**Documentation of AVATAR Technical Assistance Phone Conversation**

**Participants:** Karan Duwe, ECS Region 15, and Mary Harris, AVATAR

**Date:** Tues. Feb. 5, 2013 **Time:** 2:00- 2:30 p.m.

Status of documentation:

1. Documentation is up to date.
2. A roundtable discussion of assessment of writing is planned for 2/7/2013.

Topics discussed:

1. We discussed the detailed plans that have been laid for the Roundtable to be held on Thursday, February 5. Middle school, high school, 2-year college, and 4-year college English teachers will discuss their teaching and assessment of writing. They will meet in small groups, each with a facilitator. They will read essays of entering college students, rank them, and apply rubrics. After sharing of feedback and reactions, a smaller group of volunteers will be invited to develop a course pack that can guide further alignment of expectations for writing among ELA educators in the region. A model for this work was provided by Kim James work in Abilene (Region 14). There is a place for sharing the product of the Region 14 work on the Concho Valley Teachers of English website.
2. We talked about the relevance of this work to the STAAR implementation.
3. Karan asked if grant funds may be committed to training of an algebra team for next year. Mary said that AVATAR funds committed to the region may be spent as determined by the region to advance the project, which ends 8/31/2013. Mary later confirmed this response with Jean, who said that supplementary funds might also be available, but they must be spent before 8/31/2013.
4. Mary asked if a team from Region 15 could be interested in presenting at the Cisco College Core Curriculum Conference to be held May 16 and 17. Proposals are due March 2. AVATAR could pay for travel.
5. We talked about possible sources of funding for next year, in which Region 15 would like to support an algebra team. Mary suggested that Karan try to get this on the agenda of the regional P-16 Council.
6. We also talked about how to get to student the message that high school and college English teachers work together and have common expectations for student development as readers, writers, and communicators. One way to do this might be a brochure for students from English teachers at multiple levels that defines expectations for writing consistent with STAAR and college readiness.

Follow-up actions:

Avatar and regions share interest in sources of future funding.