation board and more than half the DEFs reporting note a foundation board member running for school board. As DEFs continue to grow, an offspring of community and school leaders will continue to emerge as well.

Source: 2014 State of Texas DEFs, Education Capital



Creating Positive PR through Foundations

## **Texas DEF Project**

For more information on the Texas District Education Foundation Project:

www.educationcapital.org



The Texas DEF Project is made possible by the generous support of the Texas Pioneer Foundation. A project of Education Capital, the Project includes biennial census gathering, numerous presentations to DEFs, conferences, and conventions, sharing of findings with state leaders, and free access to data for benchmarking purposes to DEFs (available again online at www.educationcapital.org). Education Capital also produces a number of research-based salary analysis memos for district and DEF leaders as a pro bono service to the DEF community. Education Capital utilizes the Austin Community Foundation as its fiscal agent.

## Questions?

(903) 874-7441 sejohnson@cisd.org kzastoupil@cisd.org



