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

**May 3, 2016 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Educate Texas, Communities Foundation of Texas

5500 Caruth Haven Lane

Dallas, TX 75225

**Present: V. Barbara Bush, Elizabeth Caudill, Susan Cooper, Keisha Crowder-Davis, Denise Davis, Dani Day, Ray de los Santos, Kirsten Delay, Denise Devora, Dexter J. Freeman II, Wendy Gruver, Mary Harris, Christine Hubbard, Sarah Jenson, Linda K. Johnson, Jean Keller, Barbara Lerner, Diane Mannion, Raul Martinez, Cynthia Miller, Anita Perry, Don Perry, Juanita Reyes, Stephanie Roberts, Patsy Robles-Goodwin, Fred Schmidt, Garry Tomerlin, Danelle Wolf, Kathy Wright-Chapman**

1. **Greetings, Introductions and Refreshments**

Jean Keller opened the meeting with thanks to Educate Texas and the Communities Foundation of Texas for hosting with acknowledgement to Council representatives Denise Davis and Denise Devora.

1. **Program: THECB 60X30TX-Strategic Plan and Marketable Skills**

Dani Day introduced Garry Tomerlin, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Thanks to Christine Hubbard, North Texas Community College Consortium, his presentation and the discussion that followed can be viewed at:  <http://ntrp16.org/resources>

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

Christine Hubbard moderated a discussion with Garry built around questions from Council members. Highlights of the discussion included the following.

* Linda Johnson asked how higher education can build capacity in light of low pay for adjunct faculty. Garry talked about more powerful formats for course offerings through use of open resource materials and online team teaching. Don Perry reviewed regional accreditation and college policy about adjunct faculty qualifications, pay, and loads. Barbara Lerner suggested the concept of the embedded teacher as an alternative way for K-12 teachers to become involved in higher education instruction.
* In response to Christine’s question about increasing efficiency in higher education, Garry talked about revisions in programs of study for alignment of high school with AAS and of AAS with bachelor degree programs. He made suggestions for lowering the number of credit hours typically taken by students through work with multidisciplinary associate degrees, workforce education courses, and the fields of study. Garry said that tools for greater efficiency include informed students, efficient colleges, and state funding. HB 2628 provides for review of curriculum for efficiency.
* Ray de los Santos pointed out that Upward Bound students are supported differently by federal and Texas grant programs. Garry said that 60X30TX focuses on limiting accumulated debt, not on the amount of funding awarded. He talked about the negative impact of low revenue from the oil and gas industry on Texas education. Students can be helped by finding ways to limit the length of academic programs. Block scheduling of 8-week sessions may be one way to accomplish efficiency for some students. Students must see a clear and achievable path to reach their goals without being drawn into excess credit hours.

1. **Regional Data**

Barbara Bush presented slides developed by Commit! for the Dallas Regional Chamber Higher Education and Workforce Regional Analysis. Data focused on workforce and marketable skills as outlined in 60X30TX and skills requested by local industries and by the Association of American Colleges and Universities on the basis of a survey by Finley (2012). College students surveyed said they were prepared for work; yet, they could not articulate their marketable skills. Points made in discussion of the data included the following.

* Students need to be able to “sell” themselves and their skills.
* Sarah Jenson described the Chamber roundtable and its emphasis on veterans, millennials, and completion of AAS degrees.
* Ray de los Santos and Patsy Robles-Goodwin emphasized the value of being bilingual or multilingual.
* Linda K. Johnson discussed the impact of HB5 on articulation of career pathways that start in 8th grade, with 277 examples opening up in Dallas ISD through their career academies. Unfortunately, not all pathways are well-aligned.
* There are some needed curriculum changes such as the need for standards to keep up with changing workforce fields and terminology. K-12 and higher education need to collaborate and communicate to better support each other.
* Jean Keller called attention to the opportunities provided by HB5 to take advantage of local opportunities for alignment and transition between K-12 and higher education.

1. **Committee Reports**
2. Research, Assessment, & Accountability – Barbara Bush reported the importance of the state strategic plan in selection of data for measuring student outcomes. The student viewpoint is also important and comes into play in this strategic plan as students are called on to identify their own marketable skills, including soft skills, and to make decisions based on institutional attempts to manage the cost of change.
3. Communications & Networking & Social Media – Cynthia Miller reported the discussion of the committee on ways to assess how people are driven to the P-16 Council website. She also reported on the Council’s use of blogs, Twitter, and Facebook in consideration of our regional role in reporting on achievement of 60X30TX.
4. Professional Development – Kathy Wright-Chapman reported that the committee discussed ways that K-12 educators can be informed of 60X30TX implications, which call for partnerships and collaboration. Higher education cannot be successful without the support of K-12. Barbara Lerner stated that collaboration must begin with attention to endorsements, advising, and the role of high school counselors in steering students toward 60X30TX goals. Mary Harris referred to the Council’s annual Mathematics Readiness Symposium held on April 23 at North Central Texas College, Corinth campus.
5. Funding & Sustainability – Mary Harris and Ray de los Santos said committee discussion focused more on sustainability. The emphasis of 60X30TX on collaboration and efficiency cries for the work of P-16 Councils. In spite of this, Garry was not aware of any state initiatives to invigorate councils. Ray viewed outreach of the Council to K-12 and college counselors and career counselors as especially important. The work to be accomplished in complex urban settings takes a different shape than what can be done to align programs in more rural communities.
6. **Updates and Information Sharing**
7. Christine Hubbard announced the UCAN Advising Conference on May 25 at the Preston Ridge Campus of Collin College.
8. The 22nd Annual North Texas Community College Consortium Fall Leadership Conference will be on September 16 at North Central Texas College.
9. Elizabeth Caudill announced upcoming events of the Dallas Chamber that focus on education, including a meeting with the Commissioner.
10. Cynthia Miller highlighted with work of the Metro 8 Chambers to work together in planning for the legislative session. She emphasized the importance of workforce education issues to this group.
11. Jean asked members present to review plans for future meetings to provide input and volunteer to assist with programs.
12. **Adjournment**

9:00am – 12:00 pm

**2016-17 NTRP-16 Council Meeting Dates and Programs -** 9:00am – 12:00 pm

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| *Date* | *Place* | *Host* | *Topics* | *Program Facilitator* |
| *September 20, 2016* | ***ESC Region 11***  1451 S Cherry Ln, White Settlement, TX 76108 | *TBD* | *Legislative Issues* | *Ray de los Santos* |
| *December 13, 2016* | ***ESC Region 10***  *Mockingbird Room*  904 Abrams Rd, Richardson, TX 75081 | *Kristin Hebert* | *Partnerships and Collaboration* | *Jeffrey Miller* |
| *February 7, 2017* | ***Fort Worth Chamber***  777 Taylor Street  Fort Worth, TX 76102 | *Cynthia Miller* | *Strategic Pathways* | *Cynthia Miller and TBD* |
| *May 9, 2017* | ***Collin Higher Education Center – Collin College***  PRC Conference Center - Section C  9700 Wade Blvd., Frisco, TX | *Raul Martinez* | *60X30TX Update* | *Raul Martinez and Barbara Lerner* |