

South Plains Closing the Gaps P-16 Coalition
Hosted by Wayland Baptist University, Plainview Campus
Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, David Vasquez at 12:00 p.m. David invited June Hogue, Coordinator of Graduate Education Programs from the Lubbock campus, to welcome all attendees. Dr. Hogue welcomed everyone to the Wayland campus and gave a brief overview of the Wayland Baptist University System. David welcomed partner organizations from West Texas A&M University, Lubbock Area United Way, South Plains College, AHEC of the Plains, South Plains Tech Prep, Plainview ISD, LEARN, Inc., WorkSource of the South Plains, Inc.,

Coalition Updates:

A. Holly Lee from ESC 17 gave an update on the upcoming Senior Skip Day, planned for April 17 & 18 in Lubbock. Ms. Lee announced that they are expecting about 700 area high school seniors for the event. Ms. Lee thanked each coalition partner that agreed to provide a presentation for the event. Each coalition member was also invited to attend the event and assist the ESC staff with monitoring of students. Ms. Lee also announced that she will no longer be the representative from the Service Center. Linda Rowntree will be representing ESC 17 at upcoming meetings and events.

B. Jill Berset with South Plains Tech Prep provided an update on Groundhog Job Shadow Day, which was held on February 1, 2007. This year, over 1500 area high school juniors mentored at over 456 business partners. Mrs. Berset thanked each coalition member for their support of this event and those that mentored students.

Partner Activities:

A. Sarah Allen reported on area Go Centers. Go Centers are regional, high-school based peer groups that encourage higher education. Currently, there are 8 active Go Centers in the region. Students coordinated monthly activities that promote higher education. Tech Prep will be hosting annual training on May 1, 2007, at the South Plains College-Reese Campus. Mrs. Allen invited each coalition member to attend the event to show support of the efforts of the high school students. Go Centers are also available to help with Coalition partner activities.

B. Carolyn Simpson with the Lubbock Area United Way presented on the efforts of the Success by Six initiative. Della Frye, Lubbock ISD, gave an overview of the activities and efforts taking place through LISD. Statistics show that students from economic disadvantaged homes are further behind when they enter kindergarten due to language development. Della stressed the need for assisting young children in day care with language development and shared a program where LISD teachers are working with daycare employees to develop lesson plans and teach young children language skills.

C. David Vasquez announced the date for the Education Summit, November 20, 2007.

b. Sarah Allen gave an update on behalf of the Education Summit planning committee. Committee members consist of Monica Barnard & Dr. Gonzalo Ramirez from Lubbock Christian University, David Vasquez from LISD, Janie Ramirez with Texas Tech University, Linda Rowntree from ESC 17, and Jill Berset with South Plains Tech Prep. Committee members have secured the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, and Raiders Rojos will sign the contract. Currently, we have the entire Civic Center, except the Banquet Hall. The committee has decided to expand the audience of the Summit. There will be three groups targeted, including students, parents/community organizations, and educators. Each committee has a contact, as follows: Students-Janie Ramirez; Parents/Community Organizations: Dr. Gonzalo Ramirez & Monica Barnard; Educators-David Vasquez. Coalition members were asked to provide their expertise to any of these areas by signing up with committee chairs.

Tech Prep has volunteered to solicit support of local school districts for the marketing piece by asking for a student representative, K-12, for the photo shoot. Lubbock Christian University has offered their public relations photography to take the photos. The coalition will be meeting on Tuesday, April 24, 2007, at LISD-East Building, Room 219. Any interested coalition members are invited to attend.

c. Lubbock High School FBLA students presented on the theme for the Education Summit.

Announcements:

A. Dr. Sheryl Santos provided an update on SBEC. Dr. Santos testified before the SBEC and they are reconsidering the issue of teacher qualifications. Dr. Santos felt the committee listened to the concerns of the College of Education and the Coalition.

Next Meeting: May 31, 2007, Region 17 ESC, Rogers Room, 2nd floor-Lubbock.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.