



### A letter from our Executive Director:

Flexibility, grace, patience, and mindfulness are some key ingredients to survival during the COVID-19 pandemic. Imagine if we infused these qualities into our every day lives, regardless of this worldwide crisis. Our world would be kinder, sweeter, and empathetic toward one other and those that we will encounter throughout our lives.

In this phase of COVID-19, we are witnessing that our educators are the essential worker heroes. They are using their gifts and talents to bring normalcy in educating our future generations. HUT would not be made possible without the administration and staff at Dickinson High School. They bring whole-heart into their roles while wearing face-shields and a variety of ever-so-stylish masks.

Our partnership with Dickinson Independent School District allows us to bring the magic of Higher Up Texas to more Seniors this year. Although the program looks different than in the past, we are utilizing technology and innovation to continue developing critical thinkers AND doers.

From a planning standpoint, thinking outside of the box has allowed for more opportunities to bring expert speakers from all over the United States to virtually visit our six classes.

I cannot wait to witness our Seniors blossom as HUT encourages them to “bloom where they are planted”!

-Hillary Gramm

## DID YOU KNOW?

Higher Up Texas continues working with their alumni students through the HUT Phase 2 program. In the Spring, HUT students thought about their futures and created proposals for anticipated needs of support. Included were monthly phone calls, group meetings, laptops, job references, job referrals, scholarships and mentorship.

Since graduating in May, this group meets once a month on Zoom and continues talking about topics that encourage them to “dig deep”.

This group has evolved beyond classmates, they have become family. Not only

do the HP2 students help one another, they are also helping build Higher Up Texas for the next group of Seniors.

Jose and Ariel, both studying at Sam Houston State University, created a HUT commercial for our newest program participants. An adult can talk about the program, however when it is shared through the experiences of an actual participant, the testimonial becomes *real*.



Jose Serna  
Sam Houston State

# August HUT Happenings

After a successful pilot year at Dickinson High School in Dickinson Independent School District, Higher Up Texas is elated to announce that we will be expanding our program to include the Senior Career and Technical Education (CTE) Health Science students. Our current curriculum will be infused with topics related to the medical field. Topics will include understanding insurance, hospital culture, volunteering medical skills, and more!

**BIG ANNOUNCEMENT!**



**HIGHER UP**  
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We are thrilled to share that Amy Berger will be our Program Facilitator for the Five HUT CTE Health Science classes. She will be working with DHS CTE Staff Kristi Pulkinen, Amy Spies, and Kristen Begnaud.

Amy is a certified Texas Teacher and has been a Career and Technology teacher at Dickinson High School for 12 years. During her time at DHS, she has taught a variety of subjects from textiles, nutrition and human development but the highlight of her time at Dickinson was starting and growing the district's Ready, Set, Teach program.

Amy's enthusiasm and creativity will bring great value to our HUT CTE students!