



Media Advisory

For Immediate Release

A Mother's Day Tribute Benefits Teen Moms

*The Honorable Carole Keeton Strayhorn and Yamile Cendales-Jackson, Ph.D.
honored at special luncheon.*

Houston, Texas — Hundreds of teens are pregnant and parenting in the Houston area and with Mother's Day approaching, what a better time to honor two special ladies in Houston.

On May 4th, The Honorable Carole Keeton Strayhorn and Dr. Yamile Jackson were honored at the ***Motherhood: The Lifetime Achievement Award Luncheon***, held at the Houston Polo Club. Proceeds from the inaugural event benefit Houston Can! Academy's Pregnancy Related Services (PRS) program.

Upon receiving her award, Dr. Jackson reflected on her experience almost losing her son Zachary. "I made a pact with God. I told him, If you let me go home with Zachary, I will help babies." she said. From that occurrence, she became an inventor of a device designed to provide comfort, sense of security and support for premature babies.

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Carole Keeton Strayhorn, talked about the importance of supporting viable educational institutions. "Schools like Houston Can! Academy that make sure kids don't get left behind and graduate are the ones we need to give the most support."

Houston Can! Academy wants to help reduce the number of young mothers who drop out of school through its PRS program. The initiative allows teen moms to continue their education while providing them individualized instruction and counseling so they become knowledgeable in child development, parenting and home management.

High school senior Norma Alcaarez, wants to make a better life for her children. Norma, who attends Houston Can! Academy's Hobby Campus received a \$500 scholarship at the luncheon. She plans on attending college in the Houston area. Senior, Tiffany Radford, was the recipient for Houston Can! Academy - Main Campus. Tiffany has been accepted to Spelman College in Atlanta.

About Texans Can! Schools:

Celebrating 20 years of serving academically at-risk youth, Texans Can! is a unique network of 10 public charter schools of choice throughout Texas. Using our three core values: discipline in private, reward in public; rules without relationships breed rebellion and behavior is based on need, more than 7,000 students a year are getting a second chance at life. 77% of our graduates plan on attending a post-secondary education. Visit our Web site for more information at www.texanscan.org.

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