



Amazing Administrators

Katy administrators working behind the scenes for students

Written by Wendy Teng | Photography by Edward Heard

With any great school district there are people working behind the scenes to ensure its success. Katy ISD administrators labor to ensure the smooth operation of campuses and departments across the district. These are a few of the women who contribute to the vision of Katy ISD's board of trustees, superintendents, and the community.



“I believe that every child should be given the opportunity to learn in a stimulating and challenging environment that inspires their imagination and love of learning.”

- Dr. Christine Caskey

◀ **Christine Caskey, Ed.D.**
Chief Academic Officer

Dr. Christine Caskey is the chief academic officer in Katy ISD and champions numerous programs that impact students’ education. Some of the programs Caskey oversees are curriculum and instruction, special education, gifted and advanced academics, assessment and accountability, fine arts, athletics, and professional learning.

These programs help support Katy students and teachers, improve individual career progress, and enhance the learning environment. Dr. Caskey says, “We have an awesome teaching and learning team that includes many individuals dedicated to serving the Katy educational community.” She credits the students’ achievements and recognition in academic and extracurricular activities as one of the largest accomplishments of the district. “I believe that every child should be given the opportunity to learn in a stimulating and challenging environment that inspires their imagination and love of learning,” says Caskey.

As a young child, she had an avid interest in watching others learn, working in a youth church group and volunteering at a local children’s hospital. She was also heavily influenced by her mom who was a teacher, building administrator, and central office curriculum developer. Her motivation comes from the people she works with on a daily basis. “I am thankful that my position allows me to work with a group of highly intelligent individuals who motivate and inspire me each day to strive to do better than my best.” she says.

Yolanda Edmond ▶

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Yolanda Edmond works as the assistant superintendent of human resources in Katy ISD. With more than 8,000 employees in the district, Edmond leads a strong team of administrative professionals to provide HR support and services. The staffing of qualified candidates for campus and departments is another important responsibility for her team. The human resource department also offers professional development, competitive compensation, and employee relations services.

Known as a compassionate and fair-minded individual, Edmond believes her work is rewarding. “I cherish the task of ensuring all of the district’s employees are treated equitably and with dignity and respect,” says Edmond. Edmond’s interest to pursue a career in education came from her childhood home, where the importance of education was stressed. In addition to her family, Edmond was also inspired by many of her own educators. “It is a huge responsibility to nurture and expand the minds of a nation’s children, and I am humbled to play a small part in that process,” comments Edmond. She is motivated to help people and loves what she does for a living.



“There is always room for hardworking, dedicated individuals who are truly passionate about affecting lives for the good.”

- Yolanda Edmond

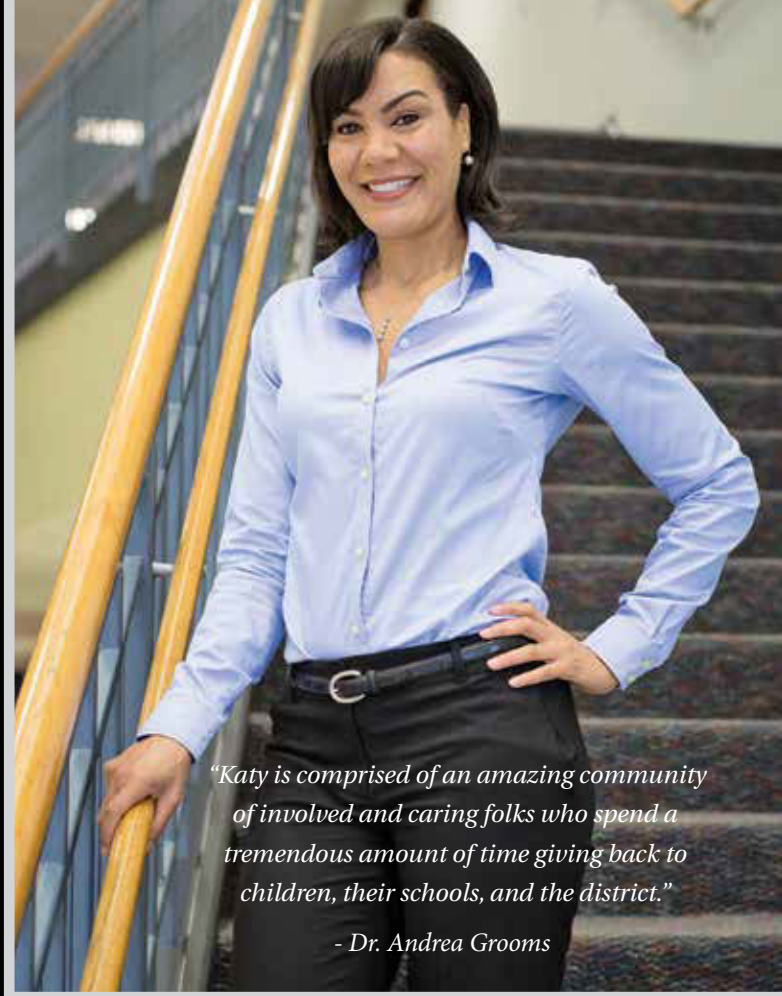
Andrea Grooms, EPh.D. ▶

Assistant Superintendent for School and Community Engagement

Dr. Andrea Grooms is the assistant superintendent for school and community engagement for Superintendent Alton Frailey's cabinet. The demonstrated leadership and vision of the district's board of trustees and superintendent impressed Grooms when she first moved to Katy - giving her the inspiration to start a career in the education system.

"Every day that we, as school personnel, have the opportunity to interact with parents and community members and bring them even closer to the classroom and student learning is an accomplishment," says Grooms. She oversaw the \$748 million bond that was passed by voters in November 2014 that included the work efforts of 200 community members, the communications team, and staff and bond committee members. The bond included six new schools, six major campus renovations, technology updates, student activity facilities, and safety and security improvements.

Grooms' motivation each day stems from knowing that she is impacting students' lives. She learned first-hand about the importance of parental and community involvement when she started her education career as a secondary English teacher. "Building relationships with parents and community members and empowering them to be partners in education, is key to student success," says Grooms.



"Katy is comprised of an amazing community of involved and caring folks who spend a tremendous amount of time giving back to children, their schools, and the district."

- Dr. Andrea Grooms



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“Education is everything. Public education, an equal opportunity for every child to learn, is the foundation of a thriving community.”

- Janet Theis

◀ Janet Theis

Director of Community Partnerships

Janet Theis is the director of community partnerships for Katy ISD’s Partners in Education. Theis’ original intention to move to Katy was for her children’s education. She started as a volunteer coordinator at Pattison Elementary, then became the executive director for the Katy Business Promise, before filling her current position. She also works as the administrative liaison for the Katy ISD Education Foundation.

Partners in Education helps promote the Katy community’s interests as volunteers into local classrooms. “We want to create opportunities for the community to support Katy ISD schools in ways that are more meaningful, impactful, and joyful for those who volunteer,” says Theis. Some of the department’s programs and initiatives are KEYS mentoring, sister schools, school-business partnerships, and Volunteers in Public Schools.

In addition to work she is passionate about, Theis says it’s the people she gets to work with that make it worth it. “The people of Katy ISD are some of the best I’ve ever known,” she says. “Their character and passion for their work is exceptional and mirrored by our business and community volunteers.” KM

WENDY TENG is a freelance writer. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, writing, volunteering, trying new restaurants, and learning about new organizations.

Administrator *Fast Facts*



DR. CHRISTINE CASKEY

- Attended Virginia Tech, Old Dominion University, and George Washington University
- Katy resident for five years
- Married to husband Bruce for 20 years and has one daughter, Tye
- Has a golden retriever named Heather



YOLANDA EDMOND

- Master of Public Administration/ Human Resource Management
- Favorite book is *Your Best Life Now*
- Enjoys reading, cleaning, and bike riding
- Favorite academic subject is mathematics
- Loves the Houston Rockets



DR. ANDREA GROOMS

- Has a bachelor’s degree in English writing and communications and a Ph.D in education administrative and policy studies from the University of Pittsburgh
- Attended Duquesne University with Master’s in English literature
- Has a 14-year-old bichon frisé mix who she rescued from a shelter in 2005



JANET THEIS

- Attended Louisiana Tech University and earned a degree in English education
- Katy resident for 23 years
- Married to husband, Ken for 33 years and has two children, Katie and Chad
- Has a golden retriever named Eli

These are just a few of the many talented and hardworking administrators in Katy ISD. *Katy Magazine* salutes these and all of the dedicated Katy ISD employees.

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