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

**December 2, 2014 9:00 am – 11:30 am**

Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce

777 Taylor Street, 12th Floor (Fort Worth Club)

Fort Worth Texas 76102

**Members Present: Raymond Brown, V. Barbara Bush, Denise Davis, Ray de los Santos, Joel Durbin, Diane Gossett, Wendy Gruver, Mary Harris, Christine Hubbard, Kay Irlas, Chris Kanouse, Jean Keller, Barbara Lerner, Jann Miles, Cynthia Miller, Jeffrey Miller, Anita Perry, Don Perry, Juanita Reyes, Stephanie Roberts, Patsy Robles-Goodwin, Mary Villafranca, Kathy Wright-Chapman**

 **Guests Present: Alma Garcia, Carrie Grant, Troy Langston, Susan Patterson**

1. **Greetings, Introductions and Refreshments**
* Jean Keller thanked Cynthia Miller, Doris Becker, and the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce for hosting the meeting in the beautifully decorated Fort Worth Club.

1. **Approval of the September 16, 2014 Minutes**
	* Cynthia Miller moved approval of the minutes seconded by Barbara Lerner. The minutes were approved for posting on the P-16 Council website.
	* Jean Keller referred to meetings scheduled for February 17 and May 5, 2015.
2. **Panel Presentation on Closing the Gaps: Dual Credit and the Early College High School**
	* Barbara Bush introduced the panelists: Alma Garcia, Program Officer, Educate Texas; Carrie Grant, College and Career Readiness Coordinator, Fort Worth ISD; Troy Langston, Principal, Texas Academy of Biomedical Science (TABS). Barbara moderated their presentation of dual credit within the early college high school as a means of offering high school students an articulated pathway that utilizes dual credit and enables students to complete high school and two years of college in four years of intensive study.
	* Alma Garcia presented a PowerPoint reviewing the mission, impact areas, and partners of Educate Texas and its leadership in statewide development of early college high schools ECHS). In 2004-05, there were four ECHSs in Texas. Ten years later, there are 108, with the highest concentrations in Hidalgo and Harris Counties, followed by several counties, including Dallas, that have seven. There has been a 39% average annual growth rate over a 10-year period, with an average of 10 new sites opening each year. Alma shared a continuum of preparation of Texas high school students from dropouts to those graduating with an associate degree. As the latest step in support of ECHSs, Alma presented a PowerPoint slide on the Transportation Funding for Dual Credit Students policy of the Texas Education Agency (TEA), which reimburses ISDs for transportation of students to community colleges outside their districts to earn dual credit during the school day.
	* Carrie Grant presented her work in FWISD to close the gaps for ECHS students, most of whom are of low socioeconomic status, first generation, and often lack the scaffolding to use their ability to best advantage. She described the summer preparatory program to help students entering 9th grade take advantage of dual credit opportunities by meeting the TSI. One of Carrie’s jobs is to evaluate courses proposed for dual credit. More than core courses are needed for the ECHSs to offer students choices. Challenges to dual credit programs include preparing the students academically and emotionally, helping students become independent learners, and getting the college partners to make some adjustments. Textbooks is the primary challenge here, both purchasing and storing the books. Carrie wishes ipads were used instead.
	* Troy Langston described three initial challenges for students at TABS as joining a school currently 66% female, not having access to high school sports, and being on a campus split between the Trinity River and a former elementary school campus. He said that students at TABS could earn multiple endorsements as part of the new graduation plans. The students would most appropriately complete an Associate of Science degree, but this was not an available option. He thought Career and Technical Education (CTE) should be an addition to ECHS academic preparation and that the TSI is only a first step to understanding a college going culture. Troy said that students are admitted to TABS though a lottery system. Qualifications include being in the FWISD, being at risk by the state definition, and attending an orientation. The school offers many challenges to the district, which is finding ways to support the school and its students.
	* Panelists responded to many questions raised by Council members. The following issues were addressed as part of the Q&A.
	* TABS follows the calendar of the college. To enable this, FWISD secured an optional flexible school day waiver from TEA.
	* The Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce mediates industry involvement with TABS. Although the school has not adopted AVID, if offers EDUC 1400 as a transition.
	* The MOU of FWISD and TCC provides for purchase of textbooks, art kits, science kits, and other supplies needed by students without cost to families. Costs that have to be considered include tests, texts, transportation, and technology.
	* Some students leave TABS and then come back. There is need for clear pathways for combining ECHS and work.
	* Issues include who pays the cost of the TSI and lack of access to testing sites for some students. Concerns were raised about test schedules, who receives the students’ scores, need for return to the site for retakes, costs to students, and opportunities for undocumented students.
	* Looking at the education system across K-12 and higher education, the ECHS is effective by eliminating the cost of up to two years of schooling.

1. **Updates and Announcements from Council Members**
	* TWU and UNT, in partnership with KERA, will host a panel and community viewing of “Poverty: Early Childhood Intervention” on February 4 at TWU.
	* FWISD is offering training on college readiness for all it counselors.
	* The 4th annual Connecting Education with Industry Conference is scheduled in Fort Worth on February 26.
	* Mary Harris shared information about the AVATAR College Preparatory Course (CPC) Project funded by a grant of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to the Council. Through the grant, each of nine Education Service Center Regions not previously involved in AVATAR receives $10,000 to support a partnership that includes at least one ISD, one 2-year college, one 4-year college, and a P-16 Council or other workforce group in developing or implementing CPCs in English Language Arts and Mathematics as authorized by HB 5. The other 11 regions were funded directly by THECB. Thus, the Council is leading the statewide effort to assure eligible students in all districts an opportunity to take the transitional courses collaboratively designed by K-12 and higher education. The CPC Project utilizes the organizational structure and focus on alignment of secondary and post-secondary education from the original AVATAR (Academic Vertical Alignment and Renewal) project. Mary’s PowerPoint is attached.
	* Mary reported that the Council has also received a grant for continued support of GenTX Marketing. She referred members to the [Generation TX](https://www.facebook.com/GenerationTX) and [Gen TX DFW](https://www.facebook.com/GenTxDfw) Facebook pages for ongoing information about college readiness and asked members of the Council to “like” these pages and to share news, photos, and information with Jeffrey Miller, the webmaster of Gen TX DFW. Mary thanked high schools that participated in the statewide College Application Drive during Gen TX Week, November 16-22. These included Haltom City, Grand Prairie, South Grand Prairie, Grandview, and all the Fort Worth ISD high schools, with O.D. Wyatt THECB instrument with students. A focus of the grant is on outreach to parents. Mary asked for collaborators interested in working with parents as part of college readiness programming.

1. **Committee Meetings and Reports**
2. Communications & Networking & Social Media – Cynthia Miller and Jeffrey Miller reported the committee’s discussion of strategic use of social media when trying to link the worlds of education, community advocacy, and workforce. It’s important for leaders to be clear about what they want their audience to do and to find tools that measure impact. The committee will meet in Grand Prairie on January 14 for a social media orientation by Jeffrey Miller.
3. Professional Development – Barbara Lerner attended a meeting of the College Special Advisors, whose work is continuing although funding is no longer available for this role. Resources about Career and College Readiness are available through the [Texas College and Career Readiness Network](http://www.txccrn.uh.edu/about/) coordinated by Heidi Kennedy.

The committee supports the Region 11 Counselor Conference to be held on January 15 at the Region 11 ESC now in White Settlement. Speakers will include Monica Martinez from TEA and Mick Norming from the Texas Workforce Commission.

1. Research, Assessment, & Accountability – Barbara Bush encouraged the use of newly available data to motivate development of the next Gap Analysis Report and ongoing Council agenda.

4. Funding & Sustainability – Ray de los Santos reported a great discussion by the committee members was closely linked to the report of the Research, Assessment, and Accountability Committee. Don Perry suggested organization of next steps for the Council about the new vision and mission of THECB with its four new areas of work in light of HB 5. The committee suggested Executive Committee discussion of these issues, which are also related to the Council’s AVATAR work.

1. **Adjourn for Happy Holidays and Refreshed Look at Work of Committees**

**Mark Your Calendars for the 2014 – 2015 NTRP-16 Council Meetings**

9:00am – 12:00 pm

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| *February 17, 2015* | *Educate Texas-Dallas* | *Reo Pruiett* |
| *May 5, 2015* | *Grand Prairie ISD* | *Jeffrey Miller* |