**Science Vertical Alignment Team Meeting Agenda**

**April 17, 2015, 4:30 at UTPA**

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| Agenda Item |  |
| WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS & MINUTES | Ludy Avila, STC, Tim Sear, UTPA, Grace Padaca, McAllen ISD, Angela UTPA, Omar Elizondo, PSJA, Oralia Arellano, McAllen ISD, Ramiro Garcia, Mission ISD, Shirley Mills, VAT Coordinator |
| RESEARCH  Are we improving the pathway from ISD to IHE?  Do we have data to indicate our progress?  How do we involve all ISDs in the planning of the pathway?op  Dual instructor for STC is far away from the dual teacher. The districts do not like AP because they cannot have control over the results. Dual over AP is always easier. Inflated grades are common. There are many issues that high school science teachers cannot control. | Pathways from high school students indicate that high school teacher allow them to be late with assignments in an effort to get passing grades. Teachers recommended that students be forced to do things on time. High school teachers allowed redos, deadlines are difficult to meet. Professors cannot understand why students are not independent and do not work with students to transition them to college expectations.  Positives for the Pathways: colleges are making tutoring available,. Students like the TAs. Incoming freshman need to use the centers that are available on our campuses. They do not use them because they do not understand the value of using them. |
| DATA  Is there data from ISDs that indicate pathway to IHE?  Does IHE have data from introductory science classes for incoming freshman? | The group would like STC and UTRGV registrars to present at the science conference and present how kids in dual credit do in college, how AP students are doing, and how the regular student who qualifies through TSI is doing. That would help teachers understand what they need to do to make the pathway easier for high school students transitioning to college. The VAT feels that everyone should understand the results of dual credit on college going students. |
| FALL CONFERENCE  Fall conference will be on **Saturday, October 2** at PSJA High School. RGV Science Association will hold their annual fall conference and assist with our AVATAR group and the working group from this year's high school science conference at UTPA have all agreed to have our high school workshops during that conference.  Who Disseminates information?  Funding Source(s)? | There are five workshop slots on conference day. The AVATAR group needs to work at the conference. The group must submit an order for materials to ensure that each member of the group has the materials for the conference. Put feelers out to Alternative Certification teachers who seem to not have the passion that a four year graduate from Teachers College has. The group feels like some of the teachers do not feel as engaged because they have not had the four year experience that most teachers have. |
| ORDERS FROM THE FLINN CATELOG  We will order the materials no later than July 1  The money will pay for their conference entry fees of $60.00 and the orders must be in by May 1st so that we can get this money spent. | Tim Sears will handle the orders for the conference presentation. The group plans to start meeting in August. Need conference information before August. The conference cost will be $60.00. Check for funding sources that traditionally support small groups |
| QUESTIONS  How could we survey the current high school kids when they arrive at STC or UTRGV in September and June to see how they are doing in relationship to dual credit and AP to see how they are doing? | The group would like to see someone do a survey of incoming students to see what they say about the barriers to the pathway to science.  The meeting ended at 6:20 with a tour of the Student Academic Center. |