



<http://ntrp16.org/>

North Texas Regional P-16 Council Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2020

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Via Zoom

ATTENDEES

Members present: Patonia Bell, Sandra Benavidez, Leslie Birdow, V. Barbara Bush, Danielle Davis, Denise Davis, Tammy Galloway, Javier Garza, Robert Gillies, Tiffany Gilmore, Mary Harris, Lisa Harrison, Christine Hubbard, Jason Hubbard, Jean Keller, Barbara Lerner, Karrabi Malin, Raul Martinez, Mike Mattingly, Anna Mays, Elizabeth Caudill McClain, Jeffrey Miller, Gwendolyn Moore, Bobby Morris, Theresa Paschall, Anita Perry, Quortina Phipps, Patsy Robles-Goodwin, Ray de los Santos, Kendra Strange, L.G. Swift, Richard Vela, Karen Walker, Rosalyn Walker, and Karen Zeske

Guests – Jill Adams, Lewisville ISD; Barbara Curtis, North Central Texas College; Becky Fredrickson, TWU; Monica Paul, Wylie ISD; Laura Mendoza, Tarleton State University

Panelists:

- Drexell Owusu, Senior Vice President, Education & Workforce, Dallas Regional Chamber;
- Elizabeth Caudill McClain, Managing Director, Higher Education & Workforce, Dallas Regional Chamber;
- Renato de los Santos, Director - LULAC National Educational Service Center of Dallas;
- Dale Latham, Field Service Agent, TEA ESC Region 11;
- Isaac Faz, Chief Legislative Counsel, Dallas College

A. Greetings

Jean Keller welcomed everyone to the North Texas Regional P-16 Council and the start of the 2020-21 academic year. She extended a special thank you to V. Barbara Bush for her long-term membership on the Council as UNT representative and as co-chair of the Research, Assessment and Accountability Committee and congratulations on her August 31, 2020 retirement.

Mary Harris expressed special thanks to Barbara Bush for her experience, expertise and years of service on behalf of the Council. Council members also shared congratulations and wish her all the best in retirement!

V. Barbara Bush thanked everyone for the memories and experience of working together to achieve the Council's mission Council and for their friendship.

B. The April 28, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Lisa Harrison moved approval of the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

C. Regional Data

Raul Martinez

Raul Martinez provided information on the enrollment gaps that exist among groups of people of color presented in--Report Finds Enrollment Gaps at Community Colleges and Among Black Students - <https://diverseeducation.com/article/189110/>

Raul stated that although COVID 19 affected all in Spring 2020, some individual experienced more challenges than others. For example, the data showed that enrollment trends in Summer 2020 for African American students took a dip as community colleges across the country moved to online only classes. The data did not break down variables to highlight these changes.

Anna Mays stated that recent federal data on FAFSA completion showed a 5% decline, which had an impact particularly at the community college level because a large percentage of these students are on federal financial aid, and they are either not applying or not enrolling to the extent that they had historically. There is concern about recent trends toward decline in enrollment, when historically; the enrollment has been increasing for these students, particularly students of color and students who are entering higher education through community colleges. Transfers to universities may also be impacted if the trend continues.

Jean indicated that as we look at enrollment by race and ethnicity, we see that graduate enrollment is also impacted.

Raul provided local data by school district available on the Commit Partnership Data Dashboard <https://commitpartnership.org/dashboard>. Information can be sorted by each ethnicity, for example, for rate of high school graduation, college enrollment, and college completion.

Jeffrey Miller observed the third-grade reading level and the Algebra I completion level for black students are significantly lower than for Hispanic and White students. However, college completion and graduation levels of the groups are comparable. Jeffrey said it would be interesting to see the actual completion rates for these subgroups and how successful they are. The numbers show their reading and algebra achievement levels are lower. They may graduate, but are they prepared and do they persist in college?

This information reinforces the work that we are doing to improve college enrollment and completion. We still have a lot of work to do. We want to create college-going cultures.

D. Panel: Federal and State Legislative Updates and Issues - Moderated by Anna Mays

Anna, Vice Provost of Educational Partnerships at Dallas College, introduced the panelists: **Drexell Owusu**, Senior Vice President, Education & Workforce, Dallas Regional Chamber; **Elizabeth Caudill McClain**, Managing Director, Higher Education & Workforce, Dallas Regional Chamber; **Renato de los Santos**, Director - LULAC National Educational Service Center of Dallas; **Dale Latham**, Field Service Agent, TEA ESC Region 11; and **Isaac Faz**, Chief Legislative Counsel, Dallas College.

The panelists shared information in response to questions posed by Anna.

- **What do educators need to know about emerging state or national legislative changes and labor market trends that will influence workforce preparation?**
 - Labor market trends in Dallas County, Tarrant County and North Central Texas have included over 700,000 unemployment insurance claims since March 1. This exposes an even larger than expected population in need of post-secondary training and support from our education systems to get back to work or to a higher wage and to work in which they are not so vulnerable to layoff.
 - The Texas Workforce Commission has an online portal for job postings. The portal shows that most people who are searching for jobs are looking for office, administrative, management, sales or food preparation and serving positions. What is interesting is that the top searches are in administration, management, and sales. Looking in the region, the top occupations in the past 30 days were truck drivers, software developers, retail supervisors, and salespersons. This shows that for the retail supervisors and salespersons, stores are starting to open, and our economy is growing a bit. We are seeing a need for software developers and registered nurses. That has been the case for years, and there continues to be a need during the pandemic.
- **What are key issues facing higher education at the state and national levels, and what should a Council like this be doing to address them?**
 - The Access Act, which is part of the Higher Education Act, focuses on how businesses partner with community colleges. North Texas currently does a great job of this. How can we further incentivize partnerships across the country and make it easier?
 - The Partners Act helps support industry-led partnerships to expand work-based learning for businesses and workers. How can we support businesses as they come together to form partnerships that can then help students get on-the-job training?
 - The Gateway to Careers Act sets out to establish career pathways to help workers complete their training. How can we obtain additional funding to support this work?

- **What do you see as the key issues regarding student debt as related to potential earnings in the job market?**
 - Many of the people displaced in the pandemic have low educational attainment. About 70% or 75% of the 700,000 north Texas workers have less than an associate degree. An opportunity for higher education.
 - COVID is an accelerant of the trends that we thought we were going to see over time. If you were a manufacturer and were thinking about automation, perhaps that was a 10-year process. Now you are thinking about the doing automation in the next two or three year, because robots will not get COVID.
 - The acceleration of the need for digital skills or digital orientation is growing in the wake of COVID. It is critical that we develop the programming and software skills needed.
 - An article from Brookings observes, “The labor market doesn’t have a ‘skills gap’ – it has an ‘opportunity gap.’” Individuals with low income and color, who are not skilled, also have this opportunity gap because they do not have the income to afford to go back to school, particularly during this time, and may not have the resources available or the network of mentors to encourage them to re-skill. Therefore, we need to be sensitive to this. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2020/09/09/the-labor-market-doesnt-have-a-skills-gap-it-has-an-opportunity-gap/>
 - For those of us involved with dual credit, early high school and P-tech, we must become more vigilant and more inclusive in our role of making sure that students in high school have opportunities to increase rates of higher education attainment. Once they graduate high school, they are subject to income and employment issues.
- **What are some of the equity issues in education that are being created because of recent administrative or legislative action or inaction?**
 - All of us are dealing with the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic in our respective student groups. We are aware of the digital divide that many students are confronting, and the health care disparities that our state has confronted for so long. We are aware that Texas is a leader in many unfortunate ways; however, our leadership has been out front in challenging the Affordable Care Act.
 - During this pandemic, a case is go before the Supreme Court on November 10 that will consider whether the Affordable Care Act is constitutional. We may find ourselves in June, still facing a pandemic. There is no guarantee, that we will have a vaccine. Millions, statewide and nationwide, will be without medical care, further exacerbating the inequities that are so prevalent in our state.
 - On a positive note, an announcement was made in early May, that Dallas ISD superintendent would head a task force to create access to and bridging the digital

divide. The task force will include representatives of the governor's office; local education agencies; Texas Education Agency; the Federal Department of Education; the Federal Communications Commission; a nonprofit organization, Education Superhighway; the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas; the Department of Information Resources with Texas Computer Education Association; Texas K-12 CTO Council, and others.

- A report issued by the Texas Comptroller's Office in October 2019, showed over two million households in Texas did not have high-speed internet access. That was especially true in the rural communities, where 69% of rural households did not have high-speed internet access.
- **Please discuss recent state rules and guidance that influence K-12 accountability and performance.**
 - As we move into the 87th legislative session:
 - There were multiple bills on the A through F accountability rating system from which we did not see any impact coming out of the 86th legislative session. However, multiple bills were passed to kind of shore up the way data are being calculated and shared. <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXHECB/bulletins/2a1e9cb>
 - House Bill 3007 requires the TEA and the Commissioner to ensure source data are delivered to the school districts.
 - House Bill 3011 requires the THECB to ensure the source data are being delivered to school districts.
 - House Bill 3 requires school districts are receiving outcomes bonus money to incentivize school districts. The funds come to school districts doing a good job of preparing students for college, career, and military readiness.
 - House Bill 3 requires all school boards to adopt goals. The three specific board goals that they are required to adopt this year with five years of targets for performance are early childhood reading, early math, college, career, and military readiness. This makes a connection between public schools and TX 60x30.
- **Are there concerns or projected changes around assessing college readiness and success, and if so, what is being done?**
 - In this academic year, because of the pandemic, the TEA commissioner waived the STARR testing requirements. Therefore, ISDs cannot lean on the state assessments to measure students' performance.
 - School districts are determining alternative college, career, and military readiness along with reading and math skills assessments.
 - The accountability ratings that every school district in the state of Texas received was "Not Rated" since the STAAR was not administered.

- **What pending state or national legislative proposals are going to impact higher education?**

- There is not been any movement on the Higher Education Act, and we do not anticipate any action before the end of the year. We will continue to work with associates in DC and other stakeholders and to push forward.
- The government must be funded by September 30.
- The National Apprenticeship Act was filed. The community colleges are invested in what happens with apprenticeships and are hoping it will be introduced before the deadline.
- On State issues, the 87th session starts January 12, 2021. There could be many different changes taking place. The Lieutenant Governor had conversations with some of the Senators to talk about what things may look like in Austin. We may not have access to the Capital. We must be creative, and it is important for this Council to play a role and reach out to elected officials. It will be important for individuals to amplify the message once they are in session. Community colleges were spared a 5% cut. The Legislative Budget Board has told them that they must submit budgets that resemble the last biennium.

What potential results of the pandemic will affect education and employment long and short-term?

- Dallas College collaborated with the Texas Association of Community Colleges in the 300x300 statewide initiative to create 300,000 jobs in 300 days. This will involve short-term credential certifications. We will advocate an exceptional item in the budget that would extend this low cost or “no cost to students” training to get the Texas economy back on track.

E. Discussion, Reflections and Actions Christine Hubbard led the Council’s discussion.

- Some of the opportunity and equity gaps identified by the panelists pertained to internet access, health care, income, and housing. Another topic that came up may be something we want to discuss and reflect upon as a group: how we can support students and their families. We know that K-12 and higher education had to pivot in this emergency in the Spring and this new environment continues. What can the Council do to encourage completion of K-12 along with higher education enrollment and persistence?
- A study based on the US Census Bureau determined that Texas ranked 46 among the states in overall internet and computer access. Among legislative priorities in our school districts, we intend to ask for more assistance and support, not with technology devices, but with access. Families have devices in their homes and lack appropriate amount of internet access, especially with several people at home sharing Internet access at the same time.

- What can the Council do to support access? One small school district in Tarrant County used funds to purchase a tower so that all people could have access. Perhaps that is something we can advocate to our legislators.
- College students also struggled with internet access when classes were switched online. Some students were on parking lots when businesses were closed to have access.
- Larger districts, like Dallas ISD, led the way with a task force working on a statewide internet access. These efforts are long term, and it may be 2-5 years before any results. In the short term, many students are going to miss educational opportunities.
- The Education Trust, a national nonprofit organization, is working and collaborating with organizations in Texas that will focus through the year on issues of equity and educational attainment for students.
- How are we measuring participation on the K-12 side? It varies from one district to another. Each had to create and submit a plan to TEA. Even with the best intentions, there will be varied results. ESCs all over the state have been providing a great deal of support for districts to create lesson plans and activities that can be done digitally and to convey how to use digital tools and merge them into the curriculum. District revenue streams are driven by demonstrating students are engaging with the content. Teachers look at student engagement with content for attendance recording and to measure progress.
- **What, if anything, should we be doing on the teacher preparation side?**
- Professional development over the summer and before school started was devoted to preparing teachers for online learning. We will need to refine both face-to-face and remote learning.
- Another area of concern is how we are equipping parents to support their students. If students are not engaging, they are not able to learn the content they need. Even with the technology, the virtual learning curve is steep. Lewisville ISD is leveraging technology using their bilingual counselors and social workers, who are doing home visits and connecting with students and parents. They offer parent education digitally. For example, they offered a presentation on “Parenting in the Pandemic” with mental health partners and 700 parents have participated. They send out monthly parent newsletters and a short video series called “Ask an Expert,” where teachers and counselors presented three-minute videos on social/emotional learning.
- ESC Region 11 will host its annual CTE Expert to Expert & Counselor Summit. The 2020 Pathways to Texas CCMR summit will focus on the pathways that support college, career, and military readiness. The event will be held virtually on Wednesday, November 4th, and Thursday, November 5th, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
<https://registration.esc11.net/catalog/sessions/26772/50323>

F. Committee Reports

Communications, Networking & Social Media – Council members are reminded that we post information on Facebook and Twitter. In the Spring, we started a LinkedIn page. We want to work with each of these social media outlets. We want to support our stakeholders and promote the Council. We plan to conduct some awareness surveys.

Leadership & Sustainability – The Committee discussed what they see happening statewide.

Professional Development – Christine Hubbard said the NTCCC has been working to highlight the Council’s work in all of their events and to offer opportunities for hosting a session. Members of the North Texas Regional P-16 Council will be participating in the 2020 Instructional Innovation Conference, sponsored by North Texas Community College Consortium, October 9, 2020, 9am-3pm
<http://ntxccc.org/events/2020-instructional-innovation-conference>

Research, Assessment & Accountability – The Committee discussed inequities in instruction in P-12. We are going to look at the different instructional media that some schools have implemented in Tarrant, Dallas and Collin Counties. Some schools are doing asynchronous and synchronous learning. Some schools have altered their high school schedules. All these different options allow for discussion of strengths and opportunities for improvement. Dual credit in these changing times needs to be reviewed.

G. Updates and Information Sharing

THECB retains Clearinghouse’s Student Tracker Premium data services
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXHECB/bulletins/2a1e9cb>

2020 Texas Public Higher Education Almanac
<http://reportcenter.highered.texas.gov/agency-publication/almanac/2020-texas-public-higher-education-almanac/>

Future Focused Texas Campaign – Kendra Strange shared Future Focus Texas is a statewide initiative partnership coalition. A few of the partners are Texas College Access Network, The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, College Forward, United for College Success, and Texas OnCourse. It is a response to COVID-19 and ensures we maintain and support college enrollment in Texas. The new campaign launched August 31 focused on the class of 2021, and you asked, what is this campaign? It is free digital content for counselors and direct to student content. Get Schooled creates the content for counselors via TikTok videos, social posts and emails. Everything is copy and paste. The idea is to increase counselor capacity by providing resources and information they can send directly to students. Students can opt in through ADVi, the THECB tech bot, and receive milestone texts throughout the process. There are virtual advisors available to answer questions. The first phase of this project is essentially getting

people to opt in to receive the counselor bundles. The counselor bundles are where they will find weekly copy and paste emails and social media posts. There are checklists and documentation that students can utilize, and counselors do not have to create any of these things themselves. Please help us by spreading the word <https://www.edtx.org/txcan/future-focused-tx>.

H. Adjourn

Jean Keller adjourned the meeting with thanks to Anna Mays, panel facilitator, and each panelists for sharing their knowledge and expertise. She thanked each Council member for on-going interest and support of students.

Please mark your calendar!

2020-2021 NTRP-16 Council Meeting Dates and Programs

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Date	Place	Host	Topics	Program Facilitator
December 1, 2020	Virtual	Lisa Harrison	Pathways to Completion: Alignment of PTech & ECHS with Four-year IHE	Tiffany Gilmore & Lisa Harrison
February 16, 2021	Collin College-Frisco Campus Conference Center	Raul Martinez	PK-16 Data Collection, Interpretation & Understanding	Raul Martinez
April 27, 2021	Tarrant County College – Trinity River Campus	Rosalyn Walker	Equity and Social Justice	Christine Hubbard