

### Plano ISD STEM Partners Focus on Secondary Math/Science

With generous support from leading area corporations and foundations, this year the Plano ISD Education Foundation will complete funding for more than \$500,000 in district-approved initiatives that improve student performance in secondary science, technology and mathematics (STEM) education.

To date, more than \$200,000 has been raised to fund the four-year, incremental transition of Algebra 1 instruction from the ninth grade of high school to the eighth grade of middle school. STEM Partners supporting the project include: AEGON Direct Marketing, Inc., EDS Foundation, ExxonMobil Corporation and Texas Instruments Incorporated. This month, the EDS Foundation renewed its \$50,000 grant for the project, totaling their commitment for the systemic improvement effort to \$100,000. The Plano ISD Education Foundation has pledged to raise up to \$400,000 for the initiative.

A \$36,000 grant from the Women of TI Fund made possible a summer 2008 Plano ISD Physics Camp for Women. More than fifty female students benefited from the two-week experience to improve young women's STEM skills to ensure their future success in pre-AP and AP physics courses.

The Texas Instruments Foundation Innovations in Outstanding STEM Teaching Awards were awarded to Plano ISD teachers for the second year in May 2008. These awards are made possible through a \$60,000, three-year grant from Texas Instruments Foundation, recognizing STEM teachers as key to student success. Two outstanding Plano ISD STEM teachers were selected by a committee of Plano corporate, community and educator judges. Recipients and finalists receive generous monetary awards and recipient schools benefit from monetary awards as well. The Texas Instruments Foundation also recognizes outstanding STEM Teachers from Richardson and Dallas Independent School District. 2008 Plano ISD recipients Becky Higgs Jackson and Deborah Johnston were recently recognized at the TI global headquarters by TI CEO Rich Templeton and other area guests.