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Plano ISD Superintendent of Schools Richard Matkin Named Austin College Distinguished Alum

PLANO, Texas, Nov. 14, 2013— Superintendent of Schools Richard Matkin was honored recently with a Distinguished Alumni Award at Austin College. He was honored among fellow awardees on October 25 at an awards ceremony held at the college in Sherman. Surrounded by family, friends and colleagues, Mr. Matkin addressed guests about the honor and his current role as superintendent of Plano schools.

Former president of the Plano ISD Board of Trustees Tammy Richards, in a nomination letter to Austin College, stated, "I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Matkin in his prior role as chief financial officer for our district and currently as our superintendent. I consider naming him as our district leader in April 2011 as a true accomplishment of our board of trustees and an achievement on behalf of the school children of Plano ISD. I can personally attest to his allegiance, loyalty and obvious pride regarding his years at Austin College."

Ms. Richards continued, "He takes seriously his role as an ambassador for this prestigious learning institution and his experiences as a student and athlete are frequent topics of conversation among the elite leadership in education and with corporate citizens both inside and out of Plano ISD. Being an alumnus of Austin College and most importantly a graduate of the highly respected teacher program, Richard Matkin is an enthusiastic spokesperson displaying the genuine pride he feels toward his alma mater."

Mr. Matkin credits his strong foundational preparation from Austin College as the springboard into what has become a sterling educational and business career culminating into his current role as the superintendent of Plano ISD which boasts an enrollment of 56,000 students and an annual budget estimated at one-half billion dollars. Before accepting the post as the Plano ISD superintendent, Mr. Matkin served as the district's chief financial officer where his oversight encompassed all business and financial services, facility management, legislative advocacy and assisting the Texas Education Agency as a contributing author of their fiscal and financial accountability standards for all Texas school districts.

His masterful skills as a public school finance expert, coupled with his credentials as a Certified Public Accountant, acquired and maintained since 1988, make him the true authority and "go-to" school finance man who continues to navigate dicey state education funding while always maintaining the needs of each unique child at the heart of his service.

Distinguished Alumnus Endorsements

"In gracious support of Mr. Richard Matkin and Austin College, I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Plano ISD Superintendent Richard Matkin as a candidate for the Austin College Distinguished Alumni Award. He continues to be an ambassador of good will and an advocate for Austin College as well as a champion for public education."

-Todd Williams
Commit!, Executive Director and
Austin College Board of Trustees, incoming chair 2013
Austin College Graduate, 1982

"I am excited to have the opportunity to express my appreciation and support for my Austin College basketball teammate and apartment 10A roommate Mr. Richard Matkin as a Distinguished Alumni Award recipient. Richard's contributions to Plano ISD as an administrator in finance and now superintendent are simply an extension of his role as a teacher, coach, administrator and friend of education."

-Joe Longino
Austin College Graduate, 1974 and 1975

"Richard Matkin is most deserving of this honor. He is an ideal ambassador for Austin College and is the blueprint for the kind of person that helps us to remain connected as past graduates and friends. I couldn't be more pleased with this nomination."

Mr. Hardee McCrary
The Longhorn Foundation, Assistant Director of Development
and former University of Texas assistant football coach
Austin College Graduate, 1973

"Richard Matkin exemplifies the gold standard of professionals in public education. And, he's got a great jump shot!"

-Richard M. Abernathy
Abernathy, Roeder, Boyd & Joplin, P.C.,
Southern Methodist University School of Law, 1977
Austin College Graduate, 1974

"I have enjoyed my longtime relationship with Richard "Dick" Matkin and have always considered him both a professional and personal acquaintance. My wife Bonnie and I treasure him. I have observed him in professional and political circumstances as our backgrounds in accounting and finance are similar. I noted that in all situations he was never

self-serving and was always extremely professional. He has raised a nice family, made an effort to stay in touch and exemplifies a good Kangaroo!"

-Jim Craft
Austin College Graduate, 1954

"We are genuinely pleased to support the nomination of Mr. Richard Matkin for the Austin College Alumni Award. We have known him since our college days together as friends and have admired him over the years as an exemplary educator. We have followed his career successes and can only imagine that he would be a perfect steward of the prestige and responsibilities that come to the recipient of the Austin College Distinguished Alumni Award."

-Ray Smith, Austin College Graduate, 1977
-Vicki Zachary Smith, Austin College Graduate, 1976 and 1977

About Plano Independent School District

The Plano Independent School District (Plano ISD) (www.pisd.edu) endeavors to foster the highest level of student learning. The mission of Plano ISD is to provide an excellent education for all students. Plano ISD is located 20 miles north of Dallas, Texas and serves the residents of approximately 100 square miles in southwest Collin County, including 66 square miles in the city of Plano, northern portions of the cities of Dallas and Richardson and parts of the cities of Allen, Parker and Murphy. Plano ISD employs 7,000 faculty and staff members who serve more than 55,000 students in 70 schools and 11 service facilities. Participating in Plano ISD schools enables students to adapt to new learning opportunities throughout their lives, collaborate with, and contribute to, the global community and to be creative and disciplined in their thinking.

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