

Vision

Calling people to their highest purpose

Mission

Improving the quality of life through education

Goals of the Closing the Gaps Council

In order to assist the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the State of Texas in reaching their goal of enrolling 630,000 more students in college by 2015, the South Plains Closing the Gaps Council agrees to operate with the following goals in mind:

To collaborate to engage an increasing number of high school graduates and adult learners in the region's post-secondary educational programs by:

- **helping parents at the pre-school level understand their role in their children's education;**
- **creating greater awareness of the value and benefits of post-secondary education; and,**
- **promoting systems that assist students in clarifying their career and educational goals.**

Objectives:

- Engage families in the education process.
- Create public awareness of the benefits and value of education and create a community culture that values education.
- Create systems that assist students in clarifying goals, especially in the area of career options, and create linkages within those careers.
- Provide second-chance opportunities for people to improve their level of education and economic attainment.
- Create greater awareness of the role of education in workforce development.
- Emphasize early childhood education as the foundation for learning.

To collaborate to develop strategies that help students be successful in achieving their personal career goals by identifying major social hurdles, and mitigating success-limiting obstacles.

Objectives:

- Identify and promote resources that help individuals overcome financial, socio-economic and cultural barriers to higher education.
- Support and promote the number, quality, and diversity of in-service and pre-service teachers mirroring the population in the region, thus providing appropriate role models for students.
- Identify and share successful strategies that close the gaps in student performance and achievement in secondary and post-secondary institutions.

To understand that a well-educated workforce is key to a robust economy and collaborate to build bridges that link secondary and post-secondary education with business and the community in support of educational innovation and excellence.

Objectives:

- Provide work-based learning programs for students.
- Develop and share exciting and engaging learning experiences for students.
- Build bridges and work with community centers.
- Develop linkages between high school/community college/university programs for seamless transfer and services.
- At least 35% of Council programs and activities will have direct business and industrial involvement.
- Conduct research involving schools, higher education entities, businesses, community- and faith-based organizations, parents and students to determine specific needs.

To collaborate to create a climate for the free exchange of resources, information, best practices, and research through networking, communication and engagement as a region-wide effort to articulate the value and benefits of post-secondary education.

Objectives:

- Build a network of sustainable partnerships.
- Engage new and existing partners in the vision and mission of the coalition.

To collaborate and support endeavors to improve the quality of the continuum of educational opportunities--pre-school through professional graduate education--by creating new and sustainable connections between the various levels of educational attainment.