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San Antonio Business Journal Corporate Philanthropy and Nonprofit Award names Pre-K 4 SA Board Chair Elaine Mendoza as top nonprofit volunteer

Pre-K 4 SA named as non-profit organization finalist

San Antonio, TX The San Antonio Business Journal on Thursday recognized Pre-K 4 SA Board Chair Elaine Mendoza as top non-profit volunteer at the inaugural Corporate Philanthropy & Nonprofit Awards hosted at the Pearl.

Three businesses, three nonprofits and five individuals working or volunteering at area nonprofits who are making a difference in our community were also honored. In early October, Pre-K 4 SA was named as a finalist in the large nonprofit category of the Corporate Philanthropy and Nonprofit Award.

“We were honored for Pre-K 4 SA to be named a finalist, but even more thrilled to see Elaine receive well-earned recognition for her efforts,” said Sarah Baray, Pre-K 4 SA CEO. “Under her guidance, we are answering our community's call for greater access to high quality early education for the city's children.”

Mendoza served on Mayor Castro's SA2020 “Charting the Course for the Next Decade” Steering Committee. She also served on the Brainpower Taskforce that recommended the development of a program focused on high quality prekindergarten services for four-year-old children.

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She has served as the Pre-K 4 SA board chair since its inception in 2011, serving two consecutive, two-year terms—first as former Mayor Castro’s appointee, and subsequently as Mayor Taylor’s.

Under her leadership, the Pre-K 4 SA program has thrived, and is heralded as a national benchmark for early childhood education.

Mendoza has overseen the construction of four Pre-K 4 SA centers, and the hiring of over 400 administrators, teachers and staff. Over 4,500 students have graduated from the program, and recent research has shown that children are exceeding the national norm in cognitive, literary and mathematics.

“Having the support of someone like Elaine, whom I have great admiration for, has been key to this organization’s success and our ability to serve the young learners in our community,” said Baray.

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About Pre-K 4 SA:

Pre-K 4 SA is a full-day pre-kindergarten program for 4-year-olds living in the City of San Antonio. Pre-K 4 SA is free for qualifying students and also accepts tuition-paying students. The school day begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Before- and after-school care is also available at no additional charge from 7:15 to 8 a.m., and from 3 to 6 p.m. Breakfast, lunch and two snacks are included and free transportation is available to all students. Pre-K 4 SA has four Education Centers located throughout the city: North Education Center, 3635 Medical Dr.; South Education Center, 7031 S. New Braunfels Ave.; East Education Center, 5230 Eisenhower Rd.; and West Education Center, 1235 Enrique M. Barrera Memorial Parkway. The Pre-K 4 SA Professional Development program provides early childhood educators in San Antonio with complementary best teaching skills and practices in pre-kindergarten through third grade in order to exceed state-mandated student learning outcomes while focusing on the whole child. Visit www.prek4sa.com for more information.