

## Irving Mayor Van Duyne Invited by Gates Foundation to Discuss Education

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IRVING, TEXAS, *March 10, 2014* — The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, in conjunction with the U.S Conference of Mayors, has invited Irving Mayor Beth Van Duyne to participate in an education meeting for select mayors on March 13 and 14 in Washington, D.C.

The Gates Foundation has a goal of dramatically increasing the number of students who graduate from high school truly ready for college or a meaningful career. The Foundation believes more progress can be made if mayors and educators work together to share ideas. Bill Gates will attend and will be involved in the conversation.

“I have been extremely involved in education with Irving schools and am eager to join this distinguished group of thought leaders to get a deeper understanding of the Gates’ plan. I am interested in helping all youth excel and believe this is a prime opportunity to share ideas and further develop programs that have proven to be successful,” said Irving Mayor Beth Van Duyne.

The mayor has invited Irving Independent School District Board of Trustees President Steven Jones to join her at the meeting.

“I am honored to represent the Irving Independent School District at this meeting,” said Dr. Steven Jones, school board president. “I’m grateful for the strong relationship we have with the City of Irving and the mayor’s office. I appreciate the city’s support of our public schools and enjoy working with Mayor Van Duyne on education-related initiatives.”

The meeting will begin March 13 with a dinner discussion followed by a day-long meeting on March 14, including a conversation with Bill Gates. The foundation is working toward increasing the achievement of students, particularly those who are disadvantaged.

### **About the City of Irving**

Irving is the second city in the nation and the first in the State of Texas to receive the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award (2012) as well as the first municipality in Texas’ history to receive the Texas Award for Performance Excellence (2011). Irving is the 13th largest city in the state with 217,000 residents and is home to the largest office park in North Texas, where a number of Fortune 1000 companies are headquartered.

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