

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Ashley Holt
830-221-2621

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Comal ISD honored with economic impact award

Since 2005, Comal ISD has spent nearly \$400 million through two bond issues to put eight new elementary schools on the ground, renovate and expand the middle and high school campuses, buy land for future schools and much more to accommodate the growth the district has experienced.

In creating additional and updated facilities for its students and community, Comal ISD also made contributions to the local economy by creating temporary jobs (construction) and permanent jobs (new schools), which is why the district recently received the 2010 Economic Impact Award for New Braunfels at the Austin-San Antonio Corridor Growth Summit that took place at the New Braunfels Civic Center in September.

Sponsored by the Austin and San Antonio Business Journals, the annual summit is held to showcase the growing areas between Austin and San Antonio poised for investment and boom despite the economic challenges and the opportunities and challenges that go along with the growth. During the summit, the "hotspot" of each community is recognized and an Economic Impact Award to the local project of the year is presented.

Comal ISD Superintendent Dr. Marc Walker, school board president Carol Kendall Keller and the district's assistant superintendent for support services Thomas Bloxham attended the summit to accept the award.

"I have always realized that the work we do and create through our bonds has made positive contributions to our economy, but I never really considered by

how much,” said Walker. “When you put figures on what our projects have done within our community such as creating around 1,000 local jobs, it’s really pretty amazing. We’re honored to have received this award, and we appreciate the support of our community.”

The district was nominated for the award by the New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce, and the director of economic development, Rusty Brockman, said Comal ISD was the perfect nominee for this year’s award.

“We nominated CISD because it has made a commitment to growth, and through that commitment has created wealth, jobs and a solution to the long-term growth needs of a public school system,” said Brockman. “This effort was driven by administration and the patrons through support for a school district with a great reputation.”

Comal ISD beat out candidates from 16 other cities and towns along I-35 for the award, and Brockman said this award is a great way for the community to realize how much the district has given back to the area.

“I think this award shows to a population of more than three million that an education entity, excluding higher education, has a positive impact on the health and well-being of not only lives but an economy for wealth and job creation,” he said. “This is a true base value in my mind of how connected a community is in our society. The difference Comal ISD has made in this community over the past five or six years will truly pay dividends for not only New Braunfels and Comal County but this entire region from Austin to San Antonio.”