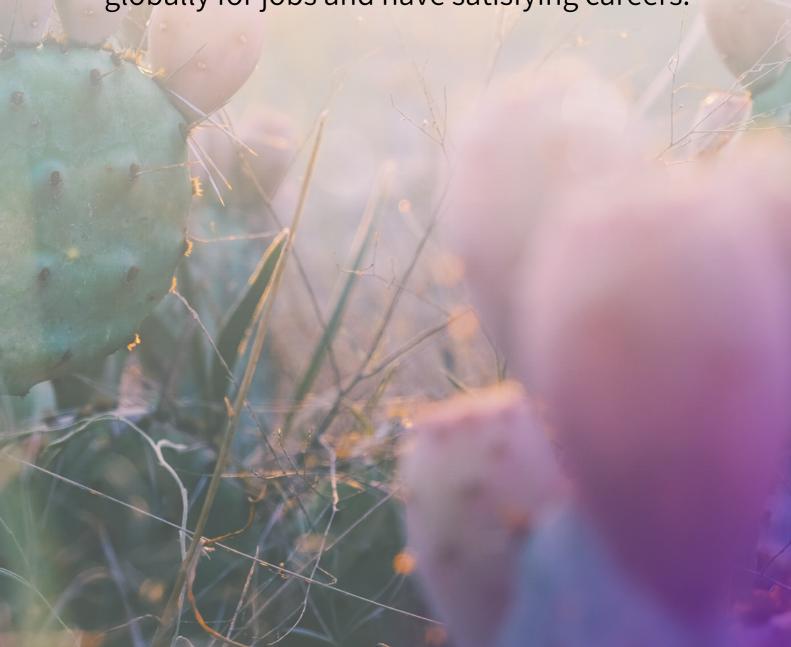


#WeAreRural

2023 | A YEAR IN REVIEW

THE RURAL DILEMMA

Rural environments have disproportionately higher poverty rates, lower educational achievement, low-wage jobs, and struggling economies. Quality educational systems are our best bet for preparing rural students to compete globally for jobs and have satisfying careers.







OUR WHY

TAKE A LOOK AT OUR YEAR IN REVIEW, FINANCIALS, MEET OUR STAFF, AND LEARN OUR "WHY"



PILAR 1 - PK12

TAKE A LOOK AT OUR 2023 EFFORTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES, AGE APPROPRIATE RESEARCH, AND DEGREE//CERTIFICATION ATTAINMENT



POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE

LAST YEAR'S EFFORTS HIGHLIGHTED THE MANY PATHWAYS TO BACHELOR DEGREES AND BEYOND INCLUDING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS, MEETING RURAL WORKFORCE NEEDS, AND MORE!



RURAL FOCUSED RESEARCH AND IMPACT

IN 2023, WE WORKED TO EXPAND FUNDING, BUILD BEST PRACTICES AND REMAIN RURAL THOUGHT LEADERS FOR IMPACTS REACHING FAR BEYOND RURAL

COLLEGIATE EDU-NATION IMAPACTS

2023 SNAPSHOT

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

CTE FUNDING

209 increased FTE \$2.6 Million increased CTE funding (19:23)



FINANCIAL RESOURCES

\$5+ million CEN Generated/Supported Funding for Network



RURAL HOPE CAMPAIGN

Reached goal to raise \$10 million, earning \$11.1 million

DEGREES EARNED

32% Degree Attainment by HS Graduation



COLLEGE CREDIT

61% CEN network students earning dual credit

CTE FUNDING

209 increased FTE \$2.6 Million increased CTE funding (19:23)



IBCs

60% IBC Attainment by HS Graduation



Welcome Statement from Our Founder

Welcome to Collegiate Edu-Nation where we believe the future of our state, nation and the world is in the hands of our youth! As we transition from a 20th Century education system that served us well when a high school diploma and strong work ethic equated to opportunity, today we live in a rapidly changing world that requires workforce credentials well beyond the high school diploma. With that said, the mission of CEN is to align rural K12 with higher education and workforce to ensure that ALL students can enjoy meaningful careers, in which they are able to provide a good living for themselves and their families.

This system redesign, necessary to prepare students for a much different world than that for which many of us were prepared, requires educators to look at our professions much differently. While being entrenched in an antiquated accountability system driven by standardized testing, we are faced with designing an education system that is more meaningful for students and their parents, in terms of life success. As a result, we are required to work longer, harder and smarter than our counterparts, who are satisfied with less meaningful student outcomes.

Fortunately for rural students in Texas and around the United States, we are finding more and more school leaders who are willing to roll up their sleeves and do this difficult work. As a result, in 2024, CEN looks to expand into over 30 Texas schools and communities, and impact in excess of 30,000 rural Texas students, not to mention similar conversations in 9 other states with large rural populations, including West Virginia, Idaho, North Dakota, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Colorado and North Carolina.

As CEO of Collegiate Edu-Nation I am blessed to play a small role in this life changing opportunity for rural communities. I invite you to join us in the P20 Movement, as there is opportunity for rural everywhere we look these days. Our children are our future!

--Dr. Kim Alexander | Founder & CEO





MEET THE TEAM



ALEXANDER Founder & CEO



RACHAEL **MCCLAIN** President



BRITTANY WILLIAMS Chief Partnerships Officer



KENDALL **GUYNES**



SUSAN **RUIZ-GROVE** Chief Development Officer



ANDY WILSON Program Director



CAMDEN **BOREN** Robotics & Programming Coordinator



KELLY SPRINGFIELD



KIM **MOUSER RLA Instructional Coach**



CHANTEL **SCHULZ** CTE Instructional Speciali



STEM Instructional Coach

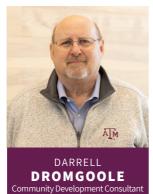


TRACY **RICKERSON** Math Instructional Coach

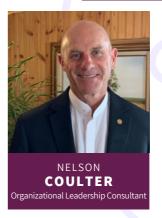


REDINGER CEN AmeriCorps Program Coordinator











VISION

To End Generational
Poverty In
Rural America



MISSION

To empower rural school districts to support and educate students/youth, beginning at home, continuing from the first day of Pre-K through postsecondary, leading to meaningful careers for lifetime success.



ASPIRATION

To achieve the highest student performance outcomes in the country resulting in the reinvention of rural community economies and better quality of life.

OUR VISION, MISSION & ASPIRATIONS

OUR CORE VALUES

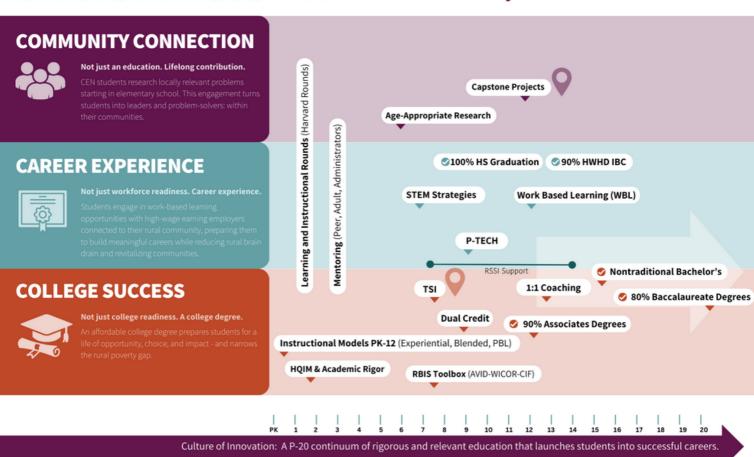
We are a non-profit organization engaging whole communities to reinvigorate education, revitalize local economies, and reimagine what's possible for rural America.

- RURAL MATTERS. WE BELIEVE IN THE TALENT AND POTENTIAL OF ALL RURAL STUDENTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROSPERITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE OF THEIR COMMUNITY, COUNTRY, AND WORLD.
- SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS REQUIRES A P-20 CULTURE SHIFT. WE BELIEVE IN AN INTEGRATED APPROACH THAT RAISES ASPIRATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS FROM THE MOMENT THEY FIRST SET FOOT IN A CLASSROOM TO THE DAY THEY START HIGH-WAGE, HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS.
- EDUCATION MUST CONSTANTLY ADAPT
 TO THE CHANGING WORLD. WE ARE
 COMMITTED TO REAL-WORLD LEARNING
 AND 1:1 SUPPORT, PREPARING STUDENTS
 FOR A LIFE OF CHOICE AND IMPACT.
 EDUCATION IS A LIFELONG COMMUNITY
 EFFORT. WE DEVELOP PROMISING
 COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION
 AND CAREER POTENTIAL BY HARNESSING
 RURAL AMERICA'S CONNECTIVITY,
 RESOURCEFULNESS, AND GRIT.



CEN THEORY OF CHANGE

CEN STUDENT JOURNEY The Rural P-20 System Model Elements



NWEA MAP

Academic Data Tracking & Clearinghouse

OUR BELIEFS

STUDENTS FROM RURAL COMMUNITIES SHOULD HAVE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO ACCESS CHALLENGING CAREER PATHS AND ACHIEVE POSTSECONDARY DEGREES AND INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATIONS.

RURAL SCHOOLS ARE STRONGER THROUGH COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING.

RURAL COMMUNITIES NURTURE BIG DREAMS BY DEVELOPING AND APPLYING INNOVATION.

EDUCATION DOES NOT WORK IN SILOS.
THROUGH ECONOMIES OF SCALE AND
CONNECTIONS AMONG PASSIONATE
EDUCATORS, WE CAN DO MORE FOR
STUDENTS AS A DYNAMIC NETWORK
THAN FOR THEM ALONE.

OUR BEST TEACHERS IN
AMERICA SHOULD MENTOR
RURAL STUDENTS.

OPTIMAL STUDENT LEARNING IS ALWAYS PREDICATED ON OPTIMAL EDUCATOR LEARNING.





More than 22,000 RURAL STUDENTS

Raised more than \$11.1 MILLION

21 NETWORK SCHOOLS

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

215
BUSINESS
PARTNERSHIPS

CEN BOARD



DR. SUSAN HOLLEY PRESIDENT



DR. EMILY PERDUE

MEMBER



ALTON FRAILEY

MEMBER



DR. JOHNNY VESELKA

MEMBER



DR. FRANCES A.M. PEREZ

MEMBER



ERIC REEVES
MEMBER



DR. VALERIE TRUESDALE

MEMBER



JACOB TIEMANN
MEMBER



DR. CYNTHIA ANN MILLER
MEMBER





DR. CRAIG ROTTER HONORABLE JOHN PERDUE

MEMBER

MEMBER

For complete bios on each board member, please visit the Collegiate Edu-Nation website at: https://edu-nation.org/who-we-are/

PART 1 | OUR WHY

A LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Welcome to CEN.

We are excited to be presenting our annual report. After a year of phenomenal progress and expansion, we are proud to showcase the amazing work of our school districts and their students, teachers, and staff--all with the outstanding support of the Collegiate Edu-Nation staff and their commitment to the highest educational outcomes in the nation.I will highlight just a few of this year's accomplishments. CEN has launched a Rural **Educator Teacher Prep** Program in partnership with West Texas A&M. Over the past two years, CEN has raised more than five million dollars for our partner districts through special programs, grants, and philanthropy programs. We are now serving over 22,000 rural students and are spreading the P20 model beyond Texas through partnerships with AASA and SPN. There is much more to review for 2023--all contained in the report. The Collegiate Edu-Nation board is proud of the continued growth and advancement of the organization and stands solidly in support of the ongoing mission. We are truly making a difference in the educational and economic development of our rural communities.

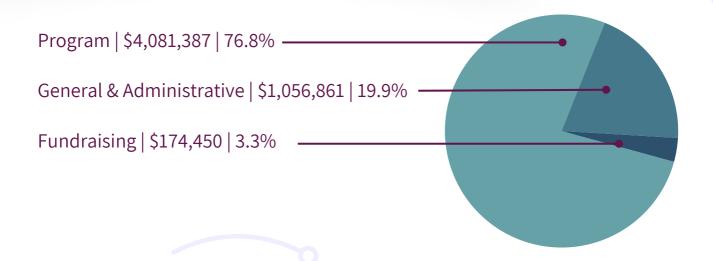
Dr. Susan Holley
CEN Board President

CEN 2023 FINANCIALS

SOURCES OF INCOME



CATEGORIES OF EXPENSES



Part 2 PK-12

EXPERENTIAL LEARNING

THESE IRAAN-SHEFFIELD CISD STUDENTS PRACTICED THE ADMINISTRATION OF ANTIBIOTIC DROPS IN THEIR VETERINARY MEDICINE CLASS.

WHAT AN AWESOME HANDS-ON LEARNING EXPERIENCE!







CHECK OUT THE SMILING FACES OF THESE <u>GUSTINE ISD</u> PRE-K STUDENTS AND THEIR WORK BUILDING COMMUNITIES IN THEIR CLASSROOM. WE LOVE SEEING PROJECT BASED LEARNING IN ACTION TO HELP THEM LEARN ABOUT 'HELPERS' IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

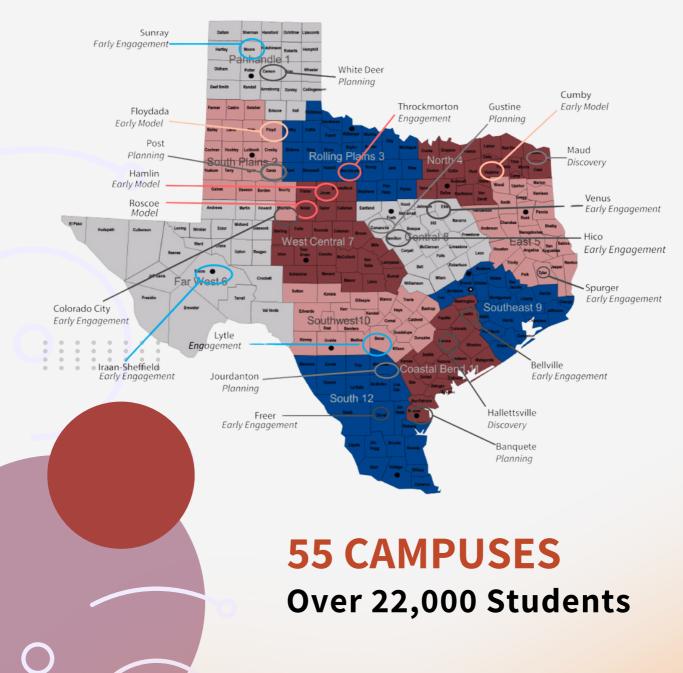




A NETWORK OF HIGH PERFORMING RURAL SCHOOLS

2022-2023 PK12 COHORTS

Cumby, Floydada, Hamlin, Lytle, Roscoe, Sunray, Throckmorton, Iraan-Sheffield, Spurger, Venus, Hico, Bellville, Banquete, Hallettsville, Colorado City, Freer, Post, Gustine, White Deer, Jourdanton, and Maud





CONGRATS GRADS!





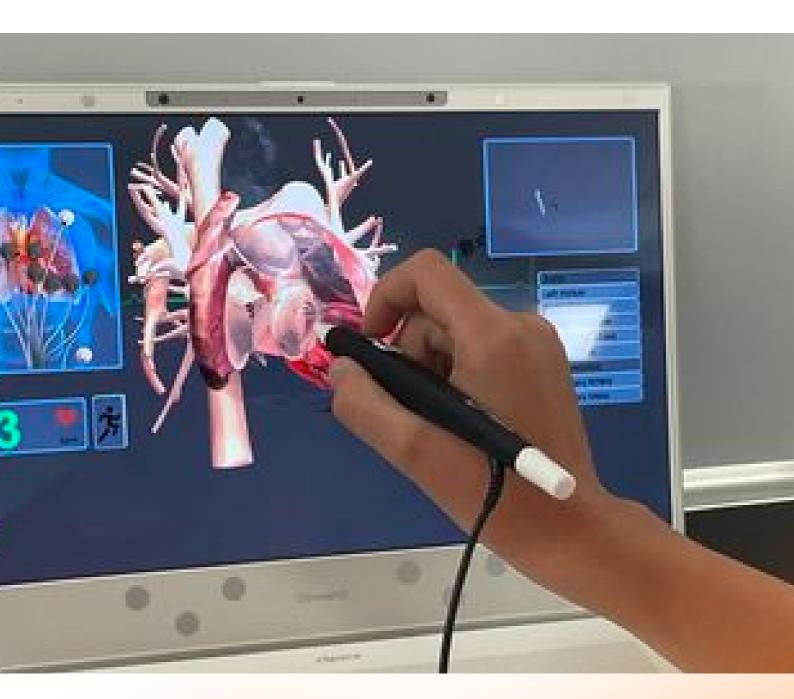
CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE CEN NETWORK GRADUATES FOR RECEIVING THEIR ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES IN 2023!

WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU AND WE KNOW YOUR RURAL COMMUNITIES ARE TOO!



CEN partners directly with network schools to create a custom implementation plan. Therefore, this report is not an exhaustive resource for a single district.

We will continue to learn and lead as we work together in the coming years.



NATIONAL EXPANSION



12 Campuses Over 3,100 Students

Illinois School Districts

Bunker Hill CUSD 8 3 campuses Over 500 students

CENNETWORK DATA

CEN NETWORK DISTRICT ENROLLMENT AND DEMOGRAPHICS, FALL 2023

District	Enrollment	Percent of Total CEN ISD enrollment	Low SES Pop	Special Ed	English Language Learners (ELL)	Hispanic	White	African American	Two or More Races	Other
ROSCOE	605	3.84%	56.20%	11.90%	12.40%	55.83%	36.36%	2.48%	1.16%	0.17%
HAMLIN	269	1.71%	72.43%	16.04%	5.26%	44.61%	46.62%	3.76%	4.51%	0.50%
THROCKMORTON	158	1.00%	59.49%	7.59%	0.00%	15.82%	81.60%	2.53%	0.00%	0.05%
FLOYDADA	684	4.34%	66.37%	9.80%	3.65%	76.61%	19.01%	3.51%	0.44%	0.43%
СИМВУ	435	2.76%	59.77%	15.17%	4.83%	12.87%	80.69%	1.15%	3.22%	2.07
SUNRAY	675	4.28%	55.56%	17.59%	3.24%	12.50%	81.02%	0.93%	1.85%	3.70%
LYTLE	1810	11.49%	74.86%	12.15%	14.64%	83.20%	14.64%	0.55%	1.00%	0.61%
IRAAN - SHEFFIELD	361	2.29%	60.11%	15.79%	13.57%	68.06%	30.19%	0.83%	0.00%	0.92%%
BANQUETTE	843	5.355	72.60%	12.93%	2.49%	84.34%	14.95%	0.24%	0.12%	0.35%
BELLVILLE	2251	14.29%	46.87%	13.55%	10.00%	31.32%	57.66%	7.02%	3.33%	0.67%
COLORADO CITY	949	6.02%	64.17%	13.91%	4.95%	52.05%	38.46%	5.58%	3.37%	0.54%
FREER	734	4.66&	80.93%	14.31%	3.00%	93.73%	5.18%	0.41%	0.27%	0.41%
нісо	591	3.75%	55.00%	13.50%	14.00%	21.40%	74.80%	1.00%	1.80%	1.00%
SPURGER	360	2.28%	89.72%	19.72%	3.06%	0.00%	96.94%	0.56%	0.005	2.50%
VENUS	2273	14.43%	89.00%	11.00%	30.00%	64.00%	28.00%	4.00%	2.00%	2.00%
GUSTINE	129	0.82%	66.67%	20.93%	30.23%	67.44%	31.78%	0.00%	0.00%	0.78%
JOURDANTON	1590	10.09%	57.61%	15.85%	2.89%	61.19%	36.54%	0.57%	1.13%	0.57%
POST	705	4.47%	58.72%	15.74%	1.56%	63.26%	26.52%	4.11%	5.53%	0.58%
WHITE DEER	334	2.12%	53.29%	13.47%	2.40%	16.77%	81.44%	0.60%	0.60%	0.59%
TOTAL/AVERAGE	15,756	100.00%	65.23%	14.26%	8.53%	48.89%	46.44%	2.10%	1.60%	0.97%

CENNETWORK DATA

CEN NETWORK DISTRICT ENROLLMENT AND POST SECONDARY INFORMATION JUNE 2022

CENTILLITION		I INI ORMATION SONE 2022							
District	Enrollment	PK-8 Enrollment	9-12 Enrolllment	Class of 2023 Enrollment	Grades 9-12 earning college credit	# college hours taken by 9-12	Class of 2023 Earning Industry Certification	Class of 2023 Earning Associate Degrees	Class of 2023 Year 13-14 Enrollment
ROSCOE	605	424	181	39	88.00%	1727	59.00%	64.00%	59.00%
HAMLIN	399	269	130	35	62.00%	734	23.00%	26.00%	45.71%
THROCKMORTON	158	106	52	14	79.00%	433	57.00%	43.00%	28.57%
FLOYDADA	684	485	199	47	56.00%	933	53.00%	4.00%	19.15%
СИМВУ	435	309	126	49	52.00%	729	18.00%	22.00%	
SUNRAY	675	495	180	35	26.00%	765	20.00%	20.00%	
LYTLE	1810	1316	494	118	22.00%	1566	28.00%	6.00%	
IRAAN-SHEFFIELD	361	250	111	24	83.00%	895	88.00%	8.00%	
BANQUETTE	843	275	568	47	15.00%	275	64.00%	2.00%	
BELVILLE	2251	698	1553	145	42.00%	489	38.00%	0.00%	
COLORADO CITY	949	241	708	44	41.00%	794	2.00%	11.00%	
FREER	734	170	564	50	43.00%	258	22.00%	0.00%	
нісо	591	145	446	27	24.00%	375	37.00%	0.00%	
SPURGER	360	93	267	22	33.00%	236	82.00%	0.00%	
VENUS	2273	1566	707	149	17.00%	1012	32.00%	0.00%	
GUSTINE	140	39	101	88	46.00%	122	0.00%	0.00%	
JOURDANTON	1590	454	1136	108	50.00%	405	4.00%	0.00%	
POST	705	247	458	43	10.00%	339	16.00%	0.00%	
WHITE DEER	334	242	92	25	18.00%	281	4.00%	4.00%	
TOTAL/AVERAGE	15897	5643	10254	1109	42%	12368	34%	11%	





IMPORTANCE OF STUDENT LED RESEARCH

Encouraging students to formulate research questions that relate to their local communities fosters a host of important skills such as curiosity, critical thinking, and societal engagement. This approach not only makes learning more relevant for students but also empowers them to contribute meaningfully to their community.

ENGAGED SCHOOLS

Roscoe Collegiate ISD, Hamlin Collegiate ISD, Floydada Collegiate ISD, Throckmorton, Cumby ISD, Colorado City engaged over 1,100 students in nearly 300 student-led research projects.

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

In 2023, CEN created an engaged inner-network of teachers and administrators involved in student research in their classrooms. This allowed CEN to communicate specific information with practitioners to enhance their experiential learning efforts in the classroom. Over 40 school employees and leaders of student led research were engaged in this network last year.

DATE: September 27, 2023 TIME: 9:00 - 9:50 am

PLATFORM: Virtual (Zoo

FOCUS AREA: Food Syst

JOIN US HERE:

ABOUT THE EXPER

Gain valuable insights into meat processing echniques, such as curing, smoking, and aging. DR. DAVEY GRIFFIN

GENDA:

TRODUCTION TO MEAT SCIENCE:

AT PROCESSING TECHNIQUES:

explore the intricate field of meat science and inderstand its significance in the food industry pive into various career paths available within his chamic.

MEET THE

BRINGING

CLASSROOM

VIRTUAL LEARNING

OPPORTUNITIES

Ensuring teachers have

adequate training to build a

framework around student-led

research was vitally important.

Helping students and teachers

developing critical thinking and

problem-solving skills was key

throughout the year. To aid in

virtual trainings and acquired

nationally known speakers to

discuss specific research topics

in the Meet the Expert Series.

this effort, CEN hosted multiple

choose projects that were

and allowing students to

achieve success while

challenging yet manageable

EXPERTS

TO THE

MEET THE EXPERT

EATURED EXPERT:

ed Marketing, and Consumer Issue

OVATIONS IN FOOD TECHNOLOGY

ng innovations, and emerging trends.

D SAFETY AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

nd the principles of food safety and qua



TAMMI FREDERICK

FOCUS AREA: Food Technology and Safety, and Careers in Food Safety & Distribution

DATE: November 1, 2023

TIME: 10:00 - 10:50 am

PLATFORM: Virtual (Edu-Connect)

JOIN US HERE:

systems-culinary-arts-meet-expert

MEET THE EXPERT

CAREER EXPLORATION SERIES

merita, Texas A&M University

GENDA:

OOD MICROBIOLOGY AND OODBORNE ILLNESSES:

microbiology, common foodborne illnesses, a strategies for preventing food contamination International Agriculture.



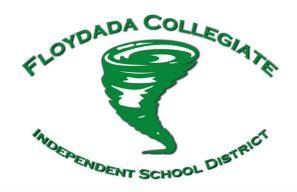
JOIN US HERE:

PLATFORM: Virtual (Edu-Connect)



DR. ELSA A. MURANO

400th of the position of the second of the s



FLOYDADA CISD

recognized as a TEA School
Action Spotlight district for its
remarkable academic
improvement over the past
three years, laying a solid
foundation for secondary
success. The district is also
leading in innovative
education by integrating ageappropriate academic
research, including engaging
projects like pumpkin studies
and soil experiments.



CUMBY ISD

its new high school facility, featuring dedicated space for its P-TECH program, symbolizing a leap forward in career and technical education. Further enriching its educational landscape, the district is nurturing future educators through the CEN AmeriCorps program, part of its robust education and training pathway.

FREER: PIONEERING THE P-20 MODEL IN THE RURAL SCHOOLS INNOVATION ZONE

This year marked a significant milestone for educational innovation in South Texas, as Freer became the first school in the Rural Schools Innovation Zone (RSIZ) to also start planning to fully adopt the CEN P-20 system model. This integration represents groundbreaking approach to rural education, combining RSIZ's seamlessly horizontal integration strategy with the vertical educational continuum of the P-20 model.



The P-20 system, spanning from preschool through postgraduate education, ensures a continuous and cohesive educational journey, critically important in rural settings. In Freer, this model has fostered a more robust and interconnected educational framework, enabling students to transition smoothly at each educational stage while remaining within their community.

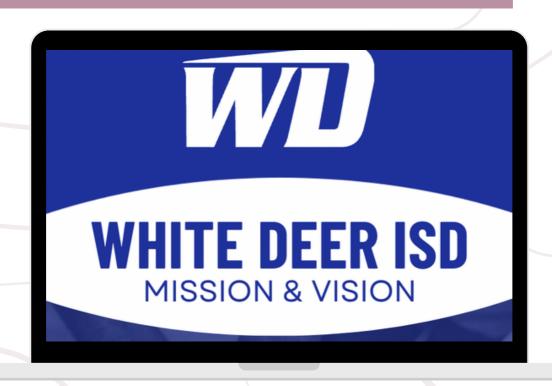


The synergy between RSIZ's broad-based approach and the P-20 system's depth has resulted in a dynamic educational ecosystem. This pioneering integration is not just reshaping the educational landscape in Freer; it's setting a precedent for rural education, demonstrating the power of innovative, integrated strategies in fostering educational success. The early outcomes from Freer are promising, indicating that this model could be a template for other rural communities striving to enhance their educational systems.





OUR SCHOOLS ON THE RISE



WHITE DEER ISD ALIGNS ITS MISSION AND VISION BY INTEGRATING P-20 PLANS WITH STAKEHOLDER ASPIRATIONS, ENSURING EDUCATIONAL STRATEGIES RESONATE COMMUNITY-WIDE. THE DISTRICT IS IN THE MIDST OF AN EXCITING REBRANDING PHASE, REFLECTING ITS COMMITMENT TO INNOVATION AND COLLECTIVE GOALS.



VENUS ISD INTEGRATED THE P20 MODEL INTO ITS LESSON CYCLE, EMPHASIZING STUDENT OWNERSHIP AND BLENDED LEARNING. THE DISTRICT RECENTLY INAUGURATED A NEW STEM CENTER AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL, BOLSTERING P-TECH PROGRAMS FUNDED BY A TEXAS WORKFORCE JET GRANT INITIATIVE. DISCOVER MORE THROUGH THIS LINK.

UNVEILING THE MAGIC OF READING:

CEN Schools Pave the Way to Success



Gustine ISD is making significant strides in its educational offerings, implementing AVID in grades 9-12 to prepare students for college readiness and success. The district has also introduced the Leader In Me program in PK-8, fostering leadership skills from an early age. With an expansion in CTE course offerings and pathways, Gustine ISD is ensuring a diverse and practical learning experience. Additionally, the innovative "Career Conversations" initiative connects students with area employers, while college visits for high school students provide valuable insights into post-secondary opportunities.

SUNRAY ISD RECEIVES READING GRANT

Sunray ISD has received a grant that has facilitated the adoption of the Really Great Reading curriculum district-wide. This initiative represents a significant investment in literacy, offering students a comprehensive and engaging approach to mastering reading skills at all grade levels.







SCHOOL CULTURE AND CLIMATE: A CORNERSTONE OF COLLEGIATE EDU-NATION

Culture and strategy are the primary forces that affect organizational viability and effectiveness. Culture expresses goals through values and beliefs. The strategy offers logic for the school's purposes and orients people around those goals.

"CULTURE EXPRESSES GOALS THROUGH VALUES AND BELIEFS"

Unquestionably, culture broadly describes who we are. There are macro-differences between Paris, Texas, and Paris, France—not better or worse, but très différent. Equally valid, there are micro-differences among rural stakeholders. Progress is more likely when we collectively clarify, understand, communicate, and honor our diversity.

CEN seeks to understand rural school cultures and community values that shape schools for the 2030 future.



Dr. Larry Polk delivered an inspirational message to new teachers at Colorado ISD wrapping up their New Teacher Orientation in August!



Freer ISD kicked off a day of culture training with a rousing welcome from the band! A great way to start a day full of insightful training!

BELLVILLE'S COMMITMENT TO INNOVATION



Bellville ISD highlights its commitment to innovation and student engagement through the "Brahmas on the Square" facility, a unique space fostering community interaction and educational opportunities. The district's Learner Profile system further exemplifies this commitment, providing a tailored approach to education that recognizes and nurtures individual student strengths, preparing them comprehensively for future academic and career success.

WATCH THE

NEWS STORY HERE

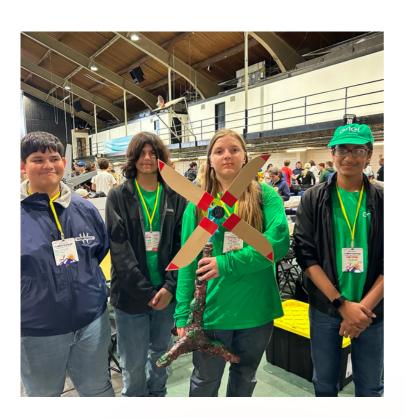


TEAM WORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!

CEN is very proud of the teams from Floydada Independent School District Junior High School and Colorado City Middle School for their outstanding work at the National KidWind Challenge held in Boulder, Colorado last week. Both teams did a fantastic job and learned so much about wind and solar energy generation.

It was exciting for them to be with other students from across the nation and to learn from their work.

The National KidWind Challenge was held in conjunction with the Collegiate Wind Competition, which gave our students from West Texas an opportunity to see what college students are learning and creating.









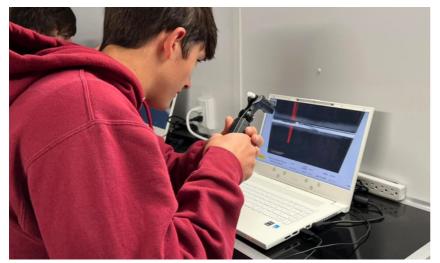
Spurger ISD is enhancing its learning environment with innovative write-on furniture and smart board technology in all elementary classrooms, fostering interactive and creative education.

The district's commitment to hands-on learning is further exemplified by its new plasma table for the welding program. Celebrating skill and teamwork, Spurger's welding team, notably inclusive with a female member, triumphed in a build-off against larger 5A and 6A schools, securing first place.

This remarkable team is now gearing up to showcase their prowess at the state level in May. They also have two Edu-businesses: digital media and welding.

STEM ON THE MOVE







PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

TRAVELING STEM LAB

Our STEM mobile lab was on the road at Hico Secondary School! This mobile STEM lab has given the students the opportunity to interact with incredible VR/AR spaces. In partnership with CEN, Roscoe will be sending the mobile lab to other schools in the CEN Network such as; Colorado City, Hamlin, Throckmorton, and more!



ROBOTICS IN ACTION

Iraan-Sheffield- Iraan-Sheffield ISD was included in CEN's initial Texas Workforce Commission Youth robotics grant. The team, behind the capable leadership of their coaches, was successful from the start.



Team #21898 was very competitive throughout the league meets, and ultimately made it to the elimination rounds of the Odessa League. Following the season, their head coach and their lead coder participated in the monthly podcast presented by CEN and shared their experiences during their first year.





The student's personal story was especially powerful as she shared about how the opportunities offered through being involved in robotics had allowed her to excel at computer programming. A field of study she had never really considered or heard of before those experiences.





The coaches also were very intentional in purchasing additive and subtractive manufacturing tools that provided their students with opportunities to be exposed to the emerging technologies in these highwage high-demand industries.

ROBOTICS IN ROSCOE

Roscoe Collegiate ISD hosted it's first Robotics competition. A total of 9 teams competed in this inaugural event, from Venus ISD, Sunray Collegiate ISD, Floydada Independent School District, Spurger ISD, Hico Independent School District, and Hamlin Collegiate Independent School District. The CEN Unified team was comprised of special needs students. All teams truly embodied CEN's core values of success and education – truly showing that rural matters!



FORGING A PATH OF INNOVATION



P-TECH website, serving as a model for other districts aiming for excellence in career and technical education. The district recently marked a significant milestone with a groundbreaking ceremony for its new state-of-the-art CTE facility, signaling a future of innovation and opportunity.





Jourdanton ISD is forging a path of innovation and comprehensive growth through its recent completion of the PTECH Application, alongside active collaboration with the IHE to establish robust educational pathways.

With the introduction of MAP this year, the district is leveraging data-driven insights to enhance learning outcomes. Moreover, the initiation of the P20 initiative marks a district-wide cultural evolution, engaging staff at all echelons in a unified effort to cultivate and advance the P20 model, reflecting a deep-seated commitment to educational excellence and community development.

TEXAS WORKFORCE SUPPORT













HAMLIN CISD

In 2023, <u>HCISD</u> {Hamlin CISD} received three JET Grants from Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas to help alleviate the initial costs associated with establishing career and technical education programs.

Big things are continuously happening in Hamlin. In their efforts to enrich CTE programs for their students, their new innovation center will house programs like HVAC, Advanced Manufacturing, Welding, Robotics and more!

Pictured, <u>Collegiate</u>
<u>Edu-Nation</u> team
member, Andy Wilson,
had the privilege to
show around local
business partner, CEO
Mark McClain of <u>Big</u>
<u>Country Electric</u>
<u>Cooperative</u>.

INNOVATIVE MILESTONES



Post ISD has successfully integrated AVID at the Middle School level, driving a transformative education model. This integration is propelling project-based learning, career awareness, and positive behavior strategies, creating a school-wide synergy that effectively encapsulates various facets of the P20 model.

Banquete ISD is at the forefront of educational innovation, planning a groundbreaking program in water and wastewater management, recently greenlit in the last legislative session. This initiative positions students at the cutting edge of environmental stewardship and resource management, preparing them for critical roles in our sustainable future.





its new Ag facility, reinforcing its commitment to practical, skills-based education. In a landmark event, the district celebrated two young achievers, Years 13-14 students, who completed their lineman certification and signed on to start their careers with Oncor, showcasing the real-world impact of its educational programs.

CEN KIDS + CEN WIND!

In the fall of 2023, we held the CEN-TSTC Wind Activity Day, bringing together four school districts: Roscoe Collegiate ISD, Hamlin Collegiate ISD, Floydada Collegiate ISD, and Colorado ISD. This event, hosted by Texas State Technical College (TSTC) and co-sponsored by CEN, ENEL, and TSTC, served as a pivotal platform to introduce 170 eighth-grade students to the burgeoning field of renewable energy, specifically focusing on wind energy. The TSTC Wind Technician program was highlighted, emphasizing the exciting career opportunities in this sector. The presence of KidWind, known for their interactive and engaging approach to learning, enriched the day's activities. KidWind not only offered a hands-on learning experience but also encouraged students to participate in the upcoming KidWind Challenge, an event designed to ignite a deeper interest in renewable energy technologies among the younger generation. This educational initiative marks a significant step in nurturing future talents in the renewable energy industry.

In February 2024, CEN will co-sponsor the 2nd annual Big Country KidWind Challenge. We're expecting about 80-100 middle and high school students to compete with a couple of lucky teams moving on to Minneapolis for the KidWind World Challenge in May.



COLORADO ISD TRAVELS TO

BOULDER COLORADO





After hearing about the KidWind opportunity in the fall of 2022, Colorado ISD put together a team of students who wanted to learn more about renewable energy and compete with other students to create a wind turbine that would create energy. They competed in the first annual Big Country KidWind Challenge held at TSTC Sweetwater in March of 2023 and won a trip to the National KidWind Challenge which was held in Boulder Colorado.

Students and coaches flew to Boulder in May to compete at a national level. Although they didn't place, they had a good showing and they learned much in the process. Colorado ISD's one team has now grown to four teams and they are registered to compete in the 2nd Annual Big Country KidWind Challenge this February and at the Texas Tech KidWind Challenge in March in hopes to advance the the World KidWind Challenge held in Minneapolis this May.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

C T E M O N T H

In 2023, we celebrated CTE (Career and Technical Education) Month across our 21 districts. Every February, educators work to raise awareness of the role that CTE has In readying learners for college and career success.





At the 2023 ASU+GSV Summit, the Education Innovation Showcase was presented by ClassIn, which celebrates the Innovation and Impact of **K-12 education** system leaders. The winner was indeed CEN who won The grand prize which included \$20,000 cash, a design sprint from Transcend Education, and a school visit from Darryl himself.

Our project, **Putting Rural on the Map**, demonstrated how they pioneered a P-20 rural education model equipping all students with indemand degrees and certifications for high-paying careers.







We're so thankful for our experience in San Diego at the ASU GSV Summit and all of the experiences we were afforded as part of our prize. It was an incredible few days of learning and advocating for RURAL EDUCATION.

It was an honor to meet Sabari Raja, an ASU+GSV board member.

PICTURED BELOW





DARRYL "DMC" MCDANIELS

VISITS LYTLE ISD

As part of our prize, the emcee of the Showcase, Darryl "DMC" McDaniels, visited one CEN District, Lytle ISD.

At this visit, Darryl shared inspirational words at an assembly with the junior high and high school students, as well as read his book to elementary students and participate in student-led interviews through the school's "Skull Studios" program.

Darryl "DMC" McDaniels is co-founder of the legendary group RunDMC, selling over 40 million albums and changing music history.

THERE ARE OBSTACLES AND DOORS
YOU HAVE TO "GO THROUGH" TO "GET
TO" WHERE YOU'RE MEANT TO BE-YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH TO GET TO.

DARRYL "DMC" MCDANIELS







CLICK HERE

TO READ MORE ABOUT DARRYL
"DMC"S VISIT TO LYTLE ISD





DESIGN SPRINT

THE CEN LEADERSHIP ENGAGED WITH TRANSCEND EDUCATION IN DECEMBER DURING A 'DESIGN SPRINT' FOR THE TEXAS RURAL EDUCATION MODEL.

THIS WAS A COMPONENT OF THE ASU-GSV INNOVATIVE SHOWCASE AWARD.

ALTOGETHER, IT WAS A GREAT DAY FOR TEAM MEMBERS TO CONNECT, COLLABORATE AND BUILD NEW IDEAS!

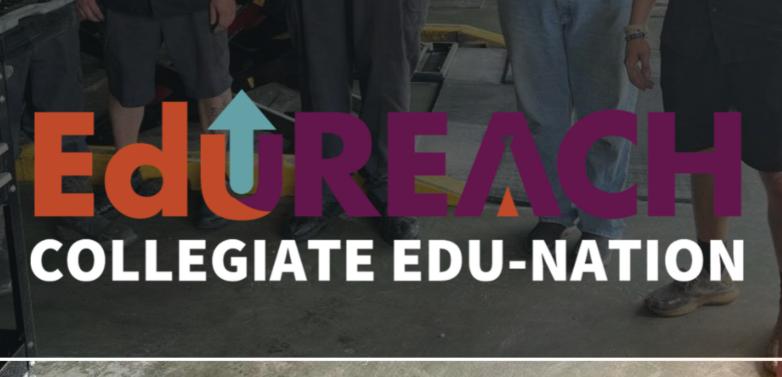




Part 3 Postsecondary and Workforce

A NEW AGE OF ADULT EDUCATION







CEN SECURES ECMC FOUNDATION GRANT TO LAUNCH THE "EDU-REACH" RURAL HOPE REVITALIZATION PROJECT

Collegiate Edu-Nation (CEN) was proud to receive a significant grant from ECMC Foundation. This grant will support the launch of the CEN Rural Hope Revitalization: Post Secondary Education and Apprenticeship Project, known as "Edu-REACH" (Rural Education Achievement for Community Hope).

With funding spanning from August 1, 2023, to July 31, 2026, Edu-REACH is poised to make a substantial impact on rural communities by addressing the challenges faced by rural students in accessing post-secondary education and apprenticeships.

This project has been in the works for quite some time, and we are eager to see this plan set into motion. At the forefront of rural education, this project will truly change the lives of rural post-secondary students and communities alike, "Kim Alexander, CEN Chief Executive Officer, shared. "We are extremely thankful to ECMC Foundation for this remarkable financial support.

This transformative project aims to provide a clear pathway for rural post-secondary students and adults in the workforce to complete degrees without having to leave their local communities, thus increasing access to high-quality education and training opportunities that lead to meaningful careers and enhanced economic prospects.



We kicked off National Apprenticeship Week at Cisco College in Abilene, TX!

Laura Jones, Workforce Management Analyst from the United States
Department of Energy from Washington, D.C. was in attendance to recognize
the incredible work of CEN and partnerships with Cisco College and local
workforces facilitating change-making apprenticeship programs.

It was our privilege to also host Kelley Johnson with the U.S. Department of Labor, Chandra Eggemeyer with Texas Workforce Commission, and Weldon Hurt, Mayor of Abilene.







It was altogether a WEEK in rural Texas paving the way for the future of rural communities!

AN APPRENTICE TRAILBLAZER

WHAT IS APPRENTICESHIP?

Registered Apprenticeship has a proven track record of producing strong results for both employers and workers.







PAID JOB

EDUCATION

CREDENTIALS

JOEY COOK

CEN's very own first registered apprentice, <u>Joey Cook</u>, was officially accepted by the U.S. Department of Labor as an--

"APPRENTICE TRAILBLAZER"

This honor is in recognition of Joey, CEN, and industry partner support in promoting, expanding, and diversifying Registered Apprenticeship Programs.









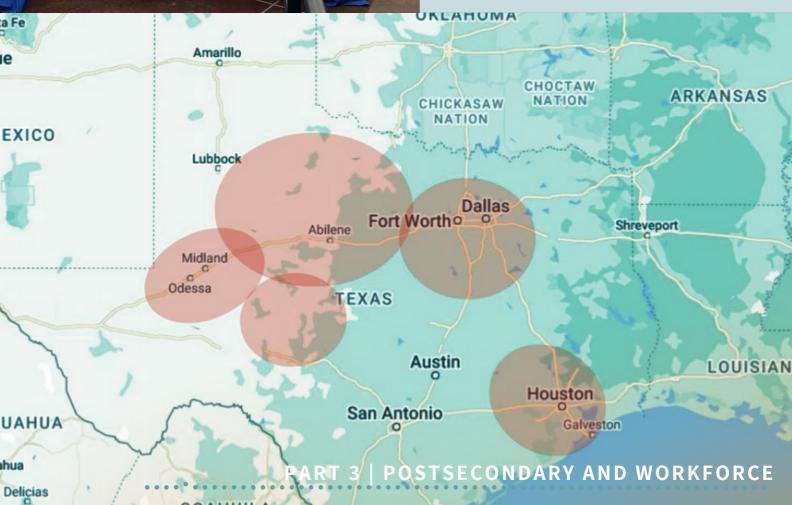
PART 3 | POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE

CARY SERVICES

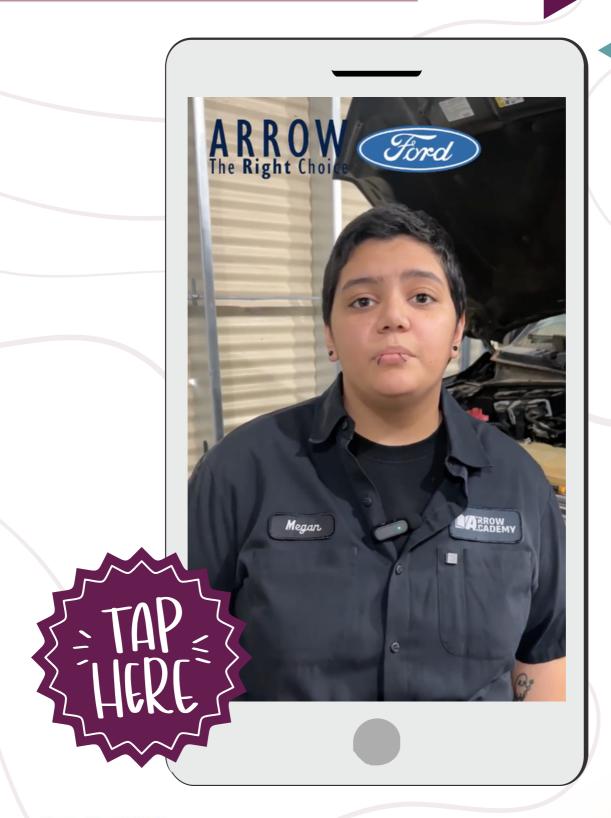




Cary Services has been a strong supporter of the Edu-REACH Registered Apprenticeship Program. They hired our very first Apprentice, Joey Cook and we continue working with them to expand the HVAC Technician program across the state



ARROW FORD





HEAR FROM MEGAN ZUNIGA, ARROW FORD APPRENTICE

PART 3 | POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE

CEN AMERICORPS: TEACH WHERE IT MATTERS

OUR PARTNERS



PART 3 | POSTSECONDARY AND WORKFORCE

#TEACHWHEREITMATTERS

CEN's "Teach Where It Matters" initiative, a collaborative effort with West Texas A&M, strategically addresses the acute teacher shortage in rural Texas. The initiative focuses on growing local talent by recruiting a diverse pool of participants, offering benefits and thorough training for teacher certification.

Funded by CEN's AmeriCorps grant, the initiative supports various components like work-based learning internships, mentor teacher training, college and career advising, alongside CEN's Registered Apprenticeship P-20 Teacher Program, providing a flexible, supportive path to certification and shaping a sustainable future for rural P-20 education in Texas.





MEET.





TEACHERS.



TAP THE VIDEOS TO HEAR FROM OUR TEACHERS-IN-TRAINING!



OUR.



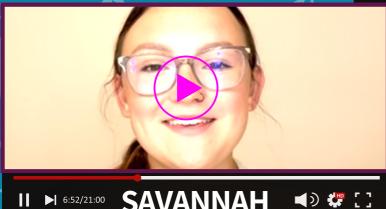








MARCELLA **■**) **#** [] 6:52/21:00



SAVANNAH

OURTEAM OF SCHOOLS COHORT 1















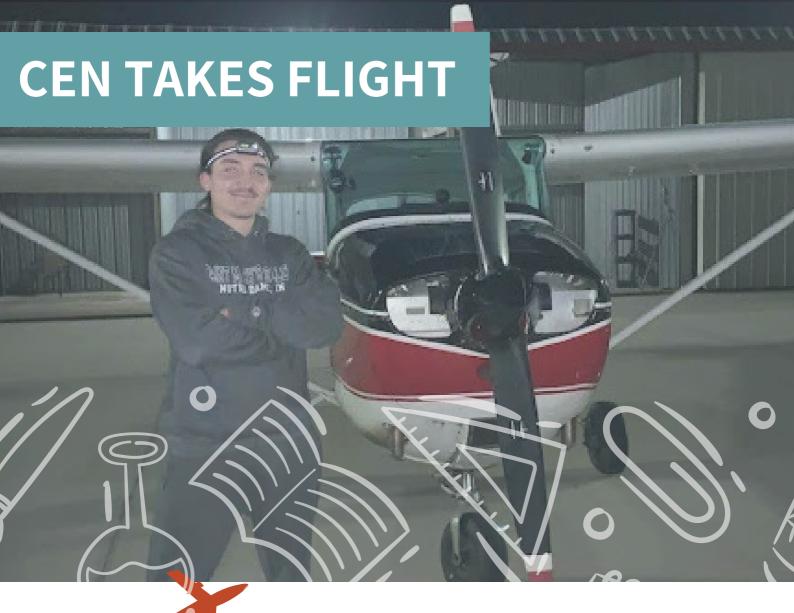










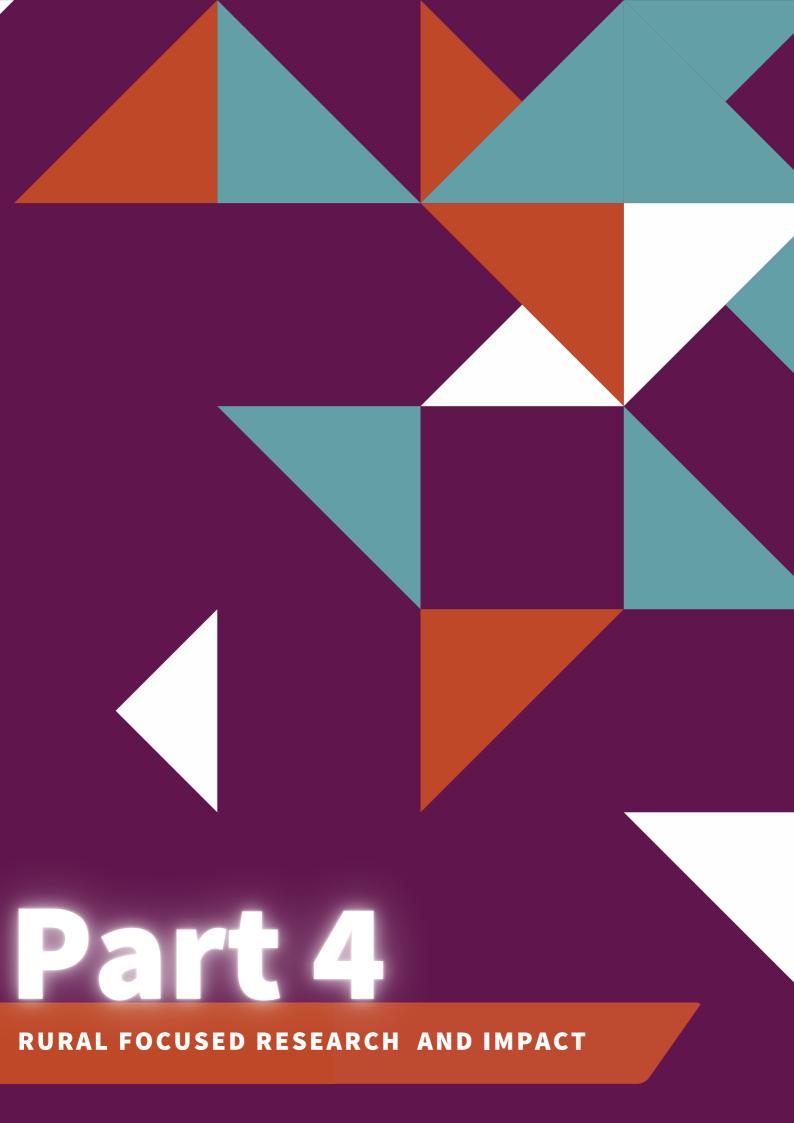


HCISD graduate, Gabriel Guerrero completed his first night flight in 2023.

Hamlin Collegiate High School offers a variety of programs that expose students to countless careers and opportunities. Their experienced educators have the ability to prepare students for a future in aerospace engineering ARCafic to trol, or becoming a professional pilot!

It all starts with Intro to Aircraft (Drone 1), a two-semester course which covers everything needed to pass the FAA's Remote Pilot Knowledge Test which is required to obtain an FAA Remote Pilot license for commercial operations.

SAVANNAH



REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The Collegiate Edu-Nation's Regional Advisory Committees are defined as a body that provides non-binding strategic advice for ensuring program relevance, enhancing community engagement, developing scaling strategies, program advocacy, program interpretation and resource development. It consists of accomplished professionals and experts and opinion leaders in a region.

SOUTHEAST REGION

NANCY WINDHAM (CO-CHAIR) TRACY WRIGHT (CO-CHAIR) **CHRIS BOLEMAN CRAIG ROTTER MORGAN WRIGHT CHEKE YATES EDDIE HOPKINS MARY ANN ROJAS DOUG PIERCE DANIEL BLUNTZER RUBEN GONZALES JEFF BURNTHORN** TRACY CANTER **MICHELLE SMITH JO ANN BLUDAU STACY JOHNSON NICOLE POENITZSCH CONRAD CANTU**

WEST REGION

CHAD BRENDLE (CHAIR)
DILLON BLAKLEY
MARK CARY
WYATT CARRELL
KEVIN BRENDLE
ADRIAN CARRASCO
KENT JACKSON
GILBERT TREVINO
RANDY BURKS
GARY LARAMORE
GUILLERMO MANCHA
LARRY POLK
DUANE LIMBAUGH
CASSIE PETTY



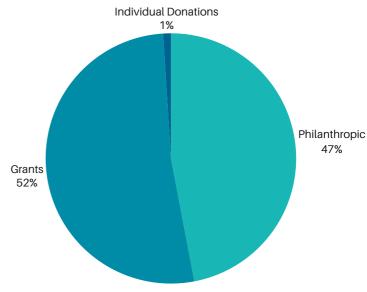
CAMPAIGN

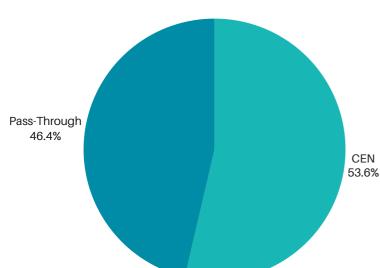
\$10M

RAISED * \$11.1M



- \$10 MILLION
- \$11.1 MILLION





- \$5.9 MILLION-CEN
- \$5.1 MILLION- DISTRICTS

CEN RURAL HOPE CAMPAIGN

RURAL HOPE SOCIETY

LIFETIME CONTRIBUTIONS TOTALING OVER \$1,000,000

Greater Texas F2Foundation

Thoma Foundation

RURAL HOPE FOUNDER

LIFETIME CONTRIBUTIONS TOTALING \$250,000 TO \$999,999

ECMC

AmeriCorps/OneStar

Catalyze

RURAL HOPE LEADER

LIFETIME CONTRIBUTIONS TOTALING \$100,000 TO \$249,999

Meadows Foundation

Moody Foundation

RURAL HOPE PROVIDER

LIFETIME CONTRIBUTIONS TOTALING \$50,000 TO \$99,999

Texas Pioneer Foundation

EduTexas Pathway Grant

RURAL HOPE BUILDER

LIFETIME CONTRIBUTIONS TOTALING \$25,000 TO \$49,999

Stronger Connections Grant

King Foundation

RURAL HOPE PATRON

LIFETIME CONTRIBUTIONS TOTALING \$10,000 TO \$24,999

ASU/GSV Innovative Award

AmeriCorps VISTA

West Texas University

Innive

RURAL HOPE AMBASSADOR

LIFETIME CONTRIBUTIONS TOTALING \$1,000 TO \$9,999

Pathful

AVID

Behmann Brothers Foundation

NWEA

RURAL HOPE STEWARD

LIFETIME CONTRIBUTIONS TOTALING \$999 OR BELOW

Paula Windham

RURAL HOPE

ADVISORY MEMBERS

Rick Rhodes, Chair (former Mayor, Sweetwater, TX)
Kim Alexander (CEN CEO)

Katie Alford (Community Foundation of Abilene)

Chad Brendle (RAC Chair)

Chris Boleman (Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo)

Gary Briers (CEN Consultant, Global Consulting Solutions)

Charlotte Cahill (Senior Director, Jobs for the Future)

Ron & Sandra Carter (Karnes County Livestock Exchange)

Michelle Cline (Superintendent, Throckmorton ISD)

Veronica Cuellar (RCISD graduate/alum)

Scott Cummings (TAMU Dept of Ag Leadership, Ed & Comms)

Amy Dodson (Raise Your Hand Texas)

Assistant Commissioner Dan Hunter (TX Dept of Ag)

Sarah Janes (Associate Vice Chancellor, San Jacinto College)

Brad Johnson (West Texas A&M)

Martin Luna (RCISD graduate/alum)

Sabari Raja (CEN Board Member)

Eric Reeves (CEN Board Member)

Craig Rotter (CEN Board Member)

Glen Shinn (CEN Consultant, Global Consulting Solutions)

Johnny Veselka (CEN Board Member)

Nancy Windham (RAC Chair)

Tracy Wright (RAC Chair)

Rachael McClain (CEN COS)

Darrell Dromgoole (CEN CCDO)

Ron Hadley (advisor, where RUgoing.com)

•Emeritus - Hillary Evans, Karen Garza, George Grainger, Jim Nelson, Greg Wortham

HONORARY CHAIRS

- •CHANCELLOR JOHN SHARP, TAMU
- •PRESIDENT WENDLER, WEST TEXAS A&M
- •JAMES WASHINGTON, NFL WR & STAMFORD TX NATIVE
- •RED STEAGALL, TX PERFORMING LEGEND
- •DONNELL BROWN, OWNER/OPERATOR RA BROWN RANCH

EXPERTS IN RURAL 2023 TASA CONFERENCE

WE HAD THE BEST TIME DURING THE TASA MIDWINTER CONFERENCE IN 2023!









THANK YOU TO OUR SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS FOR MAKING IT A HUGE SUCCESS AND SHARING THEIR VALUABLE INSIGHT.



PART 4 | RURAL FOCUSED RESEARCH AND IMPACT









RURAL THOUGHT LEADERS

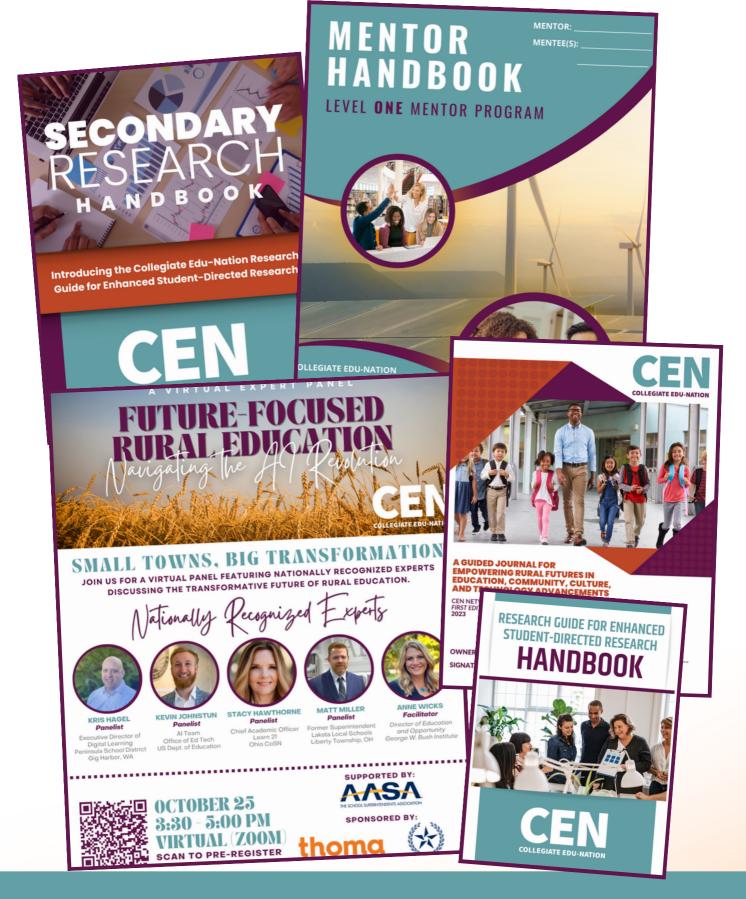
Over 34 online trainings, educational OPPORTUNITIES, and panel discussions





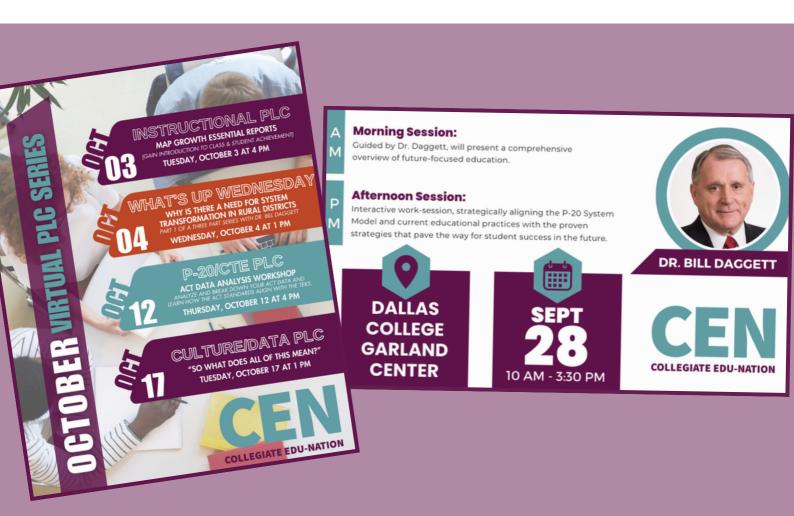






COUNTLESS RESOURCES FOR OUR NETWORK

NATIONAL EXPERTS SHOWCASED IN 2023



OUR VERY OWN DR. KIM ALEXANDER WAS HONORED TO SERVE AS THE MODERATOR LAST WEEK FOR THE "BEACONS OF LIGHT: AASA LEARNING 2025 LIGHTHOUSE SYSTEMS SHARE THEIR JOURNEY" SESSION AT THE NATIONAL AASA CONFERENCE.







LOOKING AHEAD

2 0 2 4

COLLEGIATE EDU-NATION (CEN) ANNOUNCES HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP WITH TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM TO TACKLE RURAL ONE HEALTH CRISIS



Collegiate Edu-Nation (CEN) is thrilled to announce a groundbreaking collaboration with the Texas A&M University System (TAMUS) to establish the "One Health Initiative for Rural Texas." This initiative aims to address the critical One Health Crisis in rural areas of Texas and create a sustainable solution through education and community development.

The partnership brings together the expertise of CEN and the renowned TAMUS Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Veterinary Medicine, Agriculture, and AgriLife Extension/Research.

By leveraging the strengths of multiple institutions, the One Health Initiative seeks to build a highly educated rural workforce that will be equipped to address the unique challenges faced by rural communities.



www.edu-nation.org