



<http://ntrp16.org/>

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

**October 13, 2020  
9:00 am – 12:00pm  
Meeting via Zoom**

**Members present: Sandra Benavidez, Denise Davis, Tiffany Gilmore, Mary Harris, Lisa Harrison, Christine Hubbard, Jean Keller, Barbara Lerner, Anna Mays, Jeffrey Miller, Anita Perry, Ray de los Santos, Karen Walker, Rosalyn Walker, Shareea Woods**

**A. Greetings and Thanks**

Jean Keller welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting. As they joined the meeting, individuals shared information about their activities and accomplishments as we manage in our changed environments. These are listed at the end of the minutes.

**B. Approval of June 16, 2020, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

The minutes were reviewed. Lisa Harrison moved approval, Christine Hubbard seconded, and the minutes were approved as written.

**C. Approval of September 22, 2020, Council Meeting Minutes**

Jean thanked Anna Mays for an excellent panel. Christine moved approval of the minutes and thanked Sharon McKinnis for her work. Jeffrey Miller seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved as written.

**D. Discussion of the College Bridge Program**

Anna summarized the experience of Dallas College with the Texas College Bridge. Prior to approval by the college, faculty from the departments of English, Developmental Reading and Writing, and Mathematics reviewed the content. They provided input to the creators; reviewed the criteria for the assessments; and helped to develop assessments for the English component, including specifications for essays the students would write. Faculty's first experience with College Bridge occurred because they could not test students in person for the TSI. The faculty felt that some students would benefit from going through the Texas College Bridge to see if they could place out of developmental courses in favor of college level English and mathematics. Dallas College

implemented the Texas College Bridge for Dallas County Promise students who were entering but were not TSI met. They participated in the Texas College Bridge during the 2020 second summer session.

Over 300 students indicated interest in the Texas College Bridge at Dallas College, and approximately 196 successfully completed the program. Once in the program, some students decided they did not want to continue because it was not a credit course but a voluntary remediation opportunity for students enrolling in the fall. Dallas College will monitor the success of students in college English and/or mathematics this fall. In the meantime, many districts, including Dallas, Cedar Hill and Desoto, offered the College Bridge. Students must pass levels 1 and 2 for both English and mathematics to be TSI met. Region 10 stated that a MOU that includes the Texas College Bridge program would be adopted in 2021-2022 so that other school districts can participate.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is currently covering the cost through CARES Act funding, in lieu of the TSI and in-person services currently not available to help students prepare for the TSI or for college English and mathematics courses. Dallas College helped to test the Texas College Bridge with a group of students who had already graduated high school. The high schools advocated targeting students entering Dallas College rather than trying to offer it as a post-senior. Dallas College is not offering the College Bridge but is relying on the high schools to offer it. They expect school districts to use their PEIMS codes on the high school transcripts to indicate the courses were completed and credits awarded. Fall 2020 semester data will be available in January 2021. GreenLight will send the certificates directly to the college of the student's choice.

Barbara Lerner shared that TWU faculty had also participated in the review of the College Bridge, and they felt the courses were rigorous, the assessments were appropriate, and it promised a quality experience for students. Everyone recognized that the timing was difficult to communicate widely or appropriately, to the ISDs and Service Centers, to let them know what it is, what it will do, how to make it available to students, and how to document success. One issue related to implementation was what kind of documentation a student could bring to a receiving institution to demonstrate eligibility or confirm TSI readiness. As indicated, many students had already graduated and this new data would not be on their high school transcripts. Students received certificates that indicated they had passed; however, receiving institutions did not know what it was, and it was very difficult to match students in their systems. A request was made that the certificates, at minimum, identify the high school of graduation, the district, and the student's birth date. Some identifying information is needed since the students would not yet have a higher education identification when applying. If/When, the College Bridge becomes more widely accepted/utilized by school districts, having that information on the high school transcript will be a great assistance for students.

Anita Perry shared that Fort Worth ISD is bringing the program to their next Board meeting for approval.

Lisa shared that Tarrant County College, the largest ISD partner in the area, was not jumping on board, and she has not heard much talk since the initial roll out.

Jean indicated this discussion will be continued at the January Executive Committee agenda. Anna suggested inviting Stacie Avery from TEA. The Council will work with Christine on the NTCCC Developmental Education Regional Forum to be held April 16, 2021, and encourages members to

participate as a means of learning to how this changing landscape is developing.

#### **E. Committee Updates and Action Plans for 2020-21 Academic Year**

**Communications, Networking & Social Media** – Jeffrey shared that the committee is talking about some strategies for Twitter. Rosalyn does a great job with keeping Facebook updated/current. He has noticed more people are connecting on LinkedIn, and he has put messages on LinkedIn and will continue to do so. LinkedIn has updated some of its features, some pages are similar to Instagram and Facebook, which may allow us to highlight events in a different way and get more attention. With a larger audience, we can conduct polling to engage the audience and to get more input.

**Leadership and Sustainability** – Ray suggested the committee create an executive summary that could be provided to our respective institutions' boards to make them aware of the Council's work. He also suggested the Council do some interviews with local media. He has personal contacts with Univision and Telemundo and may be able to get on their news programs to share the word about the Texas College Bridge option for students and to help promote it in the districts, along with the work of the Council to support 60x30TX

**Professional Development** – Lisa shared information about ESC Region 11's Virtual 2020 Pathways to Texas CCMR Summit, November 4th-5th, 9am-1:30pm. The content will include mental health, social emotional-learning, CTE programming mandates, and higher education. The event is held in partnership with NTCCC's K-12/Higher Ed Advisor-Counselor Summit/North Texas Early College High School Consortium Fall Meeting. The registration deadline is 11/5/2020 at 12:00am. Christine shared these additional upcoming NTCCC events:

\*Foundations of Equity Series – 5 Module Series Via Zoom, October 21, 2020-December 16, 2020, 1pm-5pm.

\*10<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Leadership Conference, January 22, 2021, via Zoom.

\*Institutional Transformation Series, Equity and Anti-Racism for Change Agency and Institutional Transformation – 5 Module Series via Zoom, January 27, 2021 to May 26, 2021, 1pm-5pm.

\*UNT Equity & Diversity Conference. Facing the Future Together. Virtual, February 23, 2021.

**Research, Assessment and Accountability** – No report was available. Raul would like to have a co-chair to work with him. If anyone is interested, please let us know.

**60x30TX Regional Update** – Barbara shared that the THECB was tasked with assembling a group to talk about potential modifications to the core curriculum. The group was scheduled to meet the week Rex Peebles passed away. The core curriculum revision group did not meet. However, campus leaders were asked about a month ago to respond to a survey of recommendations about changes to the core curriculum, fields of study, and the idea of a meta major. Many of these things have been discussed for years now. You may recall that the Coordinating Board hit the pause button on fields of study. Many of them were already approved, and those that were due to be approved, were paused, which has confused the institutions.

In the area of meta majors, Suzanne Morales-Vale shared the results of a survey where there were mixed reviews on just about everything. We all recognize there might be some benefit to a meta

major, but the confusion that it might cause in the interim and what it would mean for transfer may outweigh any potential benefit to restructuring the core. The Transfer Task Force is from a group of two-year and four-year institutions. There are 10 in that group, and they have been working to establish overall principles for transfer.

Christine shared that the regional 60X30 TX group had not met for a fall meeting. However, in terms of their regional activities, they took the information from this summer where the focus of the training for the leaders was on equity and the rollout of dashboards. It had good detailed information for us to use in our region and data disaggregated by race, ethnicity and gender were highlighted in their NTCCC Fall Leadership Conference. Christine will share the recording.

**GenTX Update** – Anita shared they are getting ready for GenTX Month coming up in November. It is the statewide College Application and Financial Aid Awareness campaign, the nationwide American College Application Campaign® (ACAC) initiative, and the 60x30TX Texas Challenge to Reach Higher, combined efforts in one powerful month to encourage students to complete a college application and FAFSA.

#### **F. Personal Updates and Events in the Region**

Ray shared LULAC has submitted a proposal to the Dallas City Council for \$100,000 to help get training and resources to families without internet access.

Lisa shared that superintendents and school boards are stepping up in support and defense of teachers.

Barbara said that TWU will follow the traditional schedule, and students will return after Thanksgiving. TWU received two TRIO Grants. They are also considering the Talent Search Grant and will be looking for ISD partners. They are also looking at the GEAR UP Grant as the next part of the CARES program in upskilling and reskilling.

Rosalyn shared Tarrant County College also have new TRIO grants for their campus to serve students. They also have received an Open Educational Resources Grant to try to push the envelope for free or reduced student learning material. They completed their SAC's visit (virtually) with zero recommendations. Spring 2021 will be virtual or remote at TCC.

Lisa shared that Office of Civil Rights visits are primarily virtual, except when they do facility visits.

Jean shared UNT's students will not return to campus after Thanksgiving and there will be more in person learning opportunities for spring 2021.

Sandy shared that mental health was a problem pre COVID. They already knew that trends were reaching dangerous levels, especially in youth age 10-24. Recent release of data from the CDC confirms we are at a dangerous level among kids and even adults. Sandy presented to 100+ superintendents current mental health data, trends, along with suggestions and supports. Most superintendents want to know what else can be done. Sandy recommends that adults, especially, should focus on maintaining the basics – drinking the proper daily amounts of water eating

healthy, and getting enough rest/sleep. TEA has released some supports. Sandy has designed some, as well. Mental health should be woven into everything that we do!

Jeffrey reminded us that Dallas College has merged their separate campuses, creating some unique opportunities. They are navigating uncharted waters preparing for spring 2021. However, things are going well as they handle enrollment changes and work with ISD partners that have different/evolving deadlines for the start of their spring semesters.

Anna shared in the fall 2020; they started a new program called Include-ed, with some of their school partners. Schools receive textbooks and materials at a discounted rate. Non-Dual Credit students are participating if they opt-in. Students are getting inclusive digital materials. This big initiative took a lot of resources and problem solving. In spring 2021, Dallas College will go primarily online. They do have some in-person technical education courses.

Anita shared that Fort Worth ISD is making the similar adjustments in accounting for student attendance, assignment completion, and ensuring students are ready to transition from elementary to middle school, to high school, to graduation, to college/career. Every six weeks, parents can choose virtual learning or face to face for their student.

Karen shared Region 10 has blended virtual and face-to-face classes and is supporting districts as much as it can.

Lisa shared information regarding special needs students. Each district had to submit plans to the State as to how they are serving special needs students returning to on-campus classes. Service Centers and the State are recommending best practices on how to do things and how to help students in using technology. For example, using YouTube, because it can be slowed down so that you can hear it, replay it, and have subtitles run on the bottom.

Tiffany shared they are communicating to students and families resources that are available to them. They had two first-days of school, one on August 10th remotely and on September 8<sup>th</sup>, when students returned to campus. They had an intersession for students to attend school for a week to receive intervention support, to address the COVID-19 issues, and to enrich students learning. They had some college readiness activities. The parents were excited and some of their remote students came to campus to participate in the intersession. They have started their second nine-week session and have seen an increase in the number of students who want to return to face-to-face classes. They are outreaching, to families who are remote, to let them know about available resources. Canvas is their learning management system. They want to support the students and families in any way they need.

Christine shared that institutions that are more rural are providing face-to-face instruction at a much higher level since they have lower populations with less density, and they have a better handle on their level of infections. She found for example, that Tyler Junior College has a face-to-face version of every course available; however, they are also offering online options for those who want them. One of the major challenges for rural institutions is the lack of Internet access. It does not exist in all areas in a robust enough way to serve students. In both K-12 and higher education, in urban areas, there may be a digital divide between people who have access and those who do not, but at least the infrastructure exists. In the rural areas, there is not adequate

infrastructure. Agencies are creating partnerships to be able to build the needed infrastructure. This will be great because it will provide long-needed resources

in rural areas. Christine also shared that NTCCC has moved some of its activities online to be least disruptive for their member institutions, most of which have eliminated travel for faculty and staff this year due to the high risk of disease. NTCCC is also mindful of costs involved in participation in professional development. There is more professional development available on demand. NTCCC has observed higher participation from many of the smaller and more distant colleges, who found it difficult to travel to their events in the past. September through May they have events scheduled nearly every week. They have developed a five module Foundations of Equity Series for the fall and an Institutional Transformation Series for the spring. Their membership has also grown and Navarro College and McLennan Community College have rejoined and NTCCC.

Shareea shared Future Focus Texas is up and running with over 700 high school counselors and college access professionals across the state. They are expanding the audience to include higher education institutions who can use the resources in the admissions process and for first year student retention. They have also pulled together a dashboard that collects information from higher education institution websites about COVID-19 changes that are being made. THECB has a virtual advising system, called ADVi. Initially it was in just a few regions, but now it is statewide. It provides a first line of questions and answers and supplements counselor resources. In the next month or so, Shareea expects there will be announcements. Shareea also expressed thanks to everyone. She is the parent of a kindergartener and did virtual learning for nine weeks. She was impressed with Garland ISD and how they were able to create a good learning experience from home. Her son is back in school. She is seeing all the health procedures they are doing to keep students safe. She wanted to express her gratitude for everything they are doing.

Denise shared she has been working with many rural schools and issues with bandwidth and connectivity have been a challenge. State legislators are working towards a Senate bill that will help with the connectivity issues. Some of the small rural schools are dealing with issues of virtual learning verses face to face. Students are less successful with virtual learning. They are almost to a point of mandating that they return to face-to-face learning if grades do not improve. One of the small, rural schools that was face to face has actually gone back to virtual due to the small staffing and the COVID-19 issues affecting them. The concerns are that small, rural schools do not have the capacity of urban schools to host both strong virtual and face-to-face schools.

Mary shared that she is working with Communities in Schools of North Texas is a mentor to a fourth grader at Tomas Rivera Elementary School in Denton. Her mentee is a face-to-face student who disappeared in the spring. Mary is a virtual mentor, and people who are in that role typically have far less teaching experience than Mary does. Thankfully, some nonprofits have posted good resource material online for virtual mentors. Mary especially wants to acknowledge the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, which has good and simple material posted online.

**G. Set December 1, 2020 Council Meeting Agenda**

The agenda was discussed and will be finalized soon by Lisa and Tiffany. This is a needed and exciting topic.

**H. Adjourn**

Jean thanked everyone for participating. Stay safe everyone!

**2020-2021 NTRP-16 Council Meeting Dates and Programs**

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Date	Place	Host	Topics	Program Facilitator
December 1, 2020	Zoom	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

**2020-2021 NTRP-16 Executive Committee Meetings**

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Date	Place
January 12, 2021	Virtual
March 30, 2021	Virtual
June 8, 2021	Virtual