

On behalf of the students and their families today, thank you for supporting their academic growth. The Space Center Rotary has been an invaluable partner of Clear Creek Independent School District (CCISD) for many years. This organization and its members, without question, share in our mission to make sure all children graduate college and workforce ready! We are well on our way in this effort with CCISD earning the Exemplary rating by the Texas Education Agency and more than 93% of all students passed the 2010 state assessment. Our students outperform their state and national peers on the SAT by 30 to 45 points in all areas. CCISD is home to an impressive number of National Merit Semifinalists and more than 1,200 of our high school students are currently enrolled in dual credit courses where they are simultaneously earning high school and college credit at the same time. In other words we are leading the way in preparing our children for the 21st century.

Now you and I know that not all students are destined for a four year university, but as a school system we need to ensure every child is equipped with some level of secondary education in order for them to be competitive in the 21st century workplace. You remember back when you were in school and the auto tech class was a great way to receive training to be a mechanic, and you really didn't need much more than that after high school? It is simply not that way anymore. Walk into any auto shop today and you will recognize the level of complexity and technology involved with fixing an alternator. In Clear Creek ISD, we have a robust career and technical education program where students earn certifications often found in trade schools or community colleges. Our career and technical programs also light that passion for many of our students to pursue college majors in biotechnology, health sciences, and hospitality.

I am an advocate of career and technical education, specifically how it relates to preparing them for college and careers. The Space Center Rotary has been instrumental in providing our students opportunities to explore careers by funding a synergistic lab at Bayside Intermediate where students get the chance to test out professions with hands-on experiences.