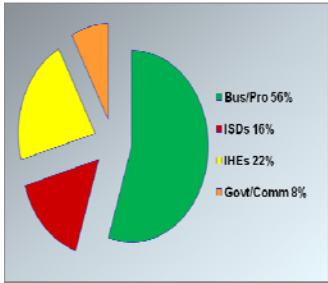


TECH PREP OF THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY, INC.
A TEXAS NONPROFIT AND FEDERAL 501(C)(3) CORPORATION
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS OF FEBRUARY 2010

PRIVATE-SECTOR LEADERSHIP

Tech Prep started in the Valley in 1991 with one private-sector employer serving on its Board of Directors. In order to gain sustained regional support for its mission, the Tech Prep leadership enacted bylaws that established private-sector leadership for its board.



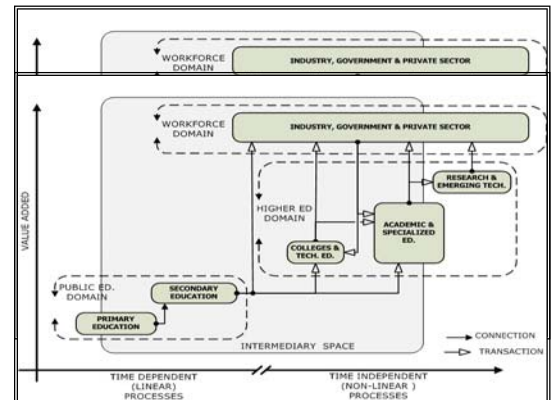
The validation of Tech Prep's programs by the private sector promoted close collaboration between leaders from school districts, colleges and universities, the education service center, and economic development organizations in providing meaningful dialogue regarding student performance. Current Board membership includes 13 private-sector employers, 3 superintendents, 5 college/university leaders, and 3 community leaders. Associate memberships are used to broaden community feedback plus develop new Board leadership. The current President and Board Chair (**Richard Vaughan**), a public accountant and board chair for Burton Companies, has a regional presence. The Board's strength comes from its participation in other local, regional and state-wide education and workforce development initiatives whose ideas are shared through working

committees including the following:

- **Data Initiatives**, Harlingen CISD Superintendent **Dr. Steve Flores**.
- **Executive and Partnerships** (**Richard Vaughan**, Burton Companies, chair);
- **Finance and Bylaws** (**Joe Vasquez**, Former VP of Human Resources, Mid-Valley Health Systems/Knapp Medical Center, **Teri Zamora**, VP of Financial and Administrative Services, TSTC, corporate treasurer and fiscal agent, co-chairs);
- **Lower Rio Grande P-16 Council** (**Dr. Norma Salaiz**, La Villa ISD Superintendent, **Alfonso (Al) Guillen**, VP of Student Learning TSTC, and **Gonzalo Salazar**, Los Fresnos CISD Superintendent, tri-chairs; the P-16 Council oversees initiatives in secondary schools and institutions of higher education).
- **Marketing and Awards** (**Naomi Perales**, Texas Gas Service Company Community Relations Representative, and **Rene Capistran**, SpawGlass Contractors President – South Texas Region, co-chairs);
- **Nominations** (**Perry A. Vaughn**, Executive Director, RGV Chapter, Associated General Contractors of America, chair);
- **RGV Mentors** (**Dr. Nolan E. Perez**, CEO, Gastroenterology Consultants of South Texas, PA); and
- **Technology Initiatives** (**Naomi Perales**, Texas Gas Service Company Community Relations Representative, chair).

Tech Prep's corporate-style strategic plan describes the issues Tech Prep is addressing together with major partners, goals, objectives, and performance metrics. This plan includes Tech Prep's mission statement:

Tech Prep of the Rio Grande Valley, Inc., is a public/private collaborative partnership whose mission is to form working regional and state partnerships that leverage regional resources to facilitate college-and-career-focused learning opportunities for students stressing practical problem-solving and critical thinking to achieve a higher level of competence in the workforce.



Tech Prep RGV: an "intellectual capital intermediary" (term coined by Cesar Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E., as part of work done for a doctorate in systems and engineering management)

TECH PREP SUCCESSES

TECH PREP PROGRAMS AND STUDENTS: Tech Prep leads a **regional consortium** whose members include **32 school districts, 1 charter school, 5 colleges and universities, the education service center, and professional organizations.** School districts and colleges in the consortium have state-approved College Tech Prep programs that allow students to pursue college and career majors related to good jobs in this region and to earn college credit while in high school. College credit is earned in College Tech Prep programs through articulated credits, concurrent/dual enrollment courses, AP courses, and other types of courses blended into programs of study leading to college and careers. Statistics provided by the state (<http://www.techpreptexas.org/consortia>), updated for the 2009-2010 school year, reflect that this region's Tech Prep programs and students are succeeding:

- **85% of school districts** (27 of 32 school districts from Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy Counties) had high school students participating in College Tech Prep programs.
- There were **20,998 high school Tech Prep students** participating in programs on high school campuses.
- **8,255 high school seniors** graduated with honors—as **Tech Prep Texas Scholars**—and became eligible to compete for a **Dr. Lauro F. Cavazos Tech Prep Scholarship** (individual stories about some of these students appear below).

- **South Texas College, Texas Southmost College, and Texas State Technical College** reported that **12,219 students were awarded 116,285 college credits** through Tech Prep and related dual-enrollment programs; these credits saved students and families time and also **saved students, families, and taxpayers over \$14.8 million in tuition and fees.**

Regional participation in College Tech Prep programs and opportunities is expected to continue to grow.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS: The most recent reports from the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (<http://www.techpreptexas.org/consortia>) reflect that Rio Grande Valley Tech Prep students are doing better than this region's non-Tech Prep students in many areas, including these:

- High school graduation rates for 2007-08: Tech Prep students, 94.3% compared with non-Tech Prep students, 76.5%.
- 94.9% of graduating Tech Prep seniors completed college-preparatory course work compared with 87.3% of non-Tech Prep students (as of 2005-2006—most recent data available from the state).
- 69.7% of graduating Tech Prep seniors transitioned to Texas colleges and universities the fall after high school graduation, compared with 50.8% of non-Tech Prep graduates in the region.
- With regard to state-mandated testing, in all academic subjects Hispanic Tech Prep students in the Rio Grande Valley met minimum standards at higher rates than both non-Tech Prep students in the Rio Grande Valley and Hispanic Tech Prep students in the rest of the state.

COLLEGE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS: Research studies indicate that Rio Grande Valley Tech Prep students achieve at higher rates than non-Tech Prep peers on college transition and completion:

- A 2007 doctoral research study by Belinda Torres, Ed.D., reflected that **retention and graduation rates were higher** for Rio Grande Valley Tech Prep students who enrolled in Rio Grande Valley two-year institutions than the rates for the students' non-Tech Prep peers.
- A research study conducted by Dr. Lee Holcombe, current Director of the Texas Higher Education Policy Institute and former Director of Evaluation and Special Projects for the Texas Schools Project at UT-Dallas found **that Rio Grande Valley Tech Prep students transitioned to public two-year and four-year colleges in Texas and also to 94% of the public and private two- and four-year institutions in the nation at rates higher than that of non-Tech Prep students.**

LABOR MARKET STUDY AND RELATED REPORTS: Tech Prep conducted its first analysis of the Valley's labor market in 1996-97 and published a report that became a model for the state. Tech Prep has published similar reports, entitled *Targeting the Future: An Analysis of the Emerging Labor Market in the Lower Rio Grande Valley*, regularly since the 1996-97 year. The 2009-2010 report can be viewed online at this address: <http://www.techpreprgv.com/lmi.html>. School districts and colleges utilize this report for planning programs and course offerings, for training teachers and counselors, and for providing career counseling for students and families. A related report focused on manufacturing in this region is available at the same web address. College Tech Prep programs are designed to help students prepare for the "good jobs" that are already here in the Valley, or for jobs that are emerging as the "good jobs" of the future. The information in Tech Prep's labor market reports is invaluable for helping education partners set up and implement College Tech Prep programs.

COST-EFFECTIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Tech Prep provides three levels of professional development for educators and other consortium members: an annual conference, professional development and technical assistance provided on-site for educator partners, and a network of Tech Prep Support Teams (S-TEAMS). In 2009-2010 participation in Tech Prep staff development events drew 2,214 teachers, counselors, and administrators from school districts, colleges, universities and the community at an average cost-per-participant of \$13.38. Especially well-received has been a Tech Prep Support Team (S-TEAM) initiative that started in 1996-97 and continues to the present time. S-TEAMS are interdisciplinary teams of administrators, counselors, academic teachers, career and technology teachers, students, and parents that work with high school principals and school district leaders for successful implementation of College Tech Prep programs on high school campuses. In 2009-2010 there were 24 S-TEAMS operating on high school campuses in the region, with 16 S-TEAMS receiving funding from Tech Prep and 8 being S-TEAMS that pay their own participation costs.

MEETING CAREER COUNSELING NEEDS WITH LESS RESOURCES: The Rio Grande Valley has a shortage of mental health-care providers. Because of this shortage and the other demands on their time, high school counselors need help to get the message about Tech Prep opportunities to students. Tech Prep has developed creative alternatives address this need—making counseling resources available on its website, creating a variety of partnerships with colleges and universities, facilitating the Lower Rio Grande Valley Counselors' Network that brings together counselors from the entire region, and working with the counseling associations and other partners to provide effective services to counselors

PARTNERSHIPS AND DIRECT STUDENT SERVICES: Tech Prep conducts many of its operations through partnerships. Current partnerships include, but are not limited to, these:

- Academic Leadership Alliance—ALA is an educator-development program created through a memorandum of understanding made by the McAllen Economic Development Corporation, the Region One Education Service Center, and

Tech Prep. Tech Prep leads an annual summer-educator internship project for the partners, working in partnership with collaborating school districts and employers as well as MEDC and Region One ESC. In the ALA educator internship, educators develop lesson plans and counseling materials reflecting their experiences at employer worksites; after obtaining the employers' endorsement of the materials developed, educators utilize those materials with students in the fall. Tech Prep publishes the finished products on its website (<http://www.techpreprgv.com/educators/careers-in-action.html>). Evaluations are excellent, and the collaborative operates in a continuous-improvement mode. ALA expanded from one county to three counties in 2008 and expanded again in 2009 and 2010.

- Education & Career EXPO—the EXPO is a college-and-career fair that began as a project of the Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce's education committee and has now grown to include a large number of regional partners, showcasing 50 employers and postsecondary institutions; Tech Prep staff lead the planning for this annual event, which serves over 1,000 students annually and receives excellent evaluations from participants. Funding for the EXPO is provided by multiple partners, including not only education funding, but also funding from the private sector.
- Harlingen 100 Education Committee: The Mayor of Harlingen began Harlingen 100 as a community-planning activity for Harlingen's centennial celebration. Tech Prep supports the work of this committee, which is chaired by a Tech Prep board member who is a business leader. Accomplishments have included the creation of a University Center on the TSTC Harlingen campus and development of a College Tech Prep/Apprenticeship program that, when implemented, should help to address not only workforce shortages, but also dropout problems.
- Tech Prep Career Center Project: For the past two years, The Harlingen Economic Development Corporation has provided funding for Tech Prep activities in Harlingen, allowing Tech Prep staff to conduct enhanced activities for the Harlingen school district, TSTC Harlingen, and the Harlingen business community. Accomplishments have included addition of a section about economic development to Tech Prep's labor market report, bringing the ALA educator externships to Harlingen, and significant increases in the number of Tech Prep students in the school district and students pursuing technical majors at the college.

PUBLIC- AND PRIVATE-SECTOR SUPPORT: Tech Prep's Tech Prep Texas Scholars program was developed in collaboration with the Texas Business and Education Coalition, an organization with which Tech Prep continues to collaborate closely. Colleges and universities fund many of the Dr. Lauro F. Cavazos Tech Prep Scholarships, and donations provided by private-sector employer supporters fund other scholarships as well as local funds for activities that cannot be supported with grant-funds resources.

"WHERE ARE THEY NOW?"

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE DR. LAURO F. CAVAZOS TECH PREP SCHOLARSHIPS



In 2001, David Leal, a graduate of McAllen ISD's Nikki Rowe High School became the first-ever recipient of a Dr. Lauro F. Cavazos Tech Prep Scholarship. Leal earned a degree in electrical engineering from Rice University and was hired by Motorola Corporation in Austin. He moved up rapidly in that company and is now a team leader whose responsibilities include managing software development project. David is now working on a master's degree in business, continuing his work with his company, and mentoring children in the community.

DAVID LEAL

A 2006 Tech Prep Texas Scholar graduate of Los Fresnos High School, Michelle Galvez was awarded a \$4,000 Dr. Lauro F. Cavazos Tech Prep Scholarship to TSTC Harlingen. She graduated from TSTC's Chemical-Environmental Technology program and is now employed by Formosa Plastics, where she earns over \$50,000 per year. Michelle, currently working on a chemical engineering degree, states: "Just because [students] come to a technical college does not necessarily mean they will make less money than someone with [a] bachelor's degree."



MICHELLE GALVEZ

Additional student stories are available at <http://www.techpreprgv.com>.)