

Spring Branch Independent School District
Agenda Item Information

Date of Board Meeting: January 24, 2011

Subject: Recognition of the January 2011 SBISD Volunteer of the Month

Administrator Responsible:

Name: Linda Buchman

Position: Community Relations Officer

Purpose of Agenda Item: Special Presentation

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND/OR BACK-UP:

SBISD January 2011 Volunteer of the Month
Chris Papouras
Spring Woods High School/Spring Oaks Middle School

As Spring Branch ISD celebrates National Mentoring Month, we happily take this opportunity to recognize a gentleman who has given of his time and talents over the last six years, not only to be a mentor to a very lucky Spring Woods High School senior, but also to be a mentor to our award-winning SpringBoard Mentoring Program team.

It took Chris Papouras a year to heed the call for mentors that appeared regularly in the MIT Alumni Club newsletter, but it only took a few minutes for him to get hooked on our program once he attended training. Immediately, he became a champion for mentoring, convincing his own mentor, Gene Isenberg, Chairman of Nabors Industries to encourage all of their employees to become mentors, too. The result has been a partnership through which dozens of Nabors employees have engaged our students in thoughtful meaningful weekly dialogue and activity, together with annual arts-related programs and field trips. The fact that Nabors employees drive 50 miles round trip weekly to see their SBISD students at Spring Oaks Middle School and Spring Woods High School and have corporate support for toll fees, lunches and other expenses makes Chris a model community leader, and Nabors a model community partner.

Chris also encouraged Nabors' ad agency, W3 Advertising to provide services to our mentoring program, enabling us to win regional p.r. awards for our mentor program marketing materials.

Chris's mentee is preparing for college, having achieved much as an SBISD student, and having been motivated to be his best thanks to Chris's dedication and support. For his long-term dedication to this young man, and for helping guide our mentoring program to higher heights, we thank Chris and proudly recognize him as our January, 2011 Volunteer of the Month.