

[**http://ntrp16.org/**](http://ntrp16.org/)

**North Texas Regional P-16 Council Meeting Minutes**

**December 13, 2016**

**9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

ESC Region 10

904 Abrams Rd.

Richardson, TX 75081

**Members Present: Pam Brown, Michelle Buggs, Stacy Burrell (for Anita Perry), Jeannea Busby, Joe Butler, Althea Chaderton, Ray de los Santos, Denise Davis, Denise Devora, Mary Harris, Kimberly Hilley, Christine Hubbard, Jean Keller, Barbara Lerner, Karrabi Malin, Raul Martinez, Cynthia Miller, Jeffrey Miller, Steve Neal, DeShandra O’Neal, Stephanie Roberts, Patsy Robles-Goodwin, Fred Schmidt**

1. **Greetings, Introductions and Refreshments**

* Jean Keller opened the meeting with thanks to Region 10 for hosting and acknowledgement to DeShandra O’Neal.
* Minutes from September 20, 2016, were reviewed, and Jeffrey Miller made a motion to approve them. Ray de los Santos seconded. The motion was approved

1. **Partnerships and Collaboration Panel**

* Dr. Jeffrey Miller acted as moderator and also shared as a panelist representing Grand Prairie ISD. He introduced the panel members: Dr. Lowell Strike, Little Elm ISD, TWU Pioneer Promise; Dr. Stacy Burrell, FWISD, 100 x 25 Literacy; and Dr. Cynthia Miller, Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, Workforce Partnership.
* Jeffrey focused on post-secondary success and asked several questions of the panel.

1. Please share some ideas or success stories about your partnerships.

* Lowell: Little Elm ISD has great potential but not enough high school students go to college. There is talent among the students, yet they are not taking advantage of postsecondary opportunities. Lowell noticed college was not part of the culture in many families in Little Elm ISD. The TWU Pioneer Promise partnership benefits students and the partnering institutions. TWU offers admittance to the top 25% of Little Elm ISD graduates along with one $2,000 scholarship awarded by the principal to a deserving student. Last year’s valedictorian now attends TWU. The first 30 students who submitted their college applications to any university by the end of September attended a lunch at Hula Hut. Lowell wants students to think about the need for postsecondary education to gain meaningful careers.
* Cynthia: We need to work together and achieve genuine partnerships, not random acts. Collective impact of measurable interventions have made a difference in Fort Worth. We are in a place where recognition of common needs for an educated workforce connects everyone together.
* Stacey: The FW 100x25 reading initiative posits that all 3rd grade students read at their grade level. A firm foundation in reading levels the playing field for college and career. This six point literacy plan offers benchmarks for professional learning. There are community involvement and parent support components. The Achieve 3000 program starts where the student is and tailors reading assignments to needs, measuring progress over time. Starting with FWTX 100 x 25 in 3rd grade moves students to TX HB 18 in middle school, TX HB 5 for graduating seniors preparing for college, and 60x30TX.
* Jeffrey: Three years ago Grand Prairie ISD wanted to increase students going to college for the district. SAT scores showed great potential, but the students, who were 70% economically disadvantaged, were not enrolling in college. The district offered students SAT testing, and UTA offered automatic admission for students in the top 25% of their class and with qualifying SAT scores. Grand Prairie ISD provided data sharing with UTA. UTA admission counselors ensured students had financial aid and scholarship opportunities. The following year, there was a 75% increase in students enrolled in college due to this partnership. No matter what the students’ financial circumstances, they now have a path to success.

2. What are some of the experiences – or compelling arguments – that have influenced your thinking around the need to prepare more students for higher education and the workforce? What motivated you to get involved in being an advocate for change?

* Cynthia shared a Fort Worth Chamber Workforce Preparation/Education Partnership Example form and recognized Fred Schmidt, Tarrant County College, for being involved the past three years and instrumental in putting this form together. Their goal was to make this a community effort by connecting public schools, colleges, and workforce partners. The Task Force articulated a three part process. 1. The Assessment Group explored 82 different career assessment worksites and narrowed it down to four. Career Cruising was selected. 2. The Survey Group concluded students at Go Centers would be exposed to six different workforce themes. 3. The Mapping Group sought resources to capture the need for workforce connections starting in middle schools. Cynthia passed out the Business and Community Partner Enrollment Form which came out of this task force. Specific middle schools will pilot a program to begin January 9, 2017, with Lunch and Learns for students. Outcomes sought include increased student participation in job shadowing, career awareness, tours, interventions in Go Centers, and an increase next year in selection of courses in STEM, IT, and health care.

3. What obstacles have you faced as you established your partnership? What would have made it an easier process?

* Lowell stated there weren’t any obstacles to partnering with TWU. He sees the main purpose of public school as preparing students for the middle class for which, by 2030, 47% of middle class jobs will have been eliminated. We need to prepare kids to be college and career ready in an environment where workforce skills are changing rapidly. Partnerships with ISDs, colleges, and workforce partners are essential to guide the practice of all three.

4. Share specific ways that you have advocated for change and the successes and challenges you’ve faced before engaging in partnerships. Specifically how did you approach the Fort Worth 100x25 initiative and how did it impact your practices and relationships within this partnership?

* Stacey stated they took a systematic approach and focused on key strategies to see progress over time. What we learned about 3rd grade reading will help leverage every other initiative. For example, we are learning that every student does not have access to computers and books. Outcomes need to focus on students and leverage collective strategies to achieve these goals.
* Cynthia commented the Fort Worth Chamber is partnered with many organizations and wants the business world to truly understand education. Businesses want to solve issues, they have a lot of power and money, and they are learning that with partnerships problems are resolved faster. Cynthia shared seeing the Fort Worth Chamber as an intermediator between businesses, communities, and schools.
* Stacey encouraged partnerships to identify low hanging fruit and free opportunities. It’s about a relationship and how we work together as a whole and are committed to the cause.
* Lowell liked the flow of data between the organizations to affirm and provide feedback.
* Cynthia agreed there needs to be a marriage of technology and people. Strategic pathways are high tech and high touch. Technology has outpaced the workers. Students are the future workers, and teachers are expected to teach technology they don’t know how to apply to work.
* Lowell stated school districts are taking 21st century technologies and overlaying their delivery with 20th century methods. Students need to learn how to be entrepreneurs. Fewer than 40% of employees work for companies that have over 1,000 employees.
* Stacey indicated Fort Worth ISD is planning an Engaged to Learn initiative. Career Cruising K-12 is a nationwide initiative for alignment and utilizes Go Centers, as well. It’s a student centered model that teaches them where and how to seek help.
* Barbara Lerner commented that TWU’s goal is to have multiple partners from Little Elm ISD, Denton ISD, and Lake Dallas ISD learn from each other through data sharing. TWU will bring districts together, share experiences, and identify next steps.

Ray de los Santos asked if education non-profits were being integrated into these partnerships. Cynthia explained non-profits were part of mapping in the Strategic Pathways to Student Success program.

Jeffrey thanked the panel for sharing their particular partnerships.

1. **Discussion, Reflections, and Actions**

* Christine Hubbard posed three questions for the council to answer based on the panel discussion.

1. What was most important idea/concept that stood out from our panel?

* Relationships among institutions and persons
* Working together – collaboration
* 2-way data sharing of data
* Performance measures to enable connections and mapping
* Future lens: look to future
* Remove barriers
* Focus on student success, not competition
* What components are needed to make a partnership sustainable?
* Internally motivated, not legislated.

1. What could the NTRP-16 Council do to support/expand this work?

* Highlight existing partnerships we serve
* Survey districts & universities and highlight what is being done
* Determine gaps and provide guide to what is offered
* Documentation for replication
* Support replication training
* Review district growth
* Dashboard across ISDs
* Tool maps
* Business orientation to career cruising
* Engage key business leaders in the conversation
* Encourage non-profits to get involved

1. What additional resources do we need?

* Joint fund raising
* Grant funding to support needs
* Data sharing regionally
* Regional use of common tool like Career Cruising (communication within systems)
* Inventory of what is available and what everyone is using

1. **Updates and Information Sharing**

* Mary Harris talked about funding to the Council from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Texas Regional Alignment Network (formerly Pathways). DCCCD, UTA, and UNT are involved as grantees, with TWU as a coordinating agent for the DFW region. DCCCD is focusing on curriculum for collegiate academies with Dallas ISD and their implications for common major selections by students. UNT and UTA are focusing on alignment of mathematics learning of students in regional networks. The UNT partners include Denton, Krum, and Lewisville ISDs, NCTC, TWU and UNT. A conference planned for April 22, 2017 will bring the two math partnerships together.
* Christine Hubbard reminded the Council that NTCCC was going to partner with NTRP-16 on April 12 and facilitate the 2017 Dual Credit Conference. Proposals are due to Christine by January 27 for review.
* Ray suggested a legislative update be given at the February 7th NTRP-16 Council meeting.

1. **Committee Reports**
2. **Communications, Networking & Social Media –** Jeffrey Miller reported the committee wants to change the format of the website to identify who we are, what we do, and how we can be involved. They also want to change the calendar, find out who clicks into site, make it more useful and perhaps insert a donate button.
3. **Funding & Sustainability –**Ray de los Santos shared the committee is proposing they develop a budget that would allow for justification of a dues structure. NTRP-16 can welcome new corporate partners to the community, provide a menu of how employers new to Texas can get involved in schools and the Council, and seek ways to fund Career Cruising from business partners. Putting a donate button on the website after it has more traffic is another way to raise money.
4. **Research, Assessment & Accountability –** Raul Martinez reported the committee would like to find out what ISDs are using for career exploration, how often tools are used, who has ownership, what type of training is provided, follow up with student users, and impact on college and career readiness.
5. **Professional Development –** Christine Hubbardshared that the April 12, 2017 Dual Credit Conference will be held with opportunities for discussion about Strategic Partnerships, Faculty Support, and Advising Connections. This event is planned for work in teams to leave with action plans for working with students and understanding what it takes for them to succeed in college and career.
6. **2016-17 NTRP-16 Council Meeting Dates and Programs – 9:00am – 12:00 pm**

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| *Date* | *Place* | *Host* | *Topics* | *Program Facilitator* |
| *February 7, 2017* | ***Fort Worth Chamber***  777 Taylor Street  Fort Worth, TX 76102 | *Cynthia Miller* | *Strategic Pathways* | *Cynthia Miller and Pamela Brown* |
| *May 9, 2017* | ***Preston Ridge Campus***  PRC Conference Center Section C  *9700 Wade Blvd.*  *Frisco, TX 75035* | *Raul Martinez* | *60X30TX Update* | *Raul Martinez, Michelle Buggs and Barbara Lerner* |

1. **Adjournment**

Jean Keller adjourned the meeting, thanked ESC 10, Melodie Basey, and UNT’s Associate Vice President for Enrollment and Transfer Articulation for providing the refreshments. She also thanked the Council members for their dedication and wished all a wonderful holiday season.