EduREACH
COLLEGIATE EDU-NATION
RURAL EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT FOR COMMUNITY HOPE

A transformative initiative under the P-20 model, designed to bridge the gap between education and career readiness in rural communities. This effort focuses on supporting learners in years 13-20, providing pathways that lead to certifications, associate's degrees, bachelor's degrees, master's degrees, doctoral degrees, and hands-on apprenticeship experiences.

CORE ELEMENTS

- Integration of Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs)
- Collaboration with local businesses, community colleges, universities, workforce boards, economic development corporations, Council of Governments, and more.
- Comprehensive wraparound services, including academic advising, financial aid assistance, career counseling, and mentorship.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Needs Assessment
2. Partnership Development
3. Program Design
4. Recruitment and Enrollment
5. Initiative Launch
6. Ongoing Support

SUCCESS METRICS

- Increased Enrollment
- Higher Completion Rates
- Enhanced Career Placement

BEST PRACTICES

- Integrated Learning: Combining postsecondary education, including advanced degrees, with on-the-job training and coursework.
- Stakeholder Engagement: Involving local businesses, community leaders, and educational institutions
- Continuous Improvement: Regularly assessing the initiative's effectiveness and adapting strategies based on feedback and outcomes

CASE STUDIES

- Nursing Apprenticeship in West Texas - "Big Country Rural Healthcare Hub": A cohort of 22 participants enrolled in the nursing program with a significant portion working to complete their BSN.
- Grow Your Own Teacher Program - "Teach Where It Matters": A successful initiative where local residents are trained and employed through AmeriCorps members in rural school districts, with some advancing to master's degrees.

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AVID

ADVANCEMENT VIA INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION

AVID is a research-based program designed to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. The AVID system focuses on WICOR Strategies, academic and social support for students to develop skills and behaviors for academic success, and professional development for educators to improve teaching strategies and implement best practices.

CORE ELEMENTS

- WICOR: Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading
- Socratic Seminars: Structured discussions where students explore complex ideas through questioning and dialogue, encouraging critical thinking and deeper understanding.
- Focused Note-taking: A note-taking system that helps students organize and review their notes effectively, improving retention and comprehension.
- College and Career Readiness: Focuses on preparing students for the transition to college and career, including application processes, financial planning, and goal setting.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Build Awareness and Gain Commitment
2. Develop an Implementation Plan with AVID Specialist
3. Professional Development and Training
4. Classroom Integration
5. Continuous Monitoring and Support
6. Evaluation and Refinement
7. Expansion and Sustainability

BEST PRACTICES

- Student Achievement Data: Track students' academic performance, including grades, standardized test scores, and advanced course enrollments.
- College Readiness Indicators: Evaluate college readiness by monitoring students' enrollment in college preparatory courses, completion of college entrance exams, and acceptance rates to colleges and universities.
- Graduation and College Enrollment Rates: Track the percentage of students who graduate from high school and enroll in college.
- Fidelity of Implementation: Measure how consistently and accurately the strategies and methodologies are applied in classrooms.
- Student and Teacher Surveys: Collect feedback to gauge perceptions of the program's impact, engagement levels, and overall satisfaction.
- Longitudinal Studies: Conduct long-term studies to assess the sustained impact of the program on students' academic and career success beyond high school.

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STEM CHALLENGES

USING STEM CHALLENGES TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN CAREER PATHWAYS

STEM challenges are an effective strategy to align educational experiences with real-world applications, which emphasizes a seamless educational continuum from preschool through career. Students gain exposure to potential career paths and develop competencies that align with industry needs, thus bridging the gap between education and employment and ensuring a future-ready workforce.

CORE ELEMENTS

- Student-Generated Designs: Students create innovative solutions to challenges, fostering creativity and ownership.
- Hands-On Building: Students build prototypes, gaining practical experience with tools and engineering concepts.
- Troubleshooting: Students test and iterate their designs, learning from mistakes and improving solutions.
- Constructive Failure: Failure is embraced as a learning experience, promoting resilience and growth.
- Mentor Feedback: Students refine their designs with guidance and feedback from mentors, enhancing critical thinking.
- Record-Keeping: Students document their design process, emphasizing the importance of thorough documentation.
- Oral Presentations: Students present projects, honing communication and presentation skills.
- Collaboration: Teamwork is key, with students working together to solve problems and share ideas.

KEY PARTNERS

Industry Partnerships | Higher Education Institutions
Business and Technology Partners | Government and Nonprofit Organizations | Professional Associations

BEST PRACTICES

Collaboration with Industry Partners:
- Real-World Challenges: Partner with industry experts to design challenges that reflect current issues in engineering, manufacturing, and renewable energy.
- Mentorship: Industry professionals provide students with guidance and feedback.

Teacher Workshops:
- Professional Development: Equip teachers with tools and training for STEM challenges.
- Curriculum Integration: Align challenges with educational standards.

Student Workshops:
- Skill-Building: Teach essential technical skills like coding and engineering.
- Teamwork: Foster collaboration through team-building exercises.

Q&A Forums:
- Ongoing Support: Provide a platform for students and teachers to seek advice from mentors.
- Peer Learning: Encourage sharing solutions and experiences.

Collaboration with Higher Education:
- Access to Resources: Partner with colleges for advanced tools and labs.
- Career Pathways: Help students explore career options through faculty-led sessions.

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P-TECH

PATHWAYS IN TECHNOLOGY EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

A six-year program combining high school, college, and career training, allowing students to earn a diploma, an associate degree, and gain industry experience at no cost. It provides extra time for mastering college coursework and workplace skills, preparing students, especially those from underrepresented groups, for higher education and in-demand careers through industry partnerships.

CORE ELEMENTS

- Six-Year Program: Combines high school and college, allowing students to earn a diploma and up to a master's degree.
- Industry Partnerships: Aligns curriculum with workforce needs through internships, mentoring, and job shadowing.
- Dual Enrollment: Offers college courses from ninth grade, earning students college credits while in high school.
- Work-Based Learning: Provides real-world experience through industry projects, site visits, and workplace learning.
- No Cost: Free program, removing financial barriers to higher education.
- Support: Offers mentoring, advising, and tutoring for academic success.
- Focus on Underserved Students: Prioritizes underrepresented students for higher education and career opportunities.

BEST PRACTICES

- Industry & Education Partnerships: Collaborate with industry and colleges to create curricula that align with workforce needs, ensuring students graduate job-ready.
- Advisory Boards: Engage industry and college representatives to maintain curriculum relevance.
- Dual Enrollment: Introduce college courses in 9th grade with flexible schedules for balancing high school and college coursework.
- Work-Based Learning: Offer a structured path from career exploration to internships, ensuring hands-on industry experience.
- Student Support: Provide tutoring, advising, and personalized learning plans for academic and career success.
- Program Evaluation: Use data and feedback to continuously improve the program.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Needs Assessment
2. Establish Partnerships
3. Program Design
4. Design the Curriculum
5. Develop Support Systems
6. Student Recruitment and Enrollment
7. Program Launch and Ongoing Management

KEY PARTNERS

1. Local and Regional Businesses
2. Industry Associations
3. Higher Education Institutions
4. Workforce Development Organizations
5. Nonprofit Organizations
6. Government and Policy Makers
7. Parent and Community Organizations

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TWiM

TEACH WHERE IT MATTERS

Teach Where it Matters is CEN's AmeriCorps program, in which strong mentor teachers can be replicated in network districts to continue the commitment to "growing our own" educators in rural communities across the state.

CORE ELEMENTS

A collaborative effort with West Texas A&M University, strategically addressing the acute teacher shortage in rural Texas. This initiative focuses on growing local talent by recruiting a diverse pool of participants and 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. This provides a flexible, supportive path to certification and shapes a sustainable future for rural P-20 education in Texas.

This program allows us to address teacher shortages head-on and build a strong foundation for the future of rural education. By growing our own educators and providing them with the necessary support and training, we are ensuring that rural students receive the high-quality education they deserve thanks to the help of AmeriCorps.

IMPACT

30 AmeriCorps members have been placed in 11 rural districts across the state for the 2024-2025 school year.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Look into the AmeriCorps organization in your state.
2. Identify grant timelines, deadlines, and application components.
3. Complete the application and wait for results. I recommend writing the first time for the lowest number of slots available to give yourself time to learn.
4. If awarded, it is time to get to work! Start by finding a competent program coordinator. This person must understand federal funding as well as the general process for teacher certification.
5. Find "service sites," which are districts who are willing to work with you in the first program years when a lot of learning occurs. I would stick to 3-4 districts, depending on how many slots you are awarded and how you've constructed your measurement outcomes.
6. Find candidates who are as close to their certification as possible. Immediately begin working to fill your slots.

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4-H

EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP AND STUDENT-DIRECTED RESEARCH: CULTIVATING FUTURE RESEARCHERS

Leverages land grant institutions to provide hands-on research experiences for 3rd-12th graders, enhancing executive functioning and soft skills. Incorporates generative AI to create engaging, standards-aligned learning platforms tailored to Texas and regional industry needs.

CORE ELEMENTS

3rd-5th Grades:
- Scripted research experiments aligned to Texas Standards.
- Collaboration with regional research stations for authentic support.
- Integration of Hank the CowDog Ranch Life series to connect RLA and Science.

6th-8th Grades:
- Customizable research experiments with adjustable variables.
- Increased student autonomy in research projects.

9th-12th Grades:
- Research aligned with course curriculum, degrees, industry certifications, and career plans.
- Capstone projects to showcase learning and skills by 12th grade with an authentic project aligned to local needs/opportunities

BEST PRACTICES

- Utilize scripted experiments in early grades to build foundational research skills.
- Allow gradual increase in student autonomy to foster confidence and critical thinking.
- Align research projects with real-world applications and career pathways to maintain relevance and engagement.

IMPLEMENTATION

Initial Planning:
- Collaborate with 4-H, Extension Services, and land grant institutions to align resources and curriculum.
- Identify regional research stations and partner with real researchers.

Launch for 3rd-5th Grades:
- Implement scripted research experiments aligned with state standards.
- Use materials like Hank the CowDog Ranch Life series for cross-curricular learning.

Expand to 6th-8th Grades:
- Introduce customizable experiments with adjustable variables.
- Provide teacher support and training for guiding student-led research.

Integration for 9th-12th Grades:
- Align research projects with coursework, programs of study, and career goals.
- Launch capstone projects for 12th graders, incorporating generative AI.

Ongoing Support & Evaluation:
- Monitor progress with rubrics and feedback; adjust based on outcomes.

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P-20 MODEL
IMPLEMENTATION: PLANNING AND SUPPORT FOR LASTING IMPACT

Integrates early learning through postsecondary education, preparing students for workforce success. It aims for 90% of students to graduate with degrees or certifications within five years, focusing on systemic improvement and sustained support.

CORE ELEMENTS

Intentional Planning (Year 1):
- Review of the 13 essential elements of the P-20 model.
- Workforce and community engagement planning.
- Communication strategy development.
- Culture shift with a focus on 2-3 priority elements.
- Goal setting and timeline creation.

Implementation Support (Years 2-3):
- Use of objective rubrics to evaluate implementation status.
- Identification of ongoing needs and supports.
- Launch of P-TECH and Student-Directed Research programs with targeted outcomes.

Continued Improvement (Beyond Year 3):
- Annual status evaluations.
- Systematic improvements aligned with the goal of 90% degree and certification attainment.

IMPLEMENTATION

Year 1: Planning Phase
- Conduct a comprehensive review of P-20 elements.
- Develop a detailed communication and engagement plan.
- Set clear goals and timelines focusing on priority elements.

Years 2-3: Implementation Phase
- Use rubrics to assess progress and identify needs.
- Provide continuous support for P-TECH and Student-Directed Research launches.
- Adjust implementation strategies as needed based on data and feedback.

Post-Implementation: Continuous Improvement
- Conduct annual evaluations.
- Implement systemic changes to drive progress towards the 90% graduation goal.

BEST PRACTICES
- Engage stakeholders early & often in planning.
- Align culture shifts with priority elements to ensure focused change.
- Regularly review and adjust plans based on implementation rubrics and feedback.

KEY PARTNERS
- Higher Education Institutions: For P-TECH alignment and support.
- Industry Partners: To provide workforce insights and opportunities for students.
- Community Organizations: To enhance local engagement and support.

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FUNDING
FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

Exploring the critical role of funding in supporting rural communities through the P-20 educational system, which spans from Pre-K through postsecondary education/workforce. The goal is to enhance educational and career outcomes in rural areas by securing and effectively using targeted funds.

CORE ELEMENTS

Grant Acquisition (state and federal)
- Strategies for identifying and applying for grants suited to rural educational needs.

Philanthropic Foundations (local and national)
- Strategies for identifying and applying for grants suited to rural educational needs.

Corporate Sponsorships
- Leveraging relationships with businesses and non-profits to enhance funding opportunities.

Individual Giving/Community Engagement
- Mobilizing community support to access local and state funding.

BEST PRACTICES
- Collaborative grant writing with higher education partners, local businesses, and community organizations (nonprofits)
- Host regular meetings with key stakeholders to collaborate on funding opportunities and application processes

RESOURCES
- Webinars and workshops on educational funding.
- Access to a database of applicable grants and funding bodies.

IMPLEMENTATION
1. Needs Assessment: Evaluate the specific funding needs of the district/community.
2. Resource Mapping: Identify potential funding sources aligned with district needs.
3. Stakeholder Engagement: Engage community stakeholders for support and collaboration.
4. Application Process: Prepare and submit funding applications.

KEY PARTNERS
- Other nonprofits
- Local businesses
- State educational agencies (workforce boards, state commission)
- Higher education institutions (2-year and 4-year partners)

NEXT STEPS
Immediate Actions
- Identify at least 3 funding opportunities in your local area and/or national funders
- Schedule a meeting with potential grant partners

Timeline
- Q4 2024: Complete funding needs assessment.
- Q1 2025: Begin applying for targeted grants.

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