

## Contracts awarded for educational/instructional software and event rentals

New contracts for educational/instructional software and event rentals were recently awarded by the board of Harris County Department of Education and are accessible through HCDE Choice Partners cooperative.



New contracts were awarded to: **3P Learning Inc.; Attainment Company Inc.; Reed Debra Howard dba Brain Hurricane/**

**Wowzer; Burlington English Inc.; Carnegie Learning Inc.; DynaStudy Inc.; Imagination Station Inc. dba Istation; Lakeshore Equipment Company dba Lakeshore Learning Materials; Neufeld Learning Systems Inc.; Pitsco Inc.; Rosetta Stone Ltd.; Southwest Education Inc.; and TPR Education LLC dba The Princeton Review.**

A contract for event rentals was awarded to **Awesome Event.**

Contracts were recently renewed for Academic Programs (QZAB); Construction – IDIQ Job Order Contracting; Janitorial Services; Landscape and Maintenance Services; Moving and Relocation Services; IDIQ Plumbing and Related Services; Printing (High Quality), Copying; Technology Products & Services; and IDIQ Roofing, Waterproofing / Masonry, Restoration and Cleaning.

See all the newly awarded and renewed contracts at [http://www.choicepartners.org/current\\_news.php](http://www.choicepartners.org/current_news.php) ♦

## Tech-Labs does its homework

Imagine the parts of a flower replicated and enlarged so that you can see the smallest details in its stem and petals. Picture a high school classroom outfitted with a life-size command room so that students can simulate sailing a ship. Technical Laboratory Systems (Tech-Labs) makes these dreams a reality by providing 3-D printers, simulators and other equipment using its Choice Partners contract– and the company is making quite the impression on our members.

“Tech-Labs did a stellar job,” Drew Thurman, manager, Career and Technical Education, Houston ISD, said of Tech-Labs’ pivotal role in providing technology for Austin High School’s full bridge simulator, a room built to mimic a ship’s control center that gives maritime students an immersive, hands-on learning experience that’s about as close to actual navigating as you can get.



“Typically you’d see these types of simulators at training facilities or colleges,” Thurman said, clearly proud of the high-tech installation. He added that Tech-Labs “did their homework and were extremely attentive” to HISD’s needs.

On a smaller, but no less impressive, scale, Tech-Labs has also shown members that it is the captain of the 3-D printer world – specifically the education market.

“The printer itself works flawlessly and we have no complaints about the device,” said Aaron Ellis, senior multimedia specialist, San Antonio College – Alamo Colleges, referring to the Stratasys Eden 260-V 3D printer that he acquired using Tech-Labs’ Choice Partners contract.





Jeff Drury, Director  
 Joann Nichols, Assistant Director  
 Trisha Jensen, Assistant Director  
 Greg Lookabaugh, Sr. Manager of  
 Facilities Planning  
 Karen Chesky, Contract Manager  
 Carol Greb, Contract Manager  
 Melinda Perales, Contract Manager  
 Mary Causey, Contract Coordinator  
 Laci Oettmeier, Food Contract Coordinator  
 Jan Arnold, Client Services Manager  
 Stephen Kendrick, Contract Compliance  
 Specialist  
 Arlita Kyles, Contract Specialist  
 Fred Calhoun, Field Representative  
 Don Elder, Jr., Marketing Consultant  
 Jim Owens, Contract Auditor/Consultant  
 Janet Wachs, Membership Manager

Les Hooper  
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## Welcome new members

Organizations and governmental entities that became members when contracts were recently approved by the HCDE board of trustees include **Abilene Housing Authority**, Abilene; **Abilene ISD**, Abilene; **Bannockburn Baptist Church**, Austin; **Brock ISD**, Brock; **city of Cape Girardeau, Mo.**; **Cibolo Valley Baptist Church**, Cibolo; **city of Columbus**;



**Habitat for Humanity**, McAllen; **Hawley ISD**, Hawley; **Holy Family Catholic School**, Galveston; **Jefferson ISD**; **Karnes ISD**, Karnes City; **city of Lavon**; **city of Leander**; **city of Leonard**; **Odessa College**; **Pearsall ISD**; **Richard Milburn Academy Texas Inc.**, McQueeney; **Saint Christopher's by the Sea Episcopal Church**, Portland; **Special Olympics Texas Inc.**, Austin; United Christian Church of Austin; and **city of Yorktown**.

Out-of-state members that recently joined include: **Illinois Central College**, East Peoria, Ill.; **Larimer County**, Fort Collins, Colo.; **Lee County**, Fort Meyers, Fla.; **Middle Tennessee State University**, Murfreesboro, Tenn.; **Paterson Public Schools**, Paterson, N.J.; **Spokane Public Facilities District**, Spokane, Wash.; **University of Memphis**, Memphis, Tenn.; and **Virginia Higher Education Procurement Cooperative**, Charlottesville, Va. ♦

## Top-performing vendors honored

Choice Partners vendors were recognized at an appreciation luncheon in January. Choice Gold Standard Top Performers are pictured from left to right. Standing: Chad McGee, LaBatt Food Service; Luke and Jeremy Morgan, Millennium Project Solutions; Larry Finch, Dahill; Bob Lane, Heat Transfer Solutions; Joe Jordan, Bosworth Paper; Reagan LaPoint, Buckeye Cleaning Center; Gary Ridgeway, Facilities Sources; Rodney Moore, Vaughn Construction; Jim Burke, Facilities Sources; Michael Taylor, Library Interiors; Jeff Newman, Tandus Centiva US LLC; David Wood, Borden Dairy; Chris Wiggins, ISI Commercial Refrigeration; and Jim Smith, Wex.

Seated: Kathryn Hollon, Pasco Brokerage Inc.; Tarynbeth Pilutti, Heat Transfer Solutions; Taani Follis, Hi-Mark Roofing & Waterproofing; and Caroline Burum, Glazier Food Company, Gordon Texas Division. ♦



# Cooperative purchasing contracts can help implement security camera law

Security cameras will be required in self-contained special education classrooms *if requested* by a parent, trustee or staff member to comply with a new Texas law (Senate Bill 507). Because the law applies at the start of the 2016-2017 school year, officials are planning now for implementation.

Our Choice Partners cooperative purchasing contracts for audio visual and for safety and security equipment provide good options for schools looking to fill orders without having to handle every detail of the procurement process.

Understanding the new bill is the first step toward knowing specifically which services should be provided and when. For example, schools do not need to obtain parental consent to use cameras in the classroom but are required to retain video recordings for at least six months. Such technology could mean an even greater expense for schools.



• **Fire, Security and Surveillance Equipment (IDIQ)**

**Digital Air Control, Inc.**  
Contract # 15/037JN-02

**Guardian Security Solutions**  
Contract # 15/037JN-03

**LENSEC**  
Contract # 15/037JN05

**Quality Security Systems**  
Contract # 15/037JN-07

**Superior Automatic Fire Systems**  
Contract # 15/037JN-08

• **Communications Cabling (IDIQ)**

**Interfacing Company of Texas**  
Contract # 15/009CG-10

**Pfeiffer & Son**  
Contract # 15/009CG-17

Another option is a legal, competitively awarded Job Order Contract for security camera installation.

Remember that installing new camera equipment is most likely a public work and, should be procured under Texas Government Code Chapter 2269. Choice Partners' job order contracts are procured in accordance with Chapter 2269.

If you only need equipment because your district staff will handle installation, or you need some consulting advice, these contracts might be helpful:

• **Audio Visual Equipment**

• **Computer Memory**

• **Fire, Security and Surveillance Equipment** (cameras and storage, but does not include installation):

**Alarm Integrations**  
Contract # 11/058KJ-01

**Bass Computers, Inc.**  
Contract # 15/037JN-01

**Knight Security Systems**  
Contract # 15/037JN-04

**LVC Technologies**  
Contract # 15/037JN-06

**Quality Security Systems**  
Contract # 13/032DG-19

**Video Insight**  
Contract # 11/058KJ-04

• **IT Consulting and Integration**

[See all the Fire, Security and Surveillance Equipment contracts.](#) ♦

# VENDOR NEWS

## LVC Technologies LLC

Workshop: Learn the latest information on the International Fire Code at a workshop on Thursday **Feb. 18, 2016**, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Houston, sponsored by LVC Technologies LLC.

### What School and Government Officials Need to Know about Building Codes (And the Architects, Engineers and General Contractors who work with these customers)

Presenter: Rodger Reiswig, SET Tyco, Director Industry Relations Tyco, Tyco Fire Protection Products  
 Certificates of Attendance will be provided.  
 RSVP to August Skopik [august@lvctech.com](mailto:august@lvctech.com)  
 (832) 816-3278

## K12 Alerts - Anonymous Alerts

Frederick Lane, nationally-recognized expert on cybersafety, privacy and emerging technologies has joined the Anonymous Alerts® advisory board for K12 Alerts. Mr. Lane has spoken to colleges, universities, and school districts around the country on a variety of issues, including the effect of cyberbullying, student safety, digital misconduct and personal privacy in the Internet era.

“Mr. Lane’s guidance and expertise in and around cyberbullying, cybersafety and privacy will help us enhance our continuous efforts to further develop the Anonymous Alerts mobile app reporting platform for students and school administrators,” said T. Gregory Bender, president and chief executive officer, Anonymous Alerts, LLC. ♦

## EVENTS:

**Feb. 24**  
**Collin County Purchasing Professionals/NIGP vendor fair, Frisco**

**March 1**  
**Texas Assn of School Business Officials, Dallas**

**March 29**  
**Custodial Management Assn. of Texas (CMAT) conference, San Antonio**

**March 29**  
**Public Purchasing Assn North Central Texas, Sheraton DFW Airport**

## Tech-Labs leaves quality footprint (continued from front)

“We have been able to build highly-detailed 3D objects for our faculty to use in their classrooms that they could not have obtained from any other source.”

That’s because Tech-Labs is one of the few platinum distributors for Stratasys, a pioneer in 3D technology and one of the largest suppliers of 3D printers in the world. Tech-Labs is also a full-service provider of educational equipment and software, distributing robotics, e-learning and heavy equipment simulators.

The 3D printer that Tech-Labs sold to San Antonio College using the Choice Partners contract utilizes a unique printing process that offers smooth finish surfaces -- technology ideal for architecture, animation and prototyping.

“Without getting too technical, smooth finish is why people buy this particular product,” explained Jamey Deloney, regional manager, Tech-Labs, adding that the printer offers fine detail with a fast processing time.

Fine detail is the name of the game when it comes to 3D printing.



“Among other things, we have printed miniature replicas of unique artifacts like dinosaur footprints found in San Antonio,” Ellis said. “Our instructors are pleased with the customized 3D-printed teaching aids that we have been able to provide to them.”

Tech-Labs, along with its team of factory-trained technicians, has solidified its reputation for quality customer service – a touchstone of many Choice Partners vendors.

“Tech labs has been great and has provided excellent service and responsiveness,” Ellis said. “Jamey Deloney was very helpful and James Rorls from Stratasys got everything set up and working perfectly.”

“If something is not right, they help you get it right,” Thurman said.

For more information about the Technical Lab Systems products, go to <http://www.choicepartners.org/vendors/technical-lab-systems-4> or call Lisa Stewart at 281-391-7010. ♦