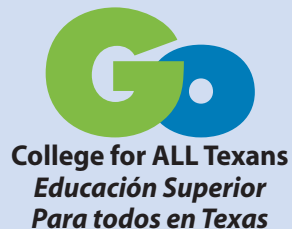


How to Get Involved

- Donate in-kind services/office supplies to GO Centers and Closing The Gaps Council
- Provide speaking opportunities at civic clubs to heighten awareness of the Council and the need for well-educated students
- Organize/sponsor an event focused on financial aid or college awareness
- Display college-going facts/materials in your office
- Provide site for meetings or special conferences
- Provide tutors/mentors for after-school programs
- Provide tours or interactive college-related activities for youth and families at your site to get them interested in careers and college
- Sponsor food, door prizes, or scholarships for college-focused event in your community
- Organize a special event to raise money for scholarships (golf tournament, raffle, etc.)
- Create a "mobile GO Center" (wireless laptop computer and college information) and staff it once a month at a well-populated store in your community
- Volunteer your time working a "Reality Check" booth (interactive budgeting exercise for high school students)
- Allow employees paid leave to speak to high school students about college

See web site for more great ideas!
www.ClosingTheGaps.org



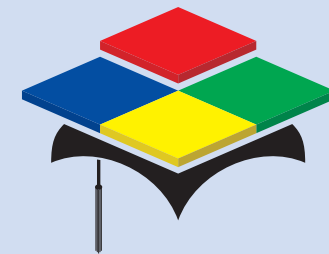
**CLOSING
THE GAPS
COUNCIL**
SOUTH PLAINS P-20
EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE



Box 41071, Lubbock, Texas 79409-1071
806.742.1998 ext. 459



With Your Help We Can Get 630,000 More Students In College By 2015



**CLOSING
THE GAPS
COUNCIL**
SOUTH PLAINS P-20
EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE

www.ClosingTheGaps.org

In partnership with the
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and
College for All Texans' "Education - Go Get It" Campaign

Closing the College-Going Gap

Currently, Texas is profiting from a diverse, vibrant and growing economy. Yet this prosperity could turn to crisis if steps are not taken quickly to ensure an educated workforce for the future. The economy of Texas depends upon the wealth of its people and their contributions to the state. Education also allows individuals to do what they want to do rather than what they have to do, and it opens their minds to better understand the world around them.

"If participation and graduation rates remain low, the poverty rate in Texas will increase by 3% and the average Texas household income will decline by \$3,000 in constant dollars by 2030."
—Steve Murdock, former Texas State Demographer

At present, a large gap exists among racial and ethnic groups in both enrollment and graduation from the state's colleges and universities. Groups with the lowest enrollment and graduation rates will constitute a larger portion of the Texas population if these gaps are not closed, and Texas will continue to trend fewer college graduates and a reduced trained workforce. At current rates, the state's workers are not able to support a growing economy which is necessary for a higher quality of life for all Texans. What can you do to help turn our state—and our region—around?

"...only 47 percent of the region's graduates are college-bound, compared to approximately 54 percent statewide."

"Working together toward our common goal of an energized, educated workforce is vital."
—Senator Robert Duncan, Texas District 28

Closing the Gaps Council Goals

The Closing the Gaps South Plains P-20 Educational Initiative is a coalition of schools, higher education institutions, businesses, community-based organizations and faith-based organizations dedicated to fostering a college-going culture for the South Plains region of Texas. According to the latest research, only 47 percent of the region's graduates are college-bound, compared to approximately 54 percent statewide. Coalition members recognize that it will take new strategies, partnerships and leveraged resources to increase the number of high school seniors who enroll in higher education following graduation. To this end, the Closing the Gaps Council has adopted the following goals.

- Engage more high school graduates and adult learners in education after high school
- Help parents understand the importance of promoting the value/benefits of education beyond high school to their children at all grade levels
- Promote systems that help students clarify and achieve their career/educational goals
- Identify and work to eliminate students' success-limiting obstacles
- Collaborate to make students' progression through each major grade level easier

The Closing the Gaps Council is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors elected by the membership.

For more information log on to our website.
www.ClosingTheGaps.org

Our Membership

Membership in the Closing the Gaps P-20 Council is comprised of representatives from public and private schools, business and industry, community-based organizations, governmental agencies, faith-based organizations and higher education. The Council serves a 20-county area that encompasses the service area for the Region 17 Education Service Center.

Benefits of Membership

- Help to establish a more educated and globally minded workforce
- Offer input into educational initiatives which affect your future workforce
- Engage teachers and students in your industry/organization
- Offer input into college recruitment and preparation strategies
- Build better relationships among colleges, universities, high schools, and your community
- Leverage resources to promote the college-going culture and transition students to college
- Link to resources to help identify and rectify college-going barriers
- Accomplish your organizational goals through partnership with GO Centers or other college-going events

An educated workforce contributes more to the region's prosperity, providing added fuel for a growing economy.