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

March 6th, 2012; 9:00am-12:30 pm

Texas Woman’s University, T. Boone Pickens Institute of Health Sciences-Dallas Center

5500 Southwestern Medical Ave Dallas, TX 75235

Room 3620

**Present:**

Barbara V. Bush, Patricia Castillo, Joel Durbin (representing Danielle Mazzeo), Cynthia Fisher Miller, Rick Garcia, Mary Harris, Brooke Ingersoll, Jean Keller, Calvin Lawrence, Barbara Lerner, Anita Perry, Don Perry, Rusty Reeves, Luis A. Rossado (representing Jeanne Gerlach), Ray de los Santos, David Seltzer, Brenda Smith, Mary Villatranca (representing Donna Solley) , Trisha Windham, Kathy Wright Chapman (representing Francine Holland),

Guests:Phillip Wambsganss (North Texas Higher Education Authority) and Gabriella Perez (United Way-Dallas)

**A. Welcome and Introductions:**

Jean Keller thanked Anna Garza and Barbara Lerner, as well Texas Woman’s University, for hosting the Council meeting. All Council members and guests were welcomed and introduced.

**B.** **$10,000 Bachelor’s Degree and Discussion**

Dr. Barbara Lerner introduced Dr. Van Davis, Director of Special Projects, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, who discussed - “Making College Affordable: The Texas Low Cost Degree Initiative” (Please see: <http://www.ntp16.notlb.com/resources> )

* 1. Discussion focused on Texas as a state with diverse populations, cultures, and economics
  2. Strategies and elements of success in lowering the cost of a degree were highlighted
  3. There were statewide announcements of partnerships between two- and four-year institutions of higher education creating bachelor degrees for less than $10,000

**C. Gap Analysis and Discussion**

Dr. V. Barbara Bush shared how the North Texas Regional P-16 gap analysis demonstrated a need to support male students and their college and career access and success efforts. Dr. Bush introduced Mr. Robert Edison, Dallas ISD, Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy to the Council members.

a. Robert Edison presented an overview and history of the Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy; variations of needs among African American, Latino, and white males were shared along with common themes regarding reading levels, family and peer issues, and socio-economic status; b. Currently there are 178 males in grades 6th-9th and a grade will be added each year

c. A major goal of the Academy is to change students’ and their families’ perceptions regarding education

d. Discussion also included the visit with Dr. Omar Lopez, Texas State University, and Council’s Executive Committee members on March 5, 2012, regarding Latino students’ performances in pre-kindergarten through college completion.

**D. Council Members’ Sharing:**

1. Please contact Anna Garza if you need help with your travel reimbursement from the statewide P-16 conference
2. Commit (Don Perry and Barbara Lerner)
   1. Todd Williams began Commit with a focus on Dallas schools less than a year ago and has now expanded the focus to north Texas. Commit goals align with Council’s goals, including a strong emphasis on creating metrics for student success.
   2. Barbara Lerner is the North Texas Regional P-16 Council’s representative to Commit and reported she attended one planning meeting and updates will be forthcoming
3. AVATAR Update (Kathy Wright Chapman)
   1. Thirteen statewide networks, including K-12, two year- and four-year institutions of higher education, regional Education Service Centers, and P-16 councils have signed expressions of interest. Two pilot projects (Dallas and Fort Worth) have been at work since August 2011. The statewide scale up training will take place in late summer. Council members were reminded of the AVATAR goals of creating strong vertical curriculum alignment among secondary and post-secondary leaders, educators, and counselors.
4. State of the Region Conference 2012 (Rick Garcia)
   1. Rick sent out the survey in December of 2011 and there were limited responses. Please respond to an upcoming survey
   2. Don Perry has joined the planning team with Rick and Reo
   3. Fall 2012 Conference will showcase educational successes, needs, and best practices in the North Texas region

1. Date, location, presenters, audience, etc. need to be explored

2. Professional Development Committee may be able to help with best practices and key presenters

3. Research, Assessment, and Accountability Committee may be able to help with data presentation regarding successes and needs

4. Communications and Networking Committee may be able to handle the public relations and marketing

5. Funding and Sustainability Committee may be able to secure funds for the conference

6. Executive Committee will discuss conference plans at its April meeting and report back to the Council in May

1. Summary of Statewide P-16 Conference February 28, 2012, Austin, TX
   1. Dr. Anita Perry reported that the Conference was well attended by six Council members and the following topics were presented: Closing the Gap Progress; Financial Aid Update; Pathways’ Just in Time Training; Update on the STAAR Program; and Texas Genuine Career and Technical Training
   2. Ray de los Santos reported on the Benefit Bank of Texas: A Partnership Between Texas Health Institute and Community Organizations. The Benefit Bank of Texas will present at the May Council meeting.
   3. Joel Durbin reported on the session related to Advise TX: College Advising Corps Expansion. Joel shared that the program uses college graduates to help school counselors and adds positive mentoring for students
   4. Anna Garza participated in the Generation TX meeting on February 27, 2012 and shared information on the “Way to Pay” and “GenTX Day” - May 4th. She also informed the members that GenTX materials are posted to the P-16 website under resources related to Gen TX See <http://www.ntp16.notlb.com/resources>
2. “Feria Para Aprender 2012” Update - Ray de los Santos will have more information in May
3. TxCAN/Education Texas - Jean Keller reported FAFSA/TAFSA Super Saturday will be held on March 24, 2012 at Molina High School. Volunteers are needed. See TxCAN resources at http://www.ntp16.notlb.com/resources/txcan
4. Workforce Solutions North Central Texas received a grant in the amount of $4.9 million from the Department of Labor. David Seltzer shared:
   1. The grant was part of H-1B Technical Skills Training Grant Competition.
   2. The grant will provide an incredible opportunity for incumbent and long-term unemployed workers to received training in fields that employers might otherwise bring in foreign workers.
   3. The funds will be used locally to provide education, training, and job placement assistance in fields of information technology, professional, scientific, and technical services. Workforce Solutions will partner with North Central Texas College.

**E. Council Committee Updates**

1. Communication and Publications Committee Update - Cynthia Fisher Miller reported:
   1. The committee met on Feb 27th and are finalizing their team effort to produce the Council’s Spring 2012 Newsletter
   2. Jean Keller requested feedback on the Council’s website <http://www.ntp16.notlb.com/> from all members
2. Professional Development Committee Update - Barbara Lerner reported:
   1. Current and future focus will be to support vertical alignment including projects - AVATAR and LEAP
   2. A Mathematics Symposium will be held on March 26th and it is a partnership between the North Texas Regional P-16 Council, Texas Woman’s University, North Central Texas College, and the University of North Texas
   3. Announcement: College Success Summit, hosted by TWU and THECB will be held in Austin on July 12th and 13th
3. Funding and Sustainability Committee Update - Ray del los Santos reported:
   1. The committee will prepare letters of support to partners seeking external funding for college and career readiness and success projects.
   2. At this time, the committee has not created a funding or sustainability plan for the Council; yet, will seek input from the Executive Committee at the April meeting and update the Council in May.
4. Research, Assessment, and Accountability Committee Update - Dr. V. Barbara Bush reported:
   1. The committee held a telephone conference among committee members on February 27th and is working with Mary Harris on the assessment of the AVATAR project.
   2. Council members are encouraged to analyze and study the gap analysis and share items of interest as the committee will present an aspect of the gap analysis at every meeting

**Meeting Adjourned:** 12:30pm

Next Council Meeting

**May 8, 2012, 9:00am - 12:30pm**, Tarrant College, Trinity River Campus Action C Room, Fort Worth, TX