

# INSPIRING DREAMS

## *Celebration*

I want to be  
a doctor



I want to be  
an astronaut



I want to  
be a meteorologist



I want to  
be a dancer

EXPERIENCE A

MAGICAL

RUNWAY  
OF SUCCESS

NOVEMBER 14, 2019 | 6:00PM



### Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for being here this evening celebrating with us the dreams and aspirations of our children; the future leaders of our community. We, at AVANCE-Houston, are dedicated to "Inspiring Dreams" and helping parents to advance their children's potential through effective parenting education and support programs. The Houston community is rapidly growing and expanding, and AVANCE is committed to embracing this growth by delivering the highest quality services and continuing to build strong partnerships to better serve parents and children in our city.

2019 has been another remarkable year for us; we experienced many successes and this could not have happened without the unconditional commitment of the Board of Directors, staff, our friends and supporters. We are very fortunate to see the impact our programs make in the families we serve, and we greatly appreciate all of you for making them possible.

To our community leaders participating on the runway this evening; thank you for inspiring our children to achieve their dreams!

**Luz E. Flores, MNP**  
*AVANCE-Houston Executive Director*

**Saul Valentin**  
*AVANCE-Houston, Board Chair*



### Saul Valentin

*AVANCE-Houston, Board Chair*

Saul Valentin is a Founding Principal at Collaborate Architects where he has managed projects for education institutions such as University of Houston, Houston Independent School District, United States Air Force, University of Texas El Paso, Houston Community College, Lone Star College and many others. Mr. Valentin has over 20 years of experience in leading, managing and building teams in communications, education, government, research, and information technology in the AEC industry. He has consistently achieved high levels of customer satisfaction and demonstrated a consistent ability to successfully deliver complex projects.

Mr. Valentin has proudly served on the AVANCE-Houston board of directors since 2015.



### David Vassar, PhD

*AVANCE-Houston, Board Vice - Chair and Development Chair*

David Vassar has spent his professional career working in both industry and in higher education throughout the world, including the United States, Europe, Mexico, and Latin America. Dr. Vassar holds a master's degree in Business Administration and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Latin American Literature. He has served in board leadership for the Brazil-Texas Chamber of Commerce, and the Mayor's International Trade and Development Committee for the Americas. He is now focused on enabling Houston's work force and business sectors through continuing professional education and training. Dr. Vassar is currently the Assistant

Dean for Professional and Executive Programs at Rice University's Glasscock School of Continuing Studies and has served as the AVANCE-Houston Board of Directors Vice Chair and Development Chair.

# PROGRAM

## SILENT AUCTION

### WELCOME

Khambrel Marshall  
*KPRC 2 Anchor*

Kingston Bean  
*AVANCE-Houston Alumnus*

### AVANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Luz Flores  
*AVANCE-Houston Executive Director*

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Saul Valentin  
*AVANCE-Houston Board Chair*

### CHAIRMAN'S AWARD PRESENTATION

David Vassar, PhD  
*AVANCE-Houston Board Vice-Chair and Development Chair*

### CHAIRMAN'S AWARD HONOREE

Dr. Stephen L. Klineberg  
*Founding Director, Kinder Institute for Urban Research  
Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Rice University*

### DANCE PERFORMANCE (CASINO STARS)

Natalie Rodriguez and Angel Villatoro

### MAGICAL RUNWAY OF SUCCESS

Students and Alumni of AVANCE-Houston  
& Community Leaders

### MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE

Saul Valentin  
*AVANCE-Houston Board Chair*

### CLOSING REMARKS

Khambrel Marshall  
*KPRC 2 Anchor*

Kingston Bean  
*AVANCE-Houston Alumnus*

# CHAIRMAN'S AWARD HONOREE

AVANCE-Houston's "Chairman's Award" is presented to an individual who has consistently demonstrated unwavering support and passionate advocacy of our mission, "Unlocking America's potential by strengthening families in at-risk communities through effective parent education and support programs."



## Dr. Stephen Klineberg

*Founding Director, Kinder Institute for Urban Research  
Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Rice University*

A graduate of Haverford College, with an M.A. from the University of Paris and a Ph.D. from Harvard, Stephen Klineberg is a Professor of Sociology at Rice University.

In 1982, he and his students initiated the annual "Houston Area Survey," now in its 38th year of tracking the demographic patterns, economic outlooks, experiences, and beliefs of Harris County residents.

He has published a series of reports on this ongoing research and is at work on a book project exploring the national implications of the Houston findings. "Prophetic City: Houston on the Cusp of a Changing America" will be available in June 2020.

The founding-director of Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research, he is the recipient of twelve major teaching awards and a much sought-after speaker in the Houston community and beyond.

## EMCEE



**Khambrel Marshall** is a member of the KPRC 2 Severe Weather Team and delivers the weekend forecasts. He also is a host of “Houston Newsmakers with Khambrel Marshall,” a weekly program that delves into issues in the news that Southeast Texans most care about. Prior to this, he was a weekend sports anchor in Phoenix, sports reporter, sports director, then primary news anchor in Miami. Khambrel took a newsroom leadership role as Executive Producer for several years, before accepting a position as weekend meteorologist. Khambrel won an Emmy, for a feature series titled “Guardians at Sea,” chronicling the efforts of the U.S. Coast Guard to rescue Cuban and Haitian refugees crossing the Florida Straits.

Khambrel is a dedicated community volunteer and has been honored as the March of Dimes Texas Communications volunteer of the year. He has also been a past Chairman of the Executive Committee of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Texas, and past board member of Collaborative for Children and the March of Dimes, Texas Gulf Coast. Currently, Khambrel sits on the Board of Directors and is Chairman of the YMCA of Greater Houston, a board member of Susan G. Komen, Houston and Co-Chair of the 2019 Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. He is also a Senior Fellow in the “American Leadership Forum: Houston/Gulf Coast Chapter.” The intense ALF one-year program is designed to join and strengthen diverse leaders in the community to better serve the public good.



**Mike Baerga**

*Broadway Dancer/Choreographer*

Years of Experience: 3 years in 2 different productions (Miss Saigon, King Kong).  
When I was little I wanted so badly to be an Olympic gymnast.

What inspired me to be on Broadway: The 1st time I saw “In the Heights” on Broadway with Lin-Manuel Miranda, it was life-changing, I was in the front row in a puddle of tears, and that’s when I knew what I wanted to do with my life!

## INSPIRING DREAMS CHOREOGRAPHER

## RUNWAY STARS

### REPORTER/METEOROLOGIST



**Khambrel Marshall**

*Meteorologist and Host of Houston Newsmakers with Khambrel Marshall*

Years of Experience: 44 years in December

When I was little I wanted to be whatever I could be that would make my mother proud. (Dad too but I was a Momma’s Boy)

The meteorology bug hit after a two week stay at the Naval Post Graduate school in Monterey California where we were exposed to hands-on experiences with sciences, one of which was meteorology. It was fascinating to me then but the Physics and Calculus prerequisites dissuaded me from that track until later in life. Journalism was a natural fit as I looked into a field that allows me to put a spotlight on what’s right and wrong in our society.



**Kingston - 10 years old**  
*AVANCE-Houston Alumnus*

When I grow up I want to be a Meteorologist.

# RUNWAY STARS

## DOCTOR



**Pamela Michelle Ayala, MD**  
*General Medicine Doctor at Memorial Family Medicine*

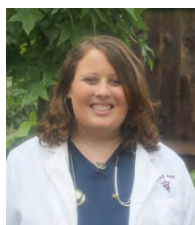
Years of Experience: 3  
When I was little, I considered being a teacher or a doctor. I was inspired to become a doctor by my own struggle with obesity and pre-diabetes. I wanted to help others and improve their health.



**Aria** - 5 years old  
*AVANCE-Houston Alumna*

When I grow up I want to be a Doctor.

## VETERINARIAN



**Dr. Michelle Taylor**  
*Veterinarian at Animal Medical Center of the Village*

Years of Experience: 1.5  
I've wanted to be a veterinarian since I was 8 years old. I am so blessed to be living my childhood dream. My childhood cat Fumar and watching veterinarians on Animal

Planet inspired me to become a veterinarian. I wanted the chance to help both animals and people at the same time.



**Matias** - 4 years old  
*AVANCE-Houston Alumnus*

When I grow up I want to be a Veterinarian.

## FIREFIGHTER



**Chief Samuel Peña**  
*Fire Chief for the Houston Fire Department*

Years of Experience: 25  
When I was little, I wanted to be Aqua-man. I was inspired to become a firefighter to be able to help people.



**Ian** - 3 years old  
*AVANCE-Houston Alumnus*

When I grow up I want to be a Firefighter.

## EDUCATOR



**David Vassar, PhD**  
*Academic Administrator and Educator at Rice University*

Years of Experience: 15  
I wanted to be Roger Staubach. My father inspired me to work in a university to help people change their lives for the better.



**Bethel** - 6 years old  
*AVANCE-Houston Student*

When I grow up I want to be a Teacher.

## POLICE OFFICER



**Officer Maria Butron**  
*Houston Police Department*

Years of Experience: 17  
When I was little I wanted to be a pediatrician. I began working with the police department as a civilian. I conducted follow up robbery investigations. I was learning the ins and outs of

being a Police Officer so I became intrigued. I also worked a lot of community events providing fingerprints for children. The desire to become a police officer grew on me and I am very happy to be in this kind of work. Helping people is what I love to do.



**Fatima** - 6 years old  
*AVANCE-Houston Alumna*

When I grow up I want to be a Police Officer.

## PUBLIC SPEAKER



**Dr. Jose Luis Zelaya**  
*Public Speaker*

Years of Experience: 6  
I became an educator because a teacher changed my life when I first arrived to the United States. As such, I wanted to pay it forward and do the same.

I acknowledge the high need for a positive message and to create a narrative of empowerment. Motivational speaking allowed me the opportunity to travel across the United States and meet students, parents, educators and entire communities. I fully believe in the power of positive words and the potential they hold to change people's lives. This is my greatest passion to serve, empower and inspire our communities to pursue higher educational opportunities and succeed in life.



**Ronald** - 11 years old  
*AVANCE-Houston Alumnus*

When I grow up I want to be a Speaker.

## SCIENTIST



**Rebecca Richards-Kortum**  
*Malcolm Gillis University Professor, Professor of Bioengineering, and Director, Rice 360° Institute for Global Health*

Years of Experience: 34  
As a young girl, I wanted to become a novelist. I loved books like A Wrinkle in Time, Harriet the Spy and The Little Prince. I walked to

school every day and I remember always reading as I walked to school. My mom worried I would get run over if the book was too engaging.

My college professor, David Sellmyer, who encouraged me to do research in his Physics lab inspired me to be a scientist. It was there that I learned the important role that scientists play in making new discoveries and turning those discoveries into inventions that can help people.



**Valerie** - 6 years old  
*AVANCE-Houston Alumna*

When I grow up I want to be a scientist.

## SOCCER PLAYER



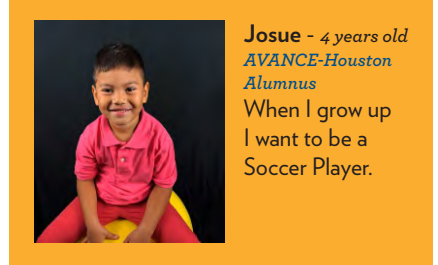
**A.J. DeLaGarza**

*Defender for The Houston Dynamo*

From a young age I always wanted to become a professional soccer player.

The Dynamo have a rich tradition and when I was traded here in 2017 I was excited for a fresh start and wanted to help get this

organization back to where they belonged, competing for an MLS Cup.



**Josue** - 4 years old

*AVANCE-Houston Alumnus*

When I grow up I want to be a Soccer Player.

## SERVICE MEMBER



**Eddie Zuniga, SCPO, USNR**

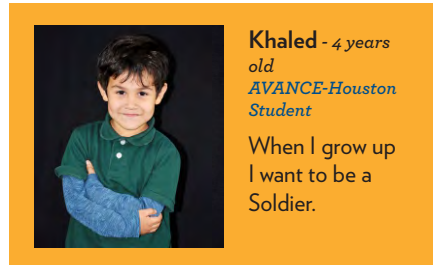
*Senior Chief, United States Navy*

Years of Experience: 19  
10 years Active Duty and 9 years Reserve Duty.

I wanted to be a police officer growing up. What inspired me to join the Navy was to be a military policeman and earn my degree in

preparation to serve as a police officer in my community.

Today, though not a Police Officer, I serve by volunteering with several organizations helping improve our community as a Navy Reservist and Financial Advisor with Edward Jones Investments.



**Khaled** - 4 years old

*AVANCE-Houston Student*

When I grow up I want to be a Soldier.

## SUPERINTENDENT



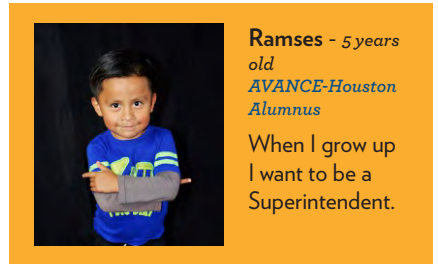
**Gloria Gallegos**

*Associate Superintendent for Pasadena Independent School District*

Years of Experience: 15  
I wanted to be a business woman in finance and accounting.

I was inspired to be an Associate Superintendent to impact change

for the school district and the community.



**Ramses** - 5 years old

*AVANCE-Houston Alumnus*

When I grow up I want to be a Superintendent.



# RUNWAY STARS

## ARTIST



**Geraldina Interiano Wise**  
*Abstract Artist*

Painting is what I've done since I was 10 in El Salvador under the tutelage of Violeta Bonilla, student of Diego Rivera. Settled every Saturday morning in her modest house and ravine on the San Salvador Volcano, I had the privilege of her Diego stories,

her deep understanding of art, and caring mentorship. I still cherish painting outdoors, which I do often, and the intimate stories about Diego, which haven't yet made it into the history books.



**Samantha** - 4  
years old  
*AVANCE-Houston  
Alumna*

When I grow up  
I want to be an  
Artist.

## LAWYER



**Juliet Stipeche**  
*Mayor Sylvester Turner's Director of  
Education*

Years of Experience: 20  
I wanted to be a lawyer and/or politician. I helped my dad prepare a response to a work-related complaint, and when he won, I realized the power of communication and the

written word. I also realized that everyone needs an advocate to explain their side of the story.



**Alondra** - 6 years  
old  
*AVANCE-Houston  
Alumna*

When I grow up  
I want to be a  
Lawyer.

## NASA



**Dennis Beckman**  
*Manager in the Space Flight Training  
Division at NASA*

Years of Experience: 32  
As a youth, I was inspired by the Apollo moon landings and wanted to be an astronaut.

While in graduate school (getting a math degree), I was a fortunate

receive an offer as an instructor in the astronaut training department, and ended up spending my entire career there, helping train astronauts.



**Emmanuel** - 4  
years old  
*AVANCE-Houston  
Student*

When I grow up  
I want to be an  
Astronaut.

# THANK YOU SPONSORS



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713-694-1619

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Houston, TX 77090  
281-891-8150

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607 Northwood  
Houston, TX 77009  
713-869-1684

### DEKANEY ISD

22351 Imperial Vly Dr.  
Houston, TX 77073  
832-868-0045

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Houston, TX 77090  
281-891-8840

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Houston, TX 77092  
713-682-9146

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Houston, TX 77092  
713-462-4423

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Houston, TX 77093  
713 742 8952

### KRUSE-EHS-CB/HB

400 Park Ln  
Pasadena, TX 77506  
713-534-0350

### LEWIS ISD

3230 Spears Road  
Houston, TX 77067  
281-891-8733

### LINCOLN PARK

790 West Little York  
Houston, TX 77091  
281-448-3600

### LOOSCAN ISD

3800 Robertson  
Houston, TX 77009  
713-696-2760

### MANGUM-HS/EHS

4503 Mangum Rd.  
Houston, TX 77092  
713-686-5228

### MT. HOUSTON-HS/EHS

11703 Eastex Freeway  
Houston, TX 77039  
281-219-2256

### NORTHSIDE -EHS

1209 James St.  
Houston, TX 77009  
832-831-4889

### OAKWOOD

7211 Oakwood Glen  
Spring, TX 77379  
281-370-9665

### ★ OXFORD

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Houston, TX 77022  
713-694-8994

### TEGELER- EHS

4949 Burke  
Pasadena, TX 77504  
713-740-0412

### WALTERS RD.-HS/EHS

11910 Walters Rd.  
Houston, TX 77067  
281-919-2931

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1417 Noble  
Houston, TX 77009  
713-227-4300

### DACOMA II

4301 Dacoma  
713-812-0033 Ext. 248

### KRAYOLA KIDZ-CCP

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108  
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★ **NAEYC  
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### Dacoma I - Administrative Office

4281 Dacoma  
Houston, TX 77092  
(713) 812-0033

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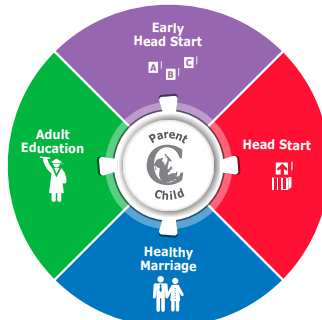
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## OUR MISSION

Unlocking America's potential by strengthening families in at-risk communities through effective parent education and support programs



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To learn more email us at [alumni@avancehouston.org](mailto:alumni@avancehouston.org)