

Michele Fraga of Tejas Office Products Builds Business Network by Investing in Houston Community

HOUSTON— Wednesday, August 17, 2011 — **As the weather heats up in Houston, Michele Fraga of Tejas Office Products is again intensifying her involvement in the local business community with three new opportunities.** Fraga is the customer service manager at Tejas Office Products.



First, the Greater Houston Partnership (GHP) has chosen Fraga to serve as an Ambassador for the GHP's 2011-2012 campaign. GHP ambassadors are member volunteers, who are dedicated to retaining companies in their second year of membership and beyond. Ambassadors represent GHP and provide regular communications and motivation for members to get involved with GHP and the Houston business community by showcasing GHP benefits and resources.

"Michele Fraga was chosen based on her enthusiasm for GHP and her experience and involvement in the Houston region," said Lindsay Hammond, coordinator of member services with the Greater Houston Partnership. She will volunteer as one of 47 Ambassadors for the 2011-2012 campaign, Hammond said.

Additionally, the Houston Minority Supplier Development Council (HMSDC) awarded Fraga the 2011 HMSDC MBE Business Executive Scholarship. This scholarship is one of the ways that HMSDC helps minority businesses increase access to opportunity and growth. Evident by Fraga's involvement in both HMSDC and the Houston community, Fraga was an obvious winner. She plans to apply the scholarship to attend the [2012 American Office Products Distributors \(AOPD\)](#) annual conference in La Quinta, California in February 20-24, 2012.

"Michele mentors others and is a hands-on person, volunteering at our monthly luncheons and elsewhere," HMSDC President Richard Huebner said. "Her willingness to share multiplies the value of the scholarship and education."

Fraga was also named to the SPARK School Park Program Board, which discusses the yearly audit and finances of the non-profit's program, selects schools to participate in the park program and now, publicizes a partnership with retailer Charming Charlie to promote student art by recycling their damaged, otherwise unusable jewelry.

"Michele, as part of a longtime Houston family business, brings a keen awareness of the city," Kathleen Ownby, executive director of the SPARK School Park Program, said.

"I'm excited about each of these opportunities. They present great ways to meet others and impact the local community," Fraga said. "Houston is an amazing city to live and work in. Volunteering allows me to make a difference, while building my business network."

About the Greater Houston Partnership

The principal objective of the Greater Houston Partnership, which traces its roots back to Houston's original Chamber of Commerce founded in 1840, is to build regional economic prosperity. The Partnership facilitates relocations and expansions in the Houston area; international outreach initiatives such as business development missions outside the U.S. and receiving foreign trade delegations; and strategic planning. The 10-county Houston region encompasses Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort



Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto and Waller counties. Visit the Greater Houston Partnership at www.Houston.org.

About the Houston Minority Supplier Development Council

The mission of the Houston Minority Supplier Development Council (HMSDC) is to actively involve its members in efforts that will increase and expand business opportunities and business growth for minority business enterprises (MBEs). For details, visit www.hmbc.org.

About the SPARK School Park Program

The SPARK School Park Program is a non-profit organization operating out of the City of Houston Mayor's office. Developed in 1983 as a way to increase park space in Houston, former City Council Member Eleanor Tinsley created SPARK to develop public school grounds into neighborhood parks. Visit www.sparkpark.org for more details.

About Tejas Office Products

Since 1962, Tejas Office Products has provided its customers with high quality office products. Its warehouse is centrally located in the Houston Heights area. From next day delivery of office products and department distribution to stock room management, Tejas Office Products makes your business day easier. For more information, please visit www.TejasOffice.com or call 713-864-6004 or 800-593-6004.

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