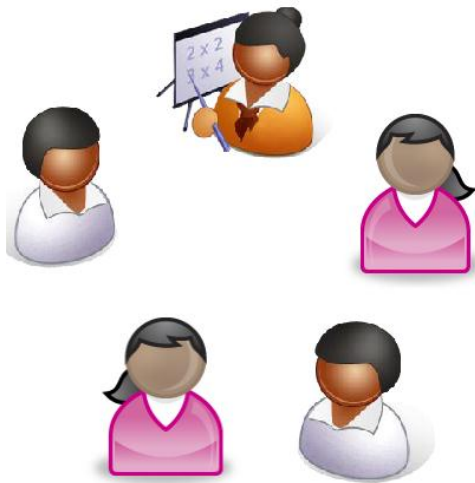


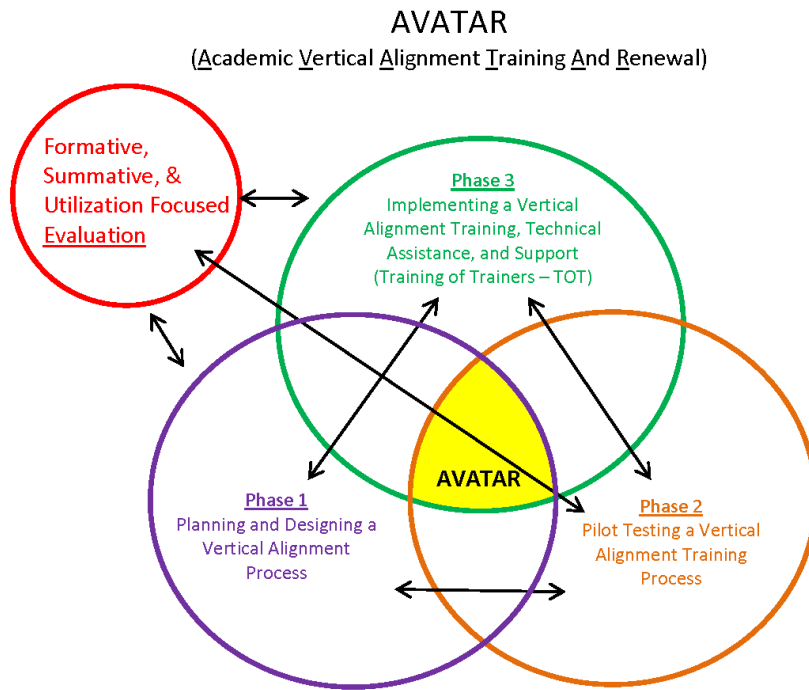
## January 10, 2012 Inaugural AVATAR Advisory Group Meeting

January 10, 2012 12:30 am - 3:30pm  
Texas Woman's University, T. Boone Pickens Institute of Health Sciences, Dallas Center  
5500 Southwestern Medical Ave., Dallas, TX 75235-7299  
Room 8720

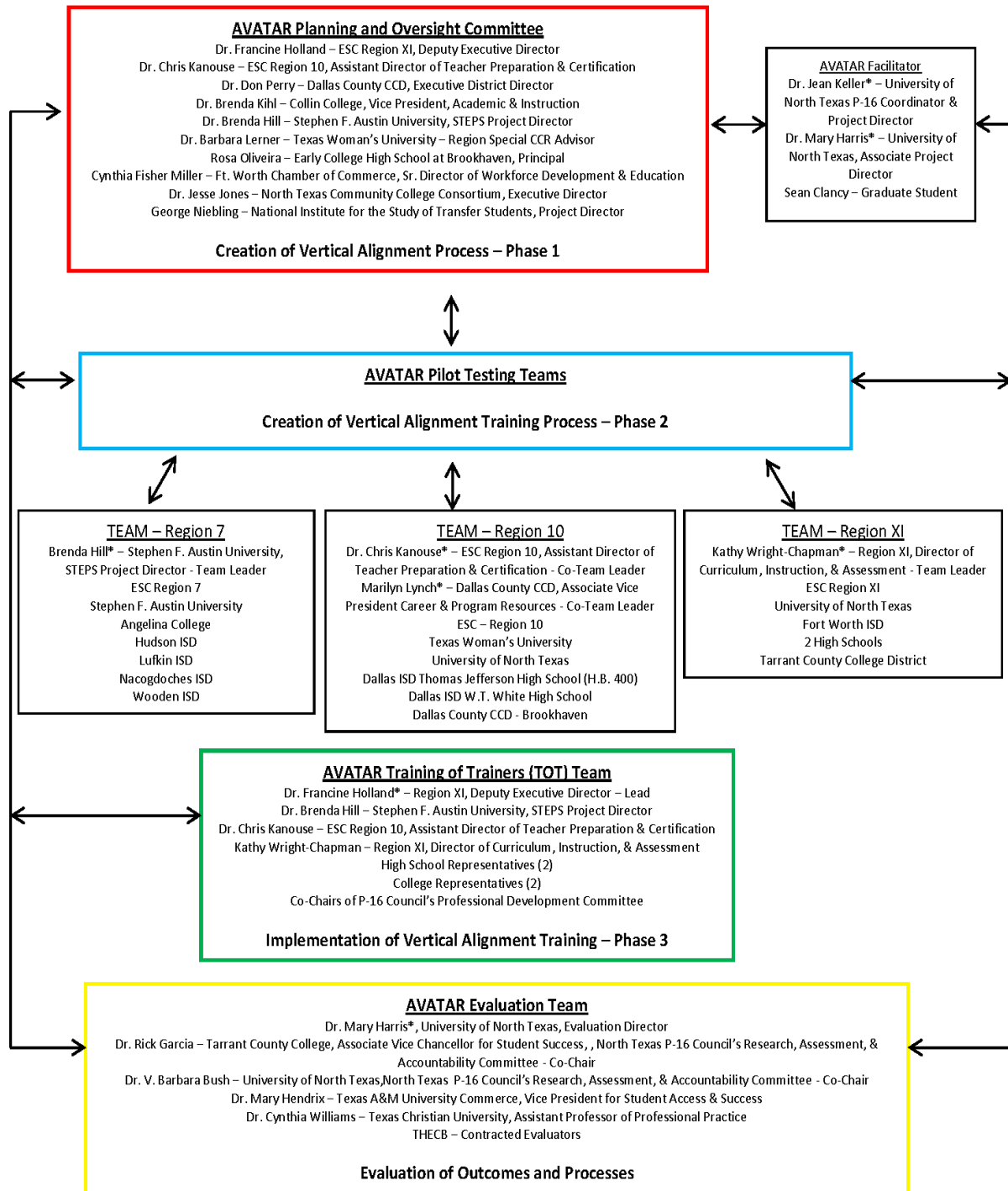
*A*cademic *V*ertical *A*lignment *T*raining *A*nd *R*enewal



## I. Phase 1 Overview: Chris Kanouse and Kathy Wright



## 2. Training Model Development and Evaluation Review and Update -Mary & Jean



### 3. Phase 2 – Pilot AVATAR Trainings – Chris, Cathy, & Brenda

a. Three locations and three team Region XI Fort Worth – 2 Teams (Chemistry & English Language Arts), UNT, TCCD (**Kathy, Team Leader**) ; Region 10 Dallas - 1 Team (Math), Thomas Jefferson and W. T. High Schools, UNT, TWU, and DCCCD (Marilyn Lynch – Brookhaven), (**Chris, Team Leader**); and Region 7 SFA (Science & Math) **Brenda Hill**. All will include the cross disciplinary standards

#### Collaborators of AVATAR

High Schools	Education Service Centers	2 Year Institutions of Higher Education	4 Year Institutions of Higher Education	Critical Friends
Dallas ISD Thomas Jefferson HS W.T. White HS	Region 7	Tarrant County College District	University of North Texas	Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce
Fort Worth ISD*	Region 10	Dallas County Community College District	Texas Woman's University	North Texas Community College Consortium
Hudson ISD	Region XI	Collin College	Stephen F. Austin University	National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students
Lufkin ISD	ESC Core (State) Group	Angelina College		North Texas Regional P-16 Council
Nacogdoches ISD				Brookhaven Early College High School
Wooden ISD				

#### Proposed Spring 2012

##### Session I –

A. If you were to redo Fall 2011 AVATAR Training What Would You Do?

1. Content
2. Process
3. Partners – Please specifically describe the backgrounds, experiences, types, number organization representation, leaders, positions, roles and responsibilities
4. Rewards, Recognition,

A. Deliverables: Region 10 and 11 will provide written summaries of suggested changes to Fall 2011 AVATAR Training. A list of who, qualifications, backgrounds, etc. as to who should participate in AVATAR Vertical Alignment Training (think about leadership levels within the organizations, should middle schools be included, etc.). Prepare a list of the roles and responsibilities (make changes on the partnership agreement as need). Please submit these to Jean after first session.

B. Discussion of Systemic/Cultural Changes Needed Between Systems (Secondary and Post-Secondary) to Create Meaningful Vertical and Horizontal Alignment (consider in Secondary the Teacher as the primary source of learning versus in Post-secondary the Student is the primary source of learning.

1. Content (Think beyond the single course consider how Math supports Chemistry; consider sequences of courses/curriculum)
2. Life Skills (CCRS – Cross-disciplinary and Core Curriculum Elements)
3. Assessments (Example: Extra Credit; No student failing in secondary – No Extra Credit; 5-15% of the students in a course may fail in post-secondary)
4. Instructional Strategies related to content; life skills, and assessment
5. Instructional Format – on-line instruction; large class lecture; laboratories (explain in detail)
6. Resources – Books, software, tutoring (explain in detail)

B. Deliverables: Region 10 and 11 will provide written outlines of what are the gaps between the systems (there may be gaps identified between 2 and 4 year IHE as well as between secondary and post-secondary. A draft PowerPoint presentation of the what are the gaps and a listing of who should attend the group's presentation and join a discussion regarding systemic/cultural changes needed within and between educational institutions to change students' mindset and expectations as well as faculty's mindset and expectations.

C. Call to Action – What Will I Do This Spring 2012 to Create More Vertical and Horizontal Curriculum Alignment in Both Content and Life Skills (CCRS – Cross-disciplinary and Core Curriculum Elements)

1. Each team member including administrators and facilitators will create an action plan that will include: what, when, where, how, and anticipated outcomes. Example: changes within a class; discuss topic at a curriculum meeting; discuss with colleague or department faculty where my students are served after my class (Math to Chemistry or English to Business); present at a conference or in-service meeting; talk with my department chair or principal or dean; write an article on a key topic, etc. Each participation should have 2 to 3 action items.

2. Each team member will present his/her plan and get feedback from the group.

C. Deliverables: Region 10 and 11 will provide copies of each team members' plan of action to Jean.

## **Session II –**

Possibly, developing Course Reference Profiles

Region 10 - Math 1314 and Chemistry 1311 and 1312 and discussion as to how they align with each other (with careful consideration to life skills (cross-disciplinary –CCRS) development and enhancement.

Region XI – Chemistry 1311 and 1312 and English 1301 and 1302

## **Session III-**

What Are Others Doing in the Area of Vertical Alignment?

Review and discuss several key articles such as “The Role of Learning Progressions in Standards-Based Education Reform,” others?

Should we have a presentation and discussion with the Pathways Project and others?

Refine PowerPoint Presentation

## **Session IV**

Group Presentation and Discussion on Needed Systemic and Cultural Changes and Recommendations as to How to Do It

Individual Presentations and Discussion on Action Plan Completion and Documentation

Lesson Learned and Things to Do As AVATAR goes Statewide

### **4. The Role of Leaders in Curriculum Alignment - Brenda Hill**

### **5. Statewide Implementation - Kathy and Jean**

#### Letter to ESC Core Group Members

Date

Dear ESC Core Group colleagues:

We have discussed how important it is for students to be college and career-readied and for students to succeed as they move from secondary to postsecondary education. The University of North Texas is working with Education Service Centers 10 and XI, along with Dallas and Fort Worth ISDs, Dallas County Community College District and Tarrant County College, and the North Texas Regional P-16 Council to design a curriculum alignment process and to implement 12 vertical alignment training programs across the state of Texas. This project is supported by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

We would like to invite you to participate with us in this statewide scale-up of this project called, AVATAR: Academic Vertical Alignment Training And Renewal. The goals for AVATAR are: 1)to design scalable secondary and postsecondary training processes for vertical and horizontal curriculum alignment that support successful transition and completion by students preparing for postsecondary and careers and 2)to facilitate state-wide secondary and postsecondary faculty, administrators, and P-16 council leaders' work groups to conduct horizontal and vertical curriculum alignment among high school courses, higher education lower division course sections and between lower division course sequences in 2 year and 4 year higher education settings. Our two pilot projects in the Dallas/Fort Worth region have been meaningful to the participants and we believe you will find the same results.

#### **Who?**

An ECS would partner with local secondary and postsecondary education institutions, and their regional P-16 council. The curriculum alignment disciplines would be: Mathematics; English Language Arts; and/or Chemistry. An ESC leader with a background in secondary and postsecondary partnerships and curriculum will assume the coordinator role. Secondary and postsecondary faculty and administrators along with the regional P-16 council leader and ESC coordinator will become the team.

*Partnership Teams* must include: 1 ESC coordinator; 1 secondary teacher and 1 leader; 1 community college faculty member and 1 leader; 1 four-year institution of higher education faculty member and 1 leader; and 1 executive committee member from the regional P-16 council.

**What?**

Teams will be formed; convened; trained; and will then create sustained vertical and horizontal curriculum alignment initiatives in their regions to support students in meeting and exceeding the College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) in Mathematics, English/Language Arts, and/or Chemistry as well as the cross-disciplinary standards. Teams must agree to collect data to inform their practice and decision-making. This process will cultivate dialogue and relationships among secondary and postsecondary colleagues that is beneficial to strengthening understanding of scope and sequence of subject matter and cross-disciplinary standards to support student success.

**When?**

March 1, 2012 - 12 Teams selected and Partnership Agreements Signed;

April 30, 2012 - Teams convened;

June 29, 2012 - Teams trained (1 day training at ESC XI for all partners);

July 15, 2012 - Teams create action plans for implementation - August 1, 2012 - July 31, 2013;

August 1, 2012 - July 31, 2013 - Teams carry out their vertical and horizontal curriculum action plans with support from ESC Region XI, University of North Texas, and pilot partners. (Expectations are a minimum of 4 learning/sharing sessions in fall and 4 learning sessions in spring terms); and

June 29, 2013 - Teams' Reflections, Celebrations, and Next Steps (1 Day training for all partners)

**How?**

Each selected ESC will receive \$6,500 (paid as tasks are completed) to support its team. We realize the financial support is not the reason for your support of this project. You will be provided training, training materials, technical assistance, on-going support, and on-site support, when needed, to successfully implement this curriculum alignment process in your region.

May we count on you to help students be college and career ready and to create effective approaches to curriculum alignment between and among secondary and postsecondary education, in your service area? If so, please participate in AVATAR and complete the attached form.

If you have questions, please contact: Kathy Wright Chapman \_\_\_\_\_ or Jean Keller [jean.keller@unt.edu](mailto:jean.keller@unt.edu) or (940)-565-3427.

Best regards,

Francine Holland

Jean Keller

Enclosure (AVATAR Expression of Interest)

AVATAR (Academic Vertical Alignment Training And Renewal) Expression of Interest

Due to: \_\_\_\_\_ by **January 31, 2012**

**Education Service Center** \_\_\_\_\_ is interested in participating in the the state-wide scale-up of AVATAR: Academic Vertical Alignment Training And Renewal. The goals for the AVATAR grant are: 1)to design scalable secondary and postsecondary training processes for vertical and horizontal curriculum alignment that support successful transition and completion for students preparing for postsecondary and careers and 2)to facilitate state-wide secondary and postsecondary faculty, administrators, and P-16 council leaders work groups to conduct horizontal and vertical curriculum alignment among high school courses, higher education lower division course sections and between lower division course sequences in 2- and 4 year higher education settings.

**ESC Coordinator** will be:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Disciplines for Curriculum Alignment** will be: (check all that apply)

\_\_\_\_\_ Mathematics      \_\_\_\_\_ English Language Arts      \_\_\_\_\_ Chemistry

**Partners** (name) will be:

School District (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Two-Year Institution (s) of Higher Education: \_\_\_\_\_

Four-Year Institution(s) of Higher Education: \_\_\_\_\_

Regional P-16 Council (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your interest



## **6. Counsel from the Advisory Committee**

## **7. Other Items**