



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
SAN ANTONIO

INSTITUTE FOR  
SCHOOL AND  
COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIPS

Early Learning | K-12 | Partnerships

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Happy  
**HALLOWEEN**  
to all our Spooky Scholars!

[www.theinstitutesa.org](http://www.theinstitutesa.org)



## Welcome Sylvia Benavidez

Edgewood ISD and **The Institute for School and Community Partnerships** welcomed the new **Burleson School for Innovation and Education** 18+ Coordinator, Sylvia Benavidez. Ms. Benavidez has many years of experience in the field of education and transition. As the 18+ Coordinator for the Burleson School, Ms. Benavidez will build upon the foundation at the transition and workforce campus by continuing to nurture partnerships and relationships with employers on behalf of the young adults' experiential learning.

Pictured above L-R: ISCP Consultant, Grace Garcia-Aguirre, ISCP CEO, Dr. Henri Muñoz, Burleson 18+ Coordinator, Sylvia Benavidez, and ISCP Deputy Director, Dr. Michelle Janysek.

OCTOBER 2022

## NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH

EDGEWOOD  
SCHOOL DISTRICT



**ANA CANTU**  
Principal,  
Winston Intermediate School of Excellence  
[WINSTON.EISD.NET](http://WINSTON.EISD.NET)

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HOBBY?

Running and watching movies with my family.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK?

I absolutely love the book: The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint Exupéry. It has lessons that adults need to be reminded of. I re-read this book every once in a while when the kid in me started to slip away.

### WHAT DO YOU ENJOY THE MOST ABOUT BEING A PRINCIPAL?

I love knowing every student on our campus and seeing every teacher in action. It's a privilege to serve and support the 16+ educators and 200+ students at our campus.

### WHAT IS YOUR "WHY"?

I exist in the world of education because of the EISD students that I served 11 years ago in a Pre-K classroom. These students, now in high school, made it clear that helping students become successful members of society is what I'm meant to do. I can't think of no other job that is more rewarding and valuable than helping our youth discover their talents and find their voice.

OCTOBER 2022

## NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH

EDGEWOOD  
SCHOOL DISTRICT



**JESSICA HUSBAND**  
Principal,  
Gus Garcia University  
[GUSGARCIA.EISD.NET](http://GUSGARCIA.EISD.NET)

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HOBBY?

Reading

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK?

I enjoy reading any books written by Nora Roberts or JD Robb.

### WHAT DO YOU ENJOY THE MOST ABOUT BEING A PRINCIPAL?

I love the relationships that I am building with my staff, students, and community.

### WHAT IS YOUR "WHY"?

My why is being able to provide a safe and fun environment for my students to grow and learn academically and socially.

## Celebrating National Principal Month

The [A&M San Antonio Institute for School and Community Partnerships](#) model for Innovative Lab School campuses includes having strong campus leadership. Ana Cantu and Jessica Husband exemplify strong leadership at their respective campuses powered by A&M San Antonio.

For each SB1882 Innovation Lab School campus, the Institute places additional faculty and robust quality programming navigated by the campus Principal. The [Winston Intermediate School of Excellence](#), led by Ana Cantu and [Gus Garcia University School](#), led by Jessica Husband, are revitalizing the post secondary pathway for their scholars by starting experiential learning earlier than high school while also establishing best-in-class education. Because we understand that the road to higher education begins in public education, these campuses are critical to students that do not usually have access to these opportunities. Please help us celebrate our Innovation Lab School Principals, Ms. Ana Cantu and Ms. Jessica Husband!



## Sharing our story

October was filled with opportunities to share the Institute's origin story and share initial lessons learned with others working on expanding different school designs.

The **Mexican American School Board Association** was one of those opportunities to share how Texas A&M University San Antonio established the Institute and how together, school - university partnerships are sustained.

Further in October, **Empower Schools** visited Winston Intermediate to better understand how the university lab school model is established in a 3rd - 5th grade campus. Thank you to both Gus Garcia University School and Winston Intermediate for hosting these groups at their campuses.



## Dia de los Muertos Submission

Gus Garcia University School entered a community altar in the city-wide, Dia de los Muertos event the last weekend of October.

From pre-Columbian times, the Day of the Dead has been celebrated throughout Mexico and Latin American countries. Today it is celebrated throughout the Americas on November 1 and 2, a time in which the living lovingly pay tribute and remember their departed friends and family members. Remembrances include family visits to the local cemetery, processions through town squares and inventive homemade altars honoring departed family members with photos, "Pan de

Muerto" sweet bread and flowers.

For more information on traditional Day of the Dead altars visit: **Celebrate Day of the Dead.**

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