

South Plains Closing the Gaps P-16 Coalition (now P-20)
Hosted by Region17 Education Service Center, Lubbock
Thursday, May 31, 2007

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Dr. Sheryl Santos at 11:45 a.m. Partner organizations, and visitors, were welcomed and asked to introduce themselves. New organizations were the International Cultural Center and VOICES, Managed Care. Dr. Santos invited both organizations to be the keynote program at upcoming meetings. Dr. Santos welcomed partner organizations, including Region 17 Education Service Center, Texas Tech University, South Plains College, Lubbock Christian University and Wayland Baptist University. Lubbock ISD, LEDA, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and KTXT were also in attendance.

Coalition Updates:

A. Linda Rowntree from the Education Service Center gave an update on the Senior Skip Day. The Service Center welcomed over 21 high schools, with 681 seniors in attendance over the 2-day event. Linda thanked partner organizations for their involvement and support of the event. Planning has already begun for Senior Skip Day 2008, which will be April 24-25. Justin Lockadoo will be the keynote program for next year's event.

B. Janie Ramirez gave an update on the planning of the Back to School Fiesta. A flyer and registration form was attached in the program hand-outs. Janie is expecting about 5,000 students to attend the event, which is August 18. This event has partnered with the Back to School Bash, sponsored by Managed Care, VOICES. With the partnering, both entities expect a greater number of participants. All handouts are on-line at www.closingthegaps.org.

Joshua Barron also updated the group on the efforts of the Advising Center to provide a planner for each participant at the Back to School Fiesta. Joshua asked that any entities that are interested in providing information for the planner to contact him. Businesses can also buy space to advertise their services. 500 planners will be distributed to 8-12 graders participating in the Reality Check role playing activity. Content is needed by June 4. Joshua will send all persons signing up today a format for the information along with advertising information. Anyone not present at the meeting that would like information on this project may contact him at joshua.barron@ttu.edu.

C. Jill Berset announced the date for the Career Expo, which will be October 17, 2007, at the Civic Center. Jill invited partner organizations to contact Tech Prep to get involved with the event and have a booth.

D. The Education Summit Planning Committee updated the Council on planning efforts. The committee is still looking for a dynamic, exciting speaker for the keynote address. Additionally, the committee is still working on content. Please contact committee chairs for the following areas:

Janie Ramirez: Students

Janie Ramirez: Educators

Monica Barnard & Gonzalo Ramirez: Community Organizations.

Pictures to be used for marketing the event were taken by the photographer from Lubbock Christian University. Participating schools are Abernathy ISD, New Deal ISD, Shallowater ISD, and Lubbock ISD. Lubbock Christian University, Texas Tech University and Wayland Baptist University students were also photographed. South Plains College students will be photographed at an upcoming event. Janie hopes to use these photos to develop a marketing piece to share at the state P-16 Summit in Austin on June 21.

E. The P-16 Summit will be held on June 21 & 22 in Austin. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has contacted Dr. Santos, as well as the regional representative, Nancy Neal. It is important that this chapter sends a strong delegation to represent the area at this event. Registration is online at www.theccb.state.tx.us. A flyer will also be provided. Additionally rooms are available, please contact Janie Ramirez.

Spotlight Program:

Sarah Allen provided an update on the recent activities of the regional Go Centers. Go Centers are high school based programs, made up of students, that encourage their peers to go onto higher education. South Plains Tech Prep recently sponsored spring training on May 1, 2007. There were 12 high schools in attendance, with about 100 students. Training consisted of monthly activities and reporting, facilitating the Reality Check, utilizing Career Cruising, and an update from SPC, TTU, LCU and WBU on admission requirements and financial aid.

Upcoming activities for the Go Centers are the Back to School Fiesta in August, which they will be facilitating the Reality Check. The Career Expo in October, as well as the Education Summit in November.

Sarah asked all higher education partners to support Go Centers by providing marketing materials, college catalogs, financial aid information and hand-outs, and a list of contacts to present at the high schools.

Announcements:

Dr. Karen Alexander provided an overview of the Achieve Texas initiative that has been set forth by the Texas Education Agency. Dr. Alexander provided hand-outs and gave a brief overview of the programs that are implemented in high schools. Dr. Alexander has been asked to provide the keynote program at the next South Plains Closing the Gaps P-16 Council meeting in September.

Dr. Amy Jarmon from the TTU Law School suggested changing the name of our council from the P-16 council to the P-20 council to embody the continuum of educational opportunities beyond the undergraduate degree. It was noted that moving to P-20 aligns

with the state initiative, Achieve Texas. Amy made a motion to change the name of the council, Alice White seconded the motion. All were in favor of the name change and the motion passed.

June Hogue announced the expansion of Phi Beta Kappa to the Lubbock area. An interest meeting will be held on August 1. Dr. Hogue will provide additional information and e-mail it out to partner organizations and members.

Jenn Mason with Managed Care, VOICES Coalition, invited partner organizations to attend their coalition meeting on June 2, 2007, at 12, at 2345 50th Street. VOICES is concentrated on the effort to promote awareness to students on the effects of drug and alcohol abuse.

Next Meeting: June 26, 2007, Reese Technology Center, Building 1, Lubbock, at 11:30 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.