



TEXAS GEAR UP

# Rally in the Valley

**Texas State GEAR UP Conference**  
May 6-7, 2008 • McAllen Convention Center • McAllen, Texas





# Rally IN THE Valley

May 6-7, 2008 | McAllen, TX

## Dear GEAR UP Colleagues:

Welcome to McAllen!

This conference represents the collaboration of three GEAR UP programs: the Texas Education Agency's State GEAR UP/STAR Project, Region One Education Service Center's (ESC) "Bridges to the Future", and The University of Texas-Pan American's (UTPA) "GEARing UP for College—TOGETHER". The theme of the conference—"Rally in the Valley"—conveys the excitement and momentum of our Texas GEAR UP partnerships and their efforts to work together to help our students succeed!

Over the next two days, almost 60 presentations will allow educators, parents, teachers, administrators, program directors, and business and community partners to learn together about this exciting movement called GEAR UP in Texas. The conference was designed to address the components of all GEAR UP programs: information for students and families about post-secondary options, academic achievement and professional development, family and community participation and support, student leadership development, and program procedures and evaluation efforts. The general sessions are structured to allow time for us to convene as a group and learn from national experts about new ways of approaching our challenge. Breakouts will offer a smaller setting and a fantastic opportunity for focused conversation regarding successes and concerns.

We appreciate the support of the contributors, vendors and service providers who supported this conference and who share our vision for Texas' future generation of leaders. Our special thanks is extended to the parents and students who are a part of GEAR UP programs in this area and have given their time and energies to make sure all of us have a wonderful experience at this conference!

Rally in the Valley is a chance to spotlight GEAR UP initiatives throughout the state. Please take this opportunity to meet, network, and learn from those who make GEAR UP succeed every day—you!

Thanks for all you do for the students of Texas! Enjoy the Rally!



Kristen Reynolds  
State Project Director, Texas GEAR UP

## Keynote Speaker Biographies



### **Dr. Bernice McCarthy**

**Chief Innovation Officer, About Learning, Inc.  
Author and Developer of The 4MAT System**

Dr. McCarthy feels students need to have a vested interest in material and they need to know the “real world” application of it before they can truly understand it. Her goal is to raise awareness of the legitimate differences in how people learn and to help teachers address these differences in the classroom.

She is a prolific author and presenter and has conducted workshops and keynote sessions on effective learning at organizations worldwide including school districts across the US and Canada, as well as in higher education and government. She has written five books including: The 4MAT System, About Learning, About Teaching, The About Teaching Companion, and 4MAT in Action. Learn more about Dr. McCarthy and her work at [www.aboutlearning.com](http://www.aboutlearning.com).



### **Héctor Garza, Ed.D, M.P.H.**

**President, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships**

Héctor Garza, a native of Edinburg, Texas, serves as the founding president of the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP). NCCEP is a national non-profit organization dedicated to the principle that every child deserves an equal chance at obtaining a quality higher education. NCCEP’s goal is to bring together colleges and universities with local schools, parent groups, government agencies, foundations, corporations, and community-based organizations to work collaboratively to improve student achievement and expand educational opportunities for all of America’s children.

Prior to founding NCCEP, Dr. Garza served as the Vice President for Access and Equity Programs at the American Council on Education (ACE) in Washington, D.C. for six years. Dr. Garza served as a senior consultant to the Ford Foundation on K-16 initiatives, and during the past ten years has served a similar role on behalf of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Learn more about Dr. Garza and the work of NCCEP at [www.edpartnerships.org](http://www.edpartnerships.org).



### **Aric Bostick**

**Motivational Trainer**

Aric Bostick is one of America’s top youth Success and Leadership speakers. As a former teacher and coach he has created a winning formula that teaches young people how to succeed in school and life. Aric has spoken for some of the largest leadership organizations in America, such as People to People Ambassador programs, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Peer Assisted Leadership organizations, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, MADD Power Camp and at state and regional Student Council Conferences across the country. He is also one of the most sought after school assembly speakers in America.

Aric’s desire to give even more to the students to whom he speaks has led him to create his own summer Success and Leadership experience called, The Camp of CHAMPS. The Camp of CHAMPS has helped hundreds of students learn how to live their dreams and to become leaders in their schools and communities. Learn more about Aric Bostick at <http://aricbostick.com>.

## Texas GEAR UP Partnership Grant Directors

1. Kristen Reynolds, Director  
Texas State GEAR UP/Students Training for Academic Readiness (STAR)  
Project - 2006-2012  
College and Career Readiness Initiatives  
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### 2007-2013

2. Dr. Alberto Salinas, Director  
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3. Jodi Lindseth, Project Director  
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### 2006-2012

4. Marisa Pierce, Director  
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5. Martin Torres, Director  
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6. Karen McCarley, Director  
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7. Jewel Lockridge, Director  
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### 2005-2011

8. Barbara "Bobbie" Davis, Director  
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9. Director TBD  
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10. Laurie Ballering, Director of Research  
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11. Aster Trevino, Director  
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12. Regina Kirkpatrick, Director  
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13. Tina Atkins, Director  
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14. Ana Acevedo, Director  
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15. Peggy Gill, Director  
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16. Juliette Caire, Director  
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17. Dr. Martha Cantu, Director  
UTPA GEAR UP Project  
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### 2002-2008

18. Rebecca Gonzales, Director  
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21. Chris Oefinger, Director  
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22. Lourdes (Lulu) Kohne, Director  
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## TASSP Principal of the Year



### Sue Peterson

#### Weslaco East High School principal

Sue Peterson, Weslaco East High School principal, has been named Texas State Principal of the Year by the Texas Association of School Principals (TASSP)!"

She was selected by a panel of her peers because of her collaborative leadership skills, curriculum, instruction and assessment skills and personalization. Peterson was up against 20 other principals from regions throughout the state.

Weslaco Independent School District Superintendent Richard Rivera said the award is a tremendous recognition for WISD and Peterson.

"As a principal she's very devoted, dedicated, very knowledgeable and very student, parent and teacher friendly, and a firm disciplinarian when needed," he said.

Peterson commented on her award, "I think it gets the word out that great things are happening in Weslaco East High School. The Valley doesn't get much recognition at the state level and this lets everyone in the state know great things are happening down here."

Weslaco East High School is a model GEAR UP campus that reflects a college-going culture through the structure of the Region One ESC High School Redesign Project and implementation of the AVID program, focus on rigor in math and science through partnerships with Texas Instruments and Vernier Science Technologies, use of freshmen advisory period to promote both academics and aid in the social transition to high school, professional development for teachers, and a focus on family involvement in the education process.

GEAR UP Salutes You, Mrs. Peterson!

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## NCCEP Parent of the Year



### Rosalba Delgado-Saenz

#### Region One GEAR UP parent, recognized at the National GEAR UP Conference

Rosalba Delgado-Saenz, a Region One GEAR UP parent from Dora Saucedo Middle School in Donna ISD, was honored at the 2007 NCCEP Conference with the GEAR UP Parent Leadership Award. NCCEP recognized five GEAR UP parent or family leaders nationwide who have made a significant contribution to a GEAR UP program. This award was designed to highlight the work of parents who have emerged as true leaders in a GEAR UP community and are: increasing the numbers of parents and families who are aware of and/or involved with GEAR UP; regularly out in the community educating families about the importance of post-secondary education and what it will take for their children to have a successful post-secondary experience; leading the charge to create a college-going culture in their community; and are "up and coming" leaders within the GEAR UP community.

GEAR UP Salutes You, Mrs. Delgado-Saenz!

# Rally in the Valley Conference Committee and Contributing Staff, 2007-2008

## Texas State GEAR UP/STAR Project

Kristen Reynolds, Director  
Doris Teague, Conference Chair  
Amy Koenning, STAR Implementation Director, Pre-College Outreach Center,  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMUCC)  
Dr. Gilda Ramirez, Director of Student Services, College Finances, and GEAR UP/STAR Faculty  
Fellows, College of Education, TAMUCC

## Region One Education Service Center

Tina Atkins, Director  
Sonia Arce, Senior Education Specialist  
Joe Castillo, Senior Education Specialist  
Rita Cedillo, Senior Education Specialist  
Abel Diaz, Accountant  
Jessie Doria, Lead Program Assistant  
Elizabeth Garcia, Program Assistant  
David Hernandez, Senior Education Specialist  
Melissa Lopez, Senior Education Specialist  
Rosie Lozano, Senior Education Specialist  
Norma O. McCormick, Senior Education Specialist  
Ellie Torres, Senior Education Specialist  
Ana Vasquez, Program Assistant

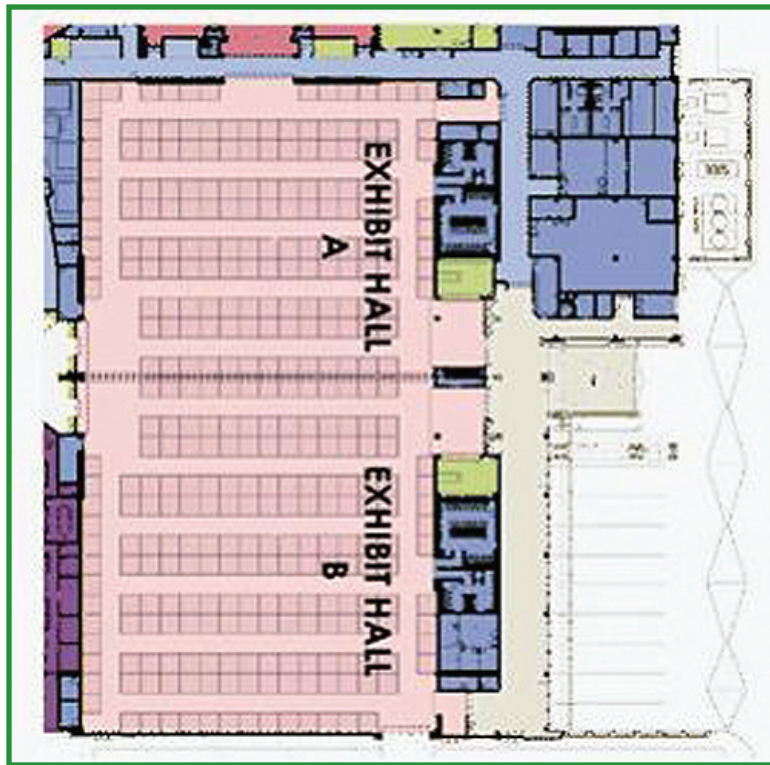
## University of Texas Pan-American

Dr. Martha A. Cantu, Director  
Nancy Brock, Accountant  
Martha Cerezo, Senior Clerk  
Magali Castillo, Administrative Assistant  
Ana Dougherty, Academic Advisor  
Francisco Garcia, Database Administrator  
Joe Garcia, Associate Director for Business Operations  
Adriana Garza, Academic Advisor  
Yvonne Garza, Academic Advisor  
Janeth Mariscal, Senior Clerk  
Dr. Rosalina Ruiz, Evaluator  
Jorge Teniente, Academic Advisor  
Cindy Valdez, Associate Director for Academic Services  
Elizabeth Valdez, Family and Community Coordinator  
Cynthia Walls, Academic Advisor

## AMS Production Group

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Sara Gauchat, Project Coordinator  
Natalie Glover, Partnership Development  
David Horwitz, Executive Producer/Lead Writer  
Brian McFarlin, Producer  
Andy Streitfeld, President

## McAllen Convention Center Maps



# Texas GEAR UP State Conference Agenda

## Tuesday, May 6, 2008

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- 7:30 - 8:30** Registration – McAllen Convention Center Foyer  
Conference Packets and Continental Breakfast – Exhibit Hall A
- 8:30 - 9:15** Welcome and Introductions – Exhibit Hall A
- Kristen Reynolds, Project Director, Texas State GEAR UP/STAR  
College and Career Readiness Initiatives, Texas Education Agency
- Patricia Hicks, Director, P-16 Coordination  
College and Career Readiness Initiatives, Texas Education Agency
- Letty Garza, Anchor  
Channel 5, KRGV, McAllen
- Dr. John A. Edwards, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services  
The University of Texas-Pan American
- Mr. Jack Damron, Executive Director  
Region One Education Service Center
- 9:15 - 9:45** Dr. Hector Garza, President, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships,  
Washington, DC
- 9:45 - 10:00** Break
- 10:00 - 11:00** Breakout Session I
- 11:15 - 12:15** Breakout Session II
- 12:15 - 1:45** Working Lunch /Group Discussions – Exhibit Hall A  
Keynote Address: Aric Bostick, Motivation Trainer  
Aric Bostick Success Training, Inc., San Antonio, TX
- 2:00 - 3:00** Breakout Session III
- 3:00 - 3:15** Break
- 3:15 - 4:15** Breakout Session IV
- 4:15 - 5:00** Vendor “Gallery Walk” followed by Reception – Ballroom A-D  
Performance by EHS Mariachi Band, Edinburg High School, Edinburg, TX,  
under the direction of Samuel Aguilar

## Wednesday, May 7, 2008

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- 7:30 - 8:30** Registration – Convention Center Foyer  
Continental Breakfast – Exhibit Hall A
- 8:30 - 8:45** Welcome and Proclamation by Congressman Ruben Hinojosa
- 8:45 - 9:00** Media presentations
- 9:00 – 10:00** Keynote Address: Because Great Minds Don’t Always Think Alike  
Dr. Bernice McCarthy, Founder and Chief Innovation Officer  
About Learning, Inc. – The 4MAT System, Wauconda, IL
- 10:00 – 10:15** Break
- 10:15 - 11:15** Breakout Session V
- 11:15 - 11:30** Break
- 11:30 - 12:30** Breakout Session VI
- 12:30 - 1:30** Working Lunch – Exhibit Hall A  
Group Discussions and Networking  
Conference Evaluations  
Performance by Razz-Ma-Tazz, Nikki Rowe High School, McAllen, TX,  
under the direction of E.A. Tanner

# Conference Breakout Sessions • Tuesday, May 6, 2008

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## Breakout Session I • 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

### **101 Las Platicas Academy: Chit-Chatting our way into every home in the Rio Grande Valley... Making the dream of a college education a reality for everyone (Bilingual Session) • Room 103D**

This session is designed to give participants a step by step road map to generating, implementing, and maintaining a successful parent volunteer program that motivates and empowers families to become leaders in their communities and self-advocating individuals and to highlight and distinguish how UTPA GEAR UP comes together with parents and the community to overcome obstacles and bring EVERY family the information and guidance to make their children college-bound.

Presenter: Elizabeth Valdez, Family and Community Outreach Coordinator, UT Pan Am GEAR UP Project, ekcruz@utpa.edu

Strand: Family and Community Participation and Support

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Administrators, Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators, Post-Secondary Educators and Representatives

### **102 College Visits 101: Maximizing Visits for Large Student Groups • Room 102B**

The San Antonio ISD GEAR UP program has had major success in the past two years hosting over 100 college tours providing opportunities for over 3,000 students to step foot on a campus. In this session, learn the basics of creating meaningful and awareness-building college and university tours, from building a relationship with local and out-of-state college and university representatives to ensuring student engagement in order to deter discipline problems. Walk away with tips and tools to use in creating a successful college/university visit action plan for your GEAR UP program.

Presenters: Rebecca Sanchez, rsanchez7@saisd.net; Gilbert Hernandez, ghernandez@saisd.net; and Tywanda Walker, College Readiness Coaches, San Antonio ISD GEAR UP Project

Strand: Post-Secondary Information for Students and Families

Audience: Teachers/Administrators, Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators

### **103 College Readiness Tools: Quality Online Tutoring for GEAR UP Students • Room 102A**

Having solid mathematics skills is critical to compete in today's global economy. This interactive session will illustrate an innovative approach to addressing the needs of students who are struggling in math. Presenters will demonstrate the landmark Web-Plus Tutoring program and outline the partnership between Region One GEAR UP and SureScore, Inc. Data will be shared on the impact on math performance for students who have accessed Web-Plus Tutoring versus those who have not. Session participants will be able to role-play using the online interface and interact with a math tutor in a live setting.

Presenters: Armando Alvarado, Surescore, Inc., aalvarado@surescore.com and David Hernandez, Region One ESC, dhernandez@esc1.net

Strand: Academic Achievement and Professional Development

Audience: Teachers/Administrators, Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators

### **104 One Size Doesn't Fit All: Culturally Responsive Instructional Strategies • Room 102C**

Teachers and administrators feel that students, despite their cultural differences, are capable of learning. Therefore, this presentation will strive to equip educators with the necessary skills to create a culturally responsive learning environment with the following objectives in mind: 1) Teachers are able to respond to cultural influences through instructional strategies that further students' learning; 2) Teachers learn about students' cultures and incorporate them into their teaching, maximizing students' learning; 3) Teachers will use culturally responsive pedagogy to empower students in the promotion of equity in knowledge acquisition.

Presenters: Lakeisha Hamilton-Reed, lreed@projectgradhouston.org and Marva Gibbs, GEAR UP Coordinators and Academic Coaches, Project GRAD Houston

Strand: Academic Achievement and Professional Development

Audience: Teachers/Administrators

### **105 The Importance of a College Portfolio (Bilingual Session) • Room 103B**

This session is designed for parents. It will focus on the importance of education for future success.

Presenter: Dr. Ida Acuna-Garza, Program Manager, Texas A&M University "Abriendo Puertas" Program

Strand: Information Access and Early Intervention • Audience: Parents

## Breakout Session I • 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM, continued

### 106 Developing a Student-Led GEAR UP Action Council • Room 101B

The purpose of this presentation is to demonstrate the importance of developing a campus GEAR UP Action Council. Each of the twenty-one high schools in The University of Texas – Pan American GEAR UP Project has a GEAR UP Action Council led by students that are sociable, actively involved, academically successful, persistent and self-motivated. These students are called the GEAR UP Action Council Board of Directors and are each assigned specific duties to help the entire GEAR UP cohort at the home campus. Come learn how your project can start empowering students to create a college-going culture at your school!

Presenters: Yvonne Garza, Academic Advisory, UTPA GEAR UP Project, [yvogarza@panam.edu](mailto:yvogarza@panam.edu) and Cindy Fagaragan-Cid, GEAR UP Coordinator, Weslaco East High School, [cfagarag@wisd.us](mailto:cfagarag@wisd.us)

Strand: Student Leadership Development

Audience: Teachers and Administrators, Counselors, Program Coordinators

### 107 Reading for Life: Free Choice Reading Program • Room 101A

The presenters will describe a plan for initiating a Free Choice Independent Reading Program to 1) increase student reading abilities and build vocabulary and 2) encourage them to become lifelong readers. The presenters will outline the eight components that make for a successful initiative.

Presenters: Elizabeth Allen Rodriguez, GEAR UP Teacher, [earodriguez2@utep.edu](mailto:earodriguez2@utep.edu); Angie Moreno, GEAR UP Coordinator, [angelinm@utep.edu](mailto:angelinm@utep.edu); and Samuel Marquez, GEAR UP Coordinator, [smarquez5@utep.edu](mailto:smarquez5@utep.edu), The University of Texas at El Paso

Strand: Academic Achievement and Professional Development

Audience: Teachers/Administrators, Program Directors/Coordinators

### 108 Using Diverse Models of Tutoring and Mentoring to Support GEAR UP Students in Advanced Classes • Room 103A

This session will focus on the importance of using diverse models of tutoring and mentoring to meet the needs of GEAR UP students in advanced level classes in rural school settings. Participants will have an opportunity to engage in a discussion of processes, best practices and challenges of implementing the four different models of tutoring and mentoring including AVID, college tutors/mentors, e-mentoring and community mentors to increase student success in advanced level classes and promote a college-going culture.

Presenters: Donnya Stephens, [dstephens@sfasu.edu](mailto:dstephens@sfasu.edu), GEAR UP Coordinator of Special Programs, and Dr. Betty Alford, [balford@sfasu.edu](mailto:balford@sfasu.edu), Principal Investigator, Stephen F. Austin State University GEAR UP Project

Strand: Family and Community Participation and Support

Audience: Teachers/Administrators, Program Directors/Coordinators, Business/Community Partnerships, Post-Secondary Educators and Representatives

### 109 Developing a School Guidance and Counseling Department Notebook • Room 101C

This session will address critical timelines and planning issues faced by counselors and will make recommendations for meeting those challenges. Additionally, the session will provide counselors with a plan and procedure for developing their own notebook by providing a sample notebook format. The Counseling Department Notebook is a tool to assist in organizing department forms, student data, demographic information, and resources. The notebook checklist, tabs and PowerPoint handouts will be provided.

Presenter: Cecilia Guajaro, Senior Coordinator, GEAR UP/STAR Pre-College Outreach Center, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, [cecilia.guajardo@tamucc.edu](mailto:cecilia.guajardo@tamucc.edu)

Strand: Academic Achievement and Professional Development

Audience: Counselors

### 110 Ford PAS (Partnership for Advanced Studies) - Linking Education and Opportunity • Ballroom C

The Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies (Ford PAS) is an academically rigorous, interdisciplinary curriculum and program that provides students with content knowledge and skills necessary for future success—in such areas as business, economics, engineering, and technology. The inquiry- and project-based program offers a series of elective courses that links learning in traditional academic subjects with the challenges students will face in post-secondary education and with the expectations of the workplace they will face as adults. These links are forged through community-wide, cooperative efforts and innovative partnerships that join local high schools, colleges and universities, and businesses. Through coordinated, real-world learning opportunities, Ford PAS provides experiences to help students make decisions about their future education and careers. Come learn how this program has been utilized by both the UTPA GEAR UP Project and the Region One GEAR UP Project to bring global learning and application to students in the Rio Grande Valley.

Presenter: Gilbert Maldonado and Ernesto Villarreal, The University of Texas Pan-American

Strand: Business and Community Partnerships

Audience: Program Directors/Coordinators, Teachers/Administrators

**201 Getting Students Engaged on the College Campus and in the Community • Room 101A**

The presentation will demonstrate and describe the creation, implementation, and goals of the Brother-to-Brother Program, a student organization for minority males. This program encourages students to take full advantage of their academic years and to better understand and practice their full responsibilities, rights, and privileges as citizens of this country. Additionally, Brother-to-Brother works in the community with other younger minority males in need of guidance and direction. Brother-to-Brother members serve as role models for each other as well as for other minority males in their community. Additionally, the program aims to prepare members to enter the work force of professionals and compete with the best for a meaningful place in our society.

Presenters: Roderick McKnight, President, Brother-to-Brother, [mcknight@ntcc.edu](mailto:mcknight@ntcc.edu); Robert Harper, Campus Advisor, Brother-to-Brother; and Chris Oefinger, Director, GEAR UP Project, Northeast Texas Community College, [coefinger@ntcc.edu](mailto:coefinger@ntcc.edu)

Strand: Student Leadership, Post-Secondary Information for Students and Families, Family and Community Participation and Support

Audience: Teachers/Administrators, Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators, Post-Secondary Partners

**202 Agile Mind Math/Science Solutions for Teachers and Students with a Home Connection for Parents (Bilingual Session) • Room 101B**

This presentation will highlight Agile Mind services for math and science currently being offered to many participating GEAR UP schools throughout the state. The audience will learn how teachers can use Agile Mind for instruction, how students use it for review and assessment, and how parents can help their youngsters at home!

Presenters: David Arredondo, [darredondo@thinkfive.com](mailto:darredondo@thinkfive.com) and Sal Martinez, [smartinez@agilemind.com](mailto:smartinez@agilemind.com), Managers, Agile Mind

Strand: Academic Achievement, Professional Development, and Family and Community Participation and Support

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Administrators, Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators

**203 Explore and PRA: It is not just test taking! • Room 101C**

The UTPA GEAR UP Project will discuss the implementation of college preparation testing such as the 8th grade ACT EXPLORE Exam and the Princeton Review Assessment at the 9th grade level. A brief overview of each exam will be given along with a look at interpreting score reports. A GEAR UP campus will share how these test results have guided academic interventions and opened access to more rigorous courses for students who may not have been identified as Advanced or Pre-AP students. Participants will learn how to create a detailed plan to ensure student cohort success. Current research in college entrance exam trends will also be shared.

Presenters: Cynthia Walls, Academic Advisory, UTPA, [cgwalls@utpa.edu](mailto:cgwalls@utpa.edu) and Yvonne Johnson, UTPA GEAR UP Coordinator, Edinburg High School, [yjohnson@ecisd.us](mailto:yjohnson@ecisd.us)

Strand: Academic Achievement and Professional Development

Audience: Counselors

**204 Region One GEAR UP: Reaching out to First-Generation Parents and Students through a Comprehensive Student and Parent Curriculum • Room 102A**

Region One GEAR UP “Bridges to the Future” Program has formed a partnership with “Abriendo Puertas: Reaching Out to First-Generation,” a parent outreach initiative supported by Texas A&M COALS (College of Agriculture and Life Sciences) to develop a comprehensive bilingual parent involvement curriculum that addresses post-secondary awareness and readiness. A student component, designed to be used in Advisory classes, has been developed for middle and high school students and an accompanying curriculum for parents supports these in-class efforts.

Presenters: Norma McCormick, [nmccormick@esc1.net](mailto:nmccormick@esc1.net), Senior Education Specialist, Region One “Bridges for the Future” Project and Dr. Hector F. Aldape, [haldape@tamu.edu](mailto:haldape@tamu.edu), Executive Director, The “Abriendo Puertas” Initiative, Texas A&M University

Strand: Post-Secondary Information for Students and Families, Family and Community Participation and Support

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Administrators, Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators, Post-Secondary Partners

## Tuesday, May 6 • Breakout Session II • 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM, continued

### 205 **Éxito Escolar, NCCEP Curriculum (Bilingual Session) • Room 102B**

This session will feature videos from the “Éxito Escolar” Curriculum produced by NCCEP (National Council for Community and Education Partnerships). These materials will be used to emphasize the importance of post-secondary access and education.

Presenters: Norma McCormick, Senior Education Specialist, Region One “Bridges to the Future” Project, nmccormick@esc1.net and Dr. Hector F. Aldape, Executive Director, The “Abriendo Puertas” Initiative, Texas A&M University, hfaldape@tamu.edu

Strand: Family and Community Participation and Support

Audience: Parents

### 206 **Leading with Influence: Building the Next Generation of Leaders • Ballroom A**

Would you like to lead the next generation of students with influence? Join national speaker and author A.G. “Pete” Hinojosa as he shares his passion for working with students. You will gain valuable insights into the Four Step Model that Pete uses to connect with students of all ages and all backgrounds. Whether you team up and use the Leadership Curriculum, Innovative Mentor Program or take your GEAR UP students on their very own leadership retreat, Pete has the experience and team to assist you. Come and be a part of this interactive and powerful presentation.

Presenter: Pete Hinojosa, Community Network Director, Spring Branch ISD and Author and Founder, Quest Leadership Dynamics and Omega Quest Int., pete@purposefuljourney.com

Strand: Student Leadership

Audience: Teachers/Administrators, Program Directors/Coordinators, Business/Community Partnerships

### 207 **“My Career, My College” • Room 103A**

This session will enable teachers to incorporate a research paper and a student presentation that combine career and college information. The presenter will give practical information that shows the benefit of teaching this lesson to students, and provides insights into overcoming problems they could encounter. The project is designed to help teachers motivate students to work hard in high school and gain acceptance to the university of their choice.

Presenter: Bradley Luster, English Language Arts Teacher, Park View Intermediate, Pasadena ISD GEAR UP, bluster@pasadenaisd.org

Strand: Academic Achievement and Professional Development

Audience: Teachers, Counselors

### 208 **Reaching Out to GEAR UP Parents: Implementing an Effective “Walk for Success” • Room 103B**

This session will feature GEAR UP/STAR practitioners who have implemented a successful program for reaching parents and cohort students. The program being highlighted is the bi-yearly “Walk for Success” currently being utilized by Brooks County I.S.D. in Falfurrias, Texas. Stakeholders in the district spend their Saturday visiting the homes of their students in an effort to inform their parents of GEAR UP initiatives, post-secondary opportunities, state testing standards, and other matters pertaining to student success. This session will provide attendees with the tools and planning requirements needed to implement this type of program.

Presenters: Johnny Sandoval, Principal, Falfurrias Junior High, jsandoval@bcisdistrict.net; Pearlie Martinez, Counselor, FJHS, pmartinez@bcisdistrict.net; and Anna Recio, GEAR UP/STAR Coordinator, Brooks County ISD

Strand: Post-Secondary Information for Students and Families

Audience: Teachers/Administrators, Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators

### 209 **Introduction to UTPA Financial Aid Programs and Requirements • Room 103C**

This session will address the process of applying for financial aid for college. The presenter will give parents the latest information about the types of financial aid available and ways to make the application process easier.

Presenter: Nicole Luna, Financial Aid Office, The University of Texas Pan-American

Strand: Information Access and Early Intervention

Audience: Parents

## Tuesday, May 6 • Breakout Session III • 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

### 301 **Motivating the “Young and the Restless” • Room 101A**

“This class is boring”. “Why do we have to do this?” “This is dumb”. Are these statements that you hear students saying? The level of motivation students bring to the classroom can remain stagnant or be enhanced by what happens in the classroom. This session provides teachers with strategies to engage and motivate students in their own learning.

Presenter: Gwendolyn Carol Harper-Smith, Director of Secondary Programs, Project GRAD Houston, [CHarper@Projectgrad-houston.org](mailto:CHarper@Projectgrad-houston.org)

Strand: Academic Achievement and Professional Development

Audience: Teachers/Administrators, Program Directors/Coordinators

### 302 **Integrating Fathers as Partners in the Classroom • Ballroom C** **NOTE: This session is a two-hour block (2:00 PM-4:15)**

Is student instructional time too sacred for parental involvement? This session highlights a model of parental involvement – focused on fathers – that bites the bullet regarding two issues: (1) offering programs for dads during student instructional time – yes, when many dads otherwise are on their way to work and (2) that integrates the strengths of fathers in workplace skills and careers into instruction by classroom teachers and higher education instructors.

Presenters: Alphonso Rincon, President, FACE, [carmalph@aol.com](mailto:carmalph@aol.com) and Daniel Ceballos, Principal, McCraw Junior High School, Mathis ISD, [dceballos@mathisisd.org](mailto:dceballos@mathisisd.org)

Strand: Family and Community Participation and Support

Audience: Parents, Program Directors/Coordinators

### 303 **Career EXPO: Journey to Success • Room 101B**

Career exploration is a powerful transition activity for 8th grade students to help them make better informed decisions as they create high school course plans that link to post-secondary educational options. Come learn about how San Antonio ISD GEAR UP collaborated with San Antonio College and the Alamo Region Tech Prep Consortium in creating opportunities for 8th grade students to engage in career exploration modules based on the Achieve Texas Career Clusters.

Presenters: Roxanne Rosales, Executive Director, Academic Support Division, San Antonio ISD, [rrosales@saisd.net](mailto:rrosales@saisd.net)

Strand: Post Secondary Information for Families and Students

Audience: Teachers/Administrators, Directors/Coordinators, Counselors, Program Directors

### 304 **Lyndon B. Johnson High School- “Walk the Block” Campaign • Room 101C**

LBJ HS “Walk the Block” campaign serves as a vehicle for building trusting relationships between school personnel and the families of the students they serve. The presenters will share the strategies involved in planning and conducting home visits for each of their students. In addition, the presenters will discuss the dynamic impact this project has had on the school community.

Presenter: Amy Castillo-Casares, Region One GEAR UP Facilitator and LBJ HS Parents and Staff

Strand: Family and Community Participation and Support

Audience: Teachers/Administrators, Parents, Directors/Coordinators, Post-Secondary Partners

### 305 **Lesson 3-Financial Aid (Bilingual Session) • Room 102A**

This session will focus on post-secondary information. This is one of the lessons developed by the “Abriendo Puertas” Program.

Presenter: Presenter: Dr. Ida Acuna-Garza, Program Manager, “Abriendo Puertas” Program, Texas A&M University

Strand: Information Access and Early Intervention

Audience: Parents

**306 Creating a Science Teaching Partnership Between University and Middle Schools through University Faculty Fellows Programs • Room 102B**

The Faculty Fellows program is one of the strategies used by the GEAR UP/STAR Project to help students gain first-hand knowledge of what it will be like to attend college. The program places one of six faculty fellow mentors in each of the program's six target schools. Placing university faculty mentors in the schools as early as middle school allows for direct interaction between university science, math, communication, and Spanish faculty. University faculty serve as direct role models to students, help to show that college is attainable, help middle school/high school faculty to connect to present state of university education, help support faculty in adding rigor necessary to achieve in college, and connect middle school/high school curriculum to university curriculum.

Presenters: Dr. Mark McNamara, Faculty Fellow and Science Core Instructor, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, mark.mcnamara@tamucc.edu and Regina Snyder, Science Department Chair, Driscoll Middle School, Corpus Christi ISD, resnyder@ccisd.us

Strand: Academic Achievement and Professional Development

Audience: Teachers, Program Directors/Coordinators

**307 Geometry Theme Park Summer School Activity • Room 102C**

The Pasadena ISD GEAR UP Summer School Program utilized the Geometry Theme Park Project as a way to get students excited about math concepts by giving them real-world applications for geometric formulas for area, perimeter, volume, surface area, and circumference. Students created models of theme parks and used basic grade level appropriate formulas to measure their theme parks. One day of financial applications allowed students to use problem-solving and data-gathering skills. Students then created a graph of information and presented their findings to their peers.

Presenters: Eledia Audish, eaudish@pasadenaisd.org and Ericka Peugeot, epeugeot@pasadenaisd.org, Park View Intermediate Math Department, Pasadena ISD GEAR UP

Strand: Academic Achievement and Professional Development

Audience: Teachers/Administrators, Program Directors/Coordinators

**308 How to Survive and Thrive During College Campus Tours • Room 103A**

Details are important when traveling with 100 plus students! This session will focus on the do's and don'ts of traveling with junior high/high school students and also how best to utilize the various campus tour offices at universities/colleges. Museum tours or contacting former students who are enrolled at the college/university allows for a personal touch to the tour. The presentation will allow the attendees to avoid reinventing the wheel when it comes to college tours!

Presenter: Magdalene (Maggie) Cano, Outreach Specialist, GEAR UP/STAR Pre-College Outreach Center, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, magdalene.cano@tamucc.edu

Strand: Post-Secondary Information for Students and Families

Audience: Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators, Post-Secondary Partners

**309 Engaging Students Through Leadership Challenges and College Investigations • Room 103B**

This session will detail the benefits and growth opportunities for students that can be achieved through the camp experience. Sky Ranch and The University of Texas at Tyler have teamed up to provide a student leadership program for GEAR UP students that is integrated into an outdoor education experience. Goal-setting, college and career investigations, motivation and persistence are just a few of the many lessons students learn at the Sky Ranch Camps

Presenters: Peggy B. Gill, Director, GEAR UP Tyler, The University of Texas at Tyler and Todd Witt, Senior Director, Sky Ranch Campus

Strand: Student Leadership Development

Audience: Program Directors/Coordinators, Business/Community Partnerships, Post-Secondary Partners

## Tuesday, May 6 • Breakout Session IV • 3:15 PM - 4:15 PM

### 401 The Essential Components of a Successful Test Prep Program • Room 101A

Learn how to build a successful test preparation program for your students! In this session, the similarities and differences between the SAT and the ACT will be explored, with an eye toward creating test prep programs that are test-specific and that will help your students achieve higher scores on the test(s) that they want to focus on. We will discuss the structure and content of each test, examining how the differences between the tests suggest different approaches to preparation. We will also review the decisions that must be made regarding scheduling and curriculum for your programs.

Presenter: Nick Lewis, Director of School-Based Programs for The Princeton Review of South Texas, [NickL@review.com](mailto:NickL@review.com)

Strand: Post-Secondary Information for Students and Families

Audience: Teachers/Administrators, Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators, Post-Secondary Educators and Representatives

### 402 The University Undergraduate Public Relations Partnership: Student Engagement and GEAR UP/ STAR Room 101B

This session will describe ways to establish partnerships with undergraduate courses, specifically in Public Relations, that can support GEAR UP awareness and participation. In this session, we will provide examples of promotional videos, virtual communities, public service announcements, GEAR UP/STAR promotional slide shows, video production samples, flyers, brochures, and marketing kits. Through discussion of local project outcomes, the session will highlight recommended strategies and best practices for implementing university partnerships that connect undergraduate course content to GEAR UP goals. "How to" informational packets will be distributed to those attending.

Presenters: Dr. Shawn Wahl, Faculty Fellow and Associate Professor of Communications, [shawn.wahl@tamucc.edu](mailto:shawn.wahl@tamucc.edu); Amy Koenning, STAR Implementation Director, GEAR UP/STAR Pre-College Outreach Center, [amy.koenning@tamucc.edu](mailto:amy.koenning@tamucc.edu); and Dr. Gilda Ramirez, Faculty Fellows Director, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Strand: Family and Community Participation and Support

Audience: Program Directors/Coordinators, Post-Secondary Educators and Representatives

### 403 Preparing My Child for College: Strategies for Success from a Research Perspective • Room 101C

This research-based presentation will cover the reality of college life and the major barriers and obstacles students need to overcome. The session will give parents a set of best practices for them to help their children adapt to college.

Presenter: Sergio Martinez, Coordinator of Student Development at The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, [sergio.martinez3@utb.edu](mailto:sergio.martinez3@utb.edu)

Strand: Information Access and Early Intervention

Audience: Parents

### 404 Conversations That Matter: Using the World Café for Creative Conversations with Parents, Students and Community (Bilingual Session) • Room 102A

Join us for a powerful conversation about schools using the World Café process. Discuss the dreams, concerns and ideas that represent the successes and challenges of your school and community, while learning about the power of the World Café protocol. Participants will experience the entire Café process and will leave with handouts and resources that will allow them to use the process for planning their own powerful conversations.

Presenters: Liz Ozuna, Associate Principal, Mathis High School for International Studies, [eozuna@mathisid.org](mailto:eozuna@mathisid.org) and Camille McCoy, Migrant and Student Support Services Coordinator, Mathis ISD, [cmccoy@mathisid.org](mailto:cmccoy@mathisid.org)

Strand: Family and Community Participation and Support

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Administrators, Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators, Post-Secondary Educators and Representatives

### 405 Study Skills Lesson-Spanish (Las destrezas del estudio) (Bilingual Session) • Room 103A

Parent volunteers from Hidalgo High School will share the Study Skills Lesson that they have been presenting to other parents as part of the Region One GEAR UP Initiative "Abriendo Puertas."

Presenters: Parent volunteers, Hidalgo High School

Strand: Information Access and Early Intervention

Audience: Parents

## Tuesday, May 6 • Breakout Session IV • 3:15 PM - 4:15 PM, continued

### 406 Following an Evaluation Road Map • Room 102A

How do GEAR UP projects match measurable outcomes to program goals? This session will include a description of evaluation procedures and explanation of useful data and tools that facilitate completion of the APR. The session will include: 1) How to secure parental consent when conducting student surveys, groups, interviews; 2) Types of data available for measuring student outcomes; 3) Best choices for data that measures outcomes; 4) Types of surveys that might be implemented; 5) Techniques for measurement of qualitative factors.

Presenters: Rodolfo Rincones, Ph.D., Educational Management and Development, UTEP and Edson Estrada, Research Assistant, UTEP GEAR UP

Strand: Program Procedures and Evaluation

Audience: Program Directors/Coordinators, Post-Secondary Partners

### 407 Aric Bostick: The VIP Program- Vision - Identity - Purpose • Ballroom A

Aric has a high energy message of how a person with a Vision, Identity and Purpose provides students with the tools necessary to live their dreams. This message has literally helped thousands of people become motivated to achieve in school and in life. He speaks at middle schools, high schools, universities and corporations all over the country. Join him for a "Pure Energy" session and learn more about his efforts on behalf of GEAR UP students!

Presenter: Aric Bostick, Aric Bostick Success Training, Inc., San Antonio, TX, [www.aricbostick.com](http://www.aricbostick.com)

Strand: Student Leadership

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Administrators, Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators, Post-Secondary Educators and Representatives

### 408 SAISD + Students + Parents + Texas A&M = Unique University Visit! • Room 102C

Various 'partners' in SAISD students' lives will share their perspective on how they worked together to plan a unique visit to Texas A&M University in College Station. Hear from a parent, teacher, Texas A&M Scholarship/Financial Aid Director, campus College Readiness Coach and GEAR UP Facilitator. The presenters will share creative ideas and the challenges and triumphs that made this not just another college visit, but a real-life experience. Leave the session with samples of a 'student application,' 'acceptance letters' and lessons learned from each 'partner' who helped our students venture off to become an 'Aggie for the day' and possibly an 'Aggie in 2012'!

Presenters: Janice Hannon, Facilitator, SAISD GEAR UP Program, [jhannon1@saisd.net](mailto:jhannon1@saisd.net) and Janie Guajardo, Assistant Director, Scholarships and Financial Aid—San Antonio and Laredo Regions, Texas A&M University, [jguajardo@tamu.edu](mailto:jguajardo@tamu.edu)

Strand: Family and Community Participation and Support

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Administrators, Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators, Business/Community and Post-Secondary Partnerships

### 409 Engaging Students in Learning Mathematics Through Innovative Technology • Room 103D

This session will spotlight the Region One GEAR UP math initiative and its partners T-STEM, the University of Texas-Pan American and its partnering school districts. The advantages of utilizing TI-Navigator systems, graphing calculators, web-based instruction and other software to support teaching and learning are discussed throughout the presentation. This math initiative was created to meet the needs of diverse student populations and was developed in collaboration with T-STEM Center of South Texas, Texas Instruments and Agile Mind. Through this initiative, students learn math concepts with the aid of visuals and hands-on activities using innovative technology. Teachers create a safe environment so students can work actively and cooperatively with other students to share and present their work.

Presenters: Sonia Arce, Senior Education Specialist, Region One ESC GEAR UP, [sarce@esc1.net](mailto:sarce@esc1.net); Kristen Tribett, T-STEM Coordinator, Region One ESC, [ktribett@esc1.net](mailto:ktribett@esc1.net); and Joe Garcia, Coordinator, UTPA GEAR UP, [garciajr@utpa.edu](mailto:garciajr@utpa.edu)

Strand: Strengthening Academic Achievement and Rigor

Audience: Teachers/Administrators, Program Directors/Coordinators, Post-Secondary Educators and Representatives

# Conference Breakout Sessions • Wednesday, May 7, 2008

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## Wednesday, May 7 • Breakout Session V • 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

### 501 Maintaining a Focus on Instruction • Room 103D

Instructional Effectiveness is the quickest route to successful student performance and this seminar supports principals in their efforts to cultivate effective instructional methods in their buildings. In this training participants will examine the issues of managing standards and the use of multiple assessment methods and teacher skills that are crucial for effective teaching to diverse student groups.

Presenter: Dr. Bernice McCarthy, About Learning Inc., [www.aboutlearning.com](http://www.aboutlearning.com)

Strand: Academic Achievement and Professional Development

Audience: Administrators, Program Directors/Coordinators, Post-Secondary Educators and Representatives

### 502 The “What Did I Just Read?” Solution • Room 101A

This session shares a reading strategy that provides students with a simple annotation approach that builds reading stamina, comprehension, and retention of information. The presenter will demonstrate the 3 step process that may be easily adapted to implement across the disciplines, educational levels, and reading experiences.

Presenter: Cynthia Hall, Instructional Specialist, Project GRAD Houston, [chall@projectgradhouston.org](mailto:chall@projectgradhouston.org)

Strand: Academic Achievement and Professional Development

Audience: Parents, Teachers

### 503 Engaging Students through Saturday Math Academies • Room 103A

The purpose of this presentation is to demonstrate how a “Saturday Math Academy” can engage students by becoming partners in mathematics achievement. The learning objectives are: 1) Demonstrate how to put on a Saturday Math Academy, 2) Explain each academy activity with a hand-out, 3) Experience the actual math activities. The target audience is educators who want to be involved in active learning and help shape the future generation of leaders. A “Saturday Math Academy” is an excellent way for communities to celebrate mathematical thinking and learning.

Presenters: Dr. Faye Bruun, Faculty Fellow, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi (TAMUCC), [faye.bruun@tamucc.edu](mailto:faye.bruun@tamucc.edu); Dr. Mufid Abudiab, Faculty Fellow, Department of Mathematics, TAMUCC, [mufid.abudiab@tamucc.edu](mailto:mufid.abudiab@tamucc.edu); and Belinda Ramon, Mathematics Chair, McCraw Junior High, Mathis ISD, [bramon@mathisid.org](mailto:bramon@mathisid.org)

Strand: Academic Achievement and Professional Development

Audience: Parents, Teachers/Administrators, Program Directors/Coordinators

### 504 Student/Parent Panel - (Bilingual Session) • Room 101B

This session features a student and parent panel that will focus on “lessons learned” from parents whose children graduated from the first Region One GEAR UP Grant, Right Choices for Youth. Parents and students will share information and give insights about their experiences regarding college access.

Presenters: A student and parent panel comprised of several students and parents from the Right Choices for Youth Partnership.

Strand: Family and Community Participation and Support

Audience: Parents

### 505 In This Together: Texas GEAR UP Programs and The College Board • Room 102A

Gaining early awareness of the available resources is a crucial step in ensuring that students have equitable access to the programs that move them closer to college success. Working hand in hand toward the goal of providing students the opportunity to face the challenges of college is a shared vision of both GEAR UP and the College Board. In this session, participants will learn about the collaborative work being done with Texas GEAR UP programs and the College Board. Participants will walk away with a better understanding of beneficial resources currently available to school/district staff.

Presenter: Estibaliz Arriaga, Educational Manager, K-12 Services, Southwestern Regional Office, The College Board, [earriaga@collegeboard.org](mailto:earriaga@collegeboard.org)

Strand: Academic Achievement and Professional Development

Audience: Teachers/Administrators, Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators

## Wednesday, May 7 • Breakout Session V • 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM, continued

### 506 **Gaining Awareness: How to Create a College-Going Culture • Room 101C**

This session will identify key methodologies for increasing college readiness in your secondary schools. Jennifer Saenz will demonstrate how SureScore's approach created a college-going culture at United ISD, whose student population is 45% Limited English Proficient and 74% Economically Disadvantaged. Since SureScore began working with UISD in 2002, the district has increased English Language Arts Texas Success Initiative by 78%, Math Texas Success Initiative by 16%, surpassed the state performance standards, and increased the number of students taking the SAT/ACT by 39%.

Presenters: Jennifer Cavazos-Saenz, Director of Curriculum and Assessment, SureScore Educational Consulting, [jcsaenz@surescore.com](mailto:jcsaenz@surescore.com) and Pamela Juarez, Associate Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction, United ISD, Laredo, TX

Strand: Academic Achievement and Professional Development

Audience: Teachers/Administrators, Program Director/Coordinators, Post-Secondary Partners

### 507 **GEARing Technology-Based Science Methods into Today's High Schools to Bridge the Gap for English Language Learners • Room 103C**

This session will describe an innovative approach to integrating technology-based methods into classrooms. It was designed for GEAR UP cohort science teachers and includes nine intensive staff development days. The program is a collaboration between UTPA T-STEM and the twenty-one partnering school districts in the project. Teachers are provided with a wealth of lab investigations that include using probes, sensors and calculators. Unique lesson models, Science Vernier software programs and teacher manuals are provided to the teachers. Longitudinal cohort data was used to screen the impact on diverse student learners.

Presenters: Rosario Franco-Lozano, Senior Education Specialist, Region One ESC Bridges to the Future Program; Kristen Tribett, T-STEM Coordinator, Region One ESC; and Joe Garcia, Coordinator, UTPA GEAR UP

Strand: Academic Achievement and Professional Development

Audience: Teachers/Administrators, Program Director/Coordinators, Post-Secondary Partners

### 508 **Region One GEAR UP Youth Advisory Committee: A New Voice for Our Youth • Room 102B**

The presenters will share a brief overview of the Region One GEAR UP Youth Advisory Committee and showcase the work of one of the campus-based Youth Advisory Teams. The Youth Advisory Team will describe the ways in which they have become college-access advocates and a voice for their GEAR UP peers.

Presenters: Melissa Lopez and Joe Castillo, Region One ESC Education Specialists, GEAR UP Project

Strand: Student Leadership Development

Audience: Teachers/Administrators, Parents, GEAR UP Program Directors/Coordinators/Facilitators, Post-Secondary Partners

### 509 **Saturday Academic Camps: Making College Relevant • Room 103B**

The session will discuss the interactive and kinesthetic Saturday Academic Camps that have been implemented as part of the SAISD GEAR UP grant. Attendees will learn of the operational activities, outcomes and use of UTSA as a collaborative partner to increase student knowledge and relevancy of STEM related fields and academic opportunities.

Presenters: Ana Ramos Acevedo, Director, San Antonio ISD GEAR UP and Rebecca Sanchez, College Readiness Coach, SAISD GEAR UP

Strand: Student Leadership

Audience: Teachers/Administrators, Program Directors/Coordinators, Counselors and Post-Secondary Partners

## Wednesday, May 7 • Breakout Session VI • 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

### 601 First Year Findings From the Evaluation of GEAR UP/STAR • Room 101A

The session will present findings from the first year evaluation of the Texas Education Agency's GEAR UP grant, Students Training for Academic Readiness (STAR). The STAR project includes six Texas districts located in the Gulf Coast region of the state. The presentation will include results from surveys of STAR parents, students, and teachers as well as information gathered from site visits, including interviews with STAR coordinators as well as principals and teachers on STAR campuses.

Presenter: Dr. Catherine Maloney, Director, Texas Center for Educational Research, [catherine.maloney@tcer.org](mailto:catherine.maloney@tcer.org)

Strand: Program Procedures and Evaluation

Audience: Teachers/Administrators, Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators, Post-Secondary Educators and Representatives

### 602 Roundtable for Partnership Directors • Room 103D

In this session, partnership directors and management personnel are invited to join a roundtable discussion related to the sharing of management resources and the development of an intranet for GEAR UP directors. Ideas for discussion include sharing of forms and processes, guidelines for partners and service providers, APR forms, contact lists and other useful tools. Additional discussion will focus on strategies used by technical assistance providers, technical assistance models, and performance evaluation. Bring along your good ideas!

Presenters: Kristen Reynolds, Director, Texas State GEAR UP/STAR, [kristen.reynolds@tea.state.tx.us](mailto:kristen.reynolds@tea.state.tx.us) and Natalie Smith Glover, AMS Production Group, [gearup@amspg.com](mailto:gearup@amspg.com)

Strand: Program Procedures and Evaluation

Audience: Program Directors/Coordinators

### 603 High School Graduation Requirements-Spanish (Bilingual Session) • Room 101B

This session will focus on the high school graduation requirements. This is one of the lessons developed by the "Abriendo Puertas" program.

Presenters: Mari Guerrero, Odilia Arambula, and Lupita Martinez, Program Assistants, "Abriendo Puertas" Program

Strand: Information Access and Early Intervention

Audience: Parents

### 604 GEAR UP with The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens® • Room 101C

The Texas State GEAR UP Conference is proud to partner with Premier's highly sought after agendas, programs, and workshops based on The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens® by Sean Covey. This interactive session will familiarize you with how The 7 Habits® can GEAR Up your students to reach above and beyond, towards their college, career, and life goals. This proven content brings to life powerful lessons in personal change and empowers educators with tools necessary to meet students where they are and to help lead them where they want to go.

Presenter: Myles Shiroma, Professional Development Services Manager, Premier™, [mshiroma@premier.us](mailto:mshiroma@premier.us)

Strand: Student Leadership

Audience: Teachers, Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators, Business and Community Partnerships

### 605 What You Don't Know Could Cost You Later! (Bilingual Session) • Room 102A

Would you walk away from over one million dollars? If your child settles for a high school diploma, that's exactly what he or she will be doing. Over the span of his or her career, a college graduate will earn an average of \$1,157,265 more than a high school graduate. As colleges become more competitive, early planning becomes even more critical. In this session, participants will discover that an early start on the path to college can make a big difference in achieving a family's dreams.

Presenter: Ellie Torres, Senior Education Specialist, Region One ESC GEAR UP and Ernesto Ayala, SureScore, [eayala@surescore.com](mailto:eayala@surescore.com)

Strand: Information Access and Early Intervention

Audience: Parents

## Wednesday, May 7 • Breakout Session VI • 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM, continued

### **606 Opening the Doors to the College Arena: From Summer Academic Camps to Pre-College Academies Room 102B**

The presenters will share effective ways of forming partnerships with higher education institutions to create summer and year-round academic enrichment programs for GEAR UP cohort students. Region One GEAR UP has successfully established meaningful partnerships with five local higher education institutions with the purpose of building college knowledge and career capacity for GEAR UP students.

Presenters: Melissa Lopez and Joe Castillo, Region One ESC Education Specialists, Region One ESC GEAR UP Project

Strand: Student Leadership Development

Audience: Teachers/Administrators, Parents, GEAR UP Program Directors/Coordinators/Facilitators, Post-Secondary Partners

### **607 The Princeton Review Assessment: A Helpful Tool for College Preparation • Room 102C**

In this session, we will discuss the Princeton Review Assessment (PRA), a diagnostic test created (1) to provide students an opportunity to “meet” both the SAT and the ACT in one test-taking experience, and (2) to provide students with some preliminary indication of whether they may do better on one test or the other. Due to regional traditions, many students have exposure to only one test or the other, which does not allow them full opportunity to maximize their scores, which remain an important part of the college application process.

Presenter: Nick Lewis, Director of School-Based Programs, The Princeton Review of South Texas

Strand: Academic Achievement and Professional Development

Audience: Teachers/Administrators, Parents, Program Directors/Coordinators, Post-Secondary Partners

### **608 Mission CISD - Operation College Bound • Room 103B**

Mission CISD, along with college and university partners, created Operation College Bound. Through this initiative, every high school senior in Mission high schools completes financial aid and college applications to at least two area colleges. This concentrated effort has resulted in a spike in college attendance for the district’s graduates. Superintendent Oscar Rodriguez will share his vision for this project, which has now been duplicated in 16 high schools across the Rio Grande Valley. Mrs. Sharon Roberts will describe the details of this undertaking.

Presenters: Mr. Oscar Rodriguez, Superintendent, Mission CISD and Sharon Roberts, Coordinator, Advanced Academic Services

Strand: Post-Secondary Information for Students and Parents

Audience: Administrators, College Access Personnel

### **609 Staying in Contact - Virtual Mentoring • Room 103A**

This session will provide information concerning Virtual Mentoring, a means to continually support students. The information will include practical information in starting and creating a virtual mentoring program for students using professionals in the community as well as practical information for the mentors to provide for the students. Obstacles and hurdles to achieving a successful program will also be discussed.

Presenter: Deb Erhart, Project GRAD Houston

Strand: Academic Achievement and Professional Development

Audience: Teachers, Counselors, Program Directors/Coordinators

## Notes



# Rally IN THE Valley

May 6-7, 2008 | McAllen, TX

## Major Contributors

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