



Texas Rural Collaboration Virtual Convening

Guide to Rural Education Collaboratives in Texas



GREATER TEXAS FOUNDATION

Alliance for College and Career Student Success in South-Central Texas (ACCSS)

MISSION: ACCSS is a partnership between five rural, public school districts and the Blinn College District working together to share resources and to provide more dual credit opportunities and career pathways for students in their region. These partners will work collaboratively to provide academic and career resources, guidance and support necessary for students to complete a post-secondary or workforce career credential.

AREA SERVED:

Columbus, Fayetteville, Flatonia, Schulenburg, and Weimar ISDs; Blinn College District

TARGET POPULATION: High school students

SERVICES:

- 1 Student support and resources for academic and technical dual credit classes
- 2 Collaboration and sharing of resources
- 3 Partnerships with local schools and Blinn College to provide dual credit classes as a transition to university study and/or career preparation
- 4 Training for parents, students, and teachers
- 5 Student long range planning and support
- 6 Personnel to support and monitor students' post-secondary preparation

PARTNERS: Columbus, Fayetteville, Flatonia, Schulenburg, and Weimar ISDs; Blinn College District

ORIGIN STORY: The collaborative began when Thadious Polasek (Schulenburg Public Library), Beverly Mikulenska (Region 3 Representative), and Becky Garlick (Blinn College-Schulenburg Campus Executive Dean) began to explore ways to involve more students in dual credit programs, most especially those leading to high-demand jobs and careers in the local area. Teaching was one of the first areas that we considered since it is difficult to retain teachers in the local rural schools.

BRAGGING RIGHTS: We really just got started, so we do not have any bragging rights yet; however, we are so excited that five local high schools superintendents are all on board to work together to make ACCSS a reality for their students.

IMPACT STORY: Since we have just gotten started, we do not have any success stories, but we look forward to many, many, many student success stories in the future.

More Information: Contact Becky Garlick at bgarlick@blinn.edu

Big Country Manufacturing Alliance

MISSION: We are an alliance of manufacturers dedicated to strengthening manufacturing in the Big Country, and to serving those who work with us and the communities in which we live. We operate by collaborating with each other, and by strategically partnering with the school districts, colleges, universities, workforce and economic development, and governmental organizations to advance high quality manufacturing in our region.

AREA SERVED:

Knox, Kent, Stonewall, Hasekll, Throckmorton, Scurry, Fisher, Jones, Shackelford, Stephens, Mitchell, Nolan, Taylor, Callahan, Eastland, Runnels, Coleman, Brown, and Comanche Counties

TARGET POPULATION: High school students, College student, Adults with some postsecondary education but no credential, Adults with no postsecondary education experience

SERVICES: BCMA supports the growth and stability of manufacturing in the Big Country through business to business connections and business to education connections. This involves many efforts, including a focused effort to increase awareness of manufacturing careers among students.

PARTNERS: Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas, Region 14 Education Service Center, Sweetwater Enterprise for Economic Development, Abilene Industrial Foundation, and many local manufacturers, community colleges, and school districts

ORIGIN STORY: The BCMA was started in 2017 as an industry sector partnership when Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas and other economic development stakeholders realized a need to support the manufacturing industry in our region. Today the BCMA is governed by its own board of directors. Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas is the backbone organization for the BCMA, providing meeting space and staff support. The tremendous support of all the partners make the work of the BCMA possible. It is truly a team effort by so many partners engaged in the work.

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Big Country Manufacturing Alliance - continued

BRAGGING RIGHTS: Our efforts to create awareness of manufacturing careers have resulted in hundreds of students attending manufacturing facility tours throughout the year. In 2020 we held our first ever Manufacturing Day event. This year, in 2021, we are holding our second ever Manufacturing Day. We have over 300 students registered to attend facility tours. We will also have a professional seminar in the afternoon which will bring together partners from all sectors including manufacturers, education leadership, economic development, workforce development, elected officials, and community leaders. The seminar will feature speakers and panelists representing the diversity of careers in manufacturing and will have a live stream link so students across the region can tune in. We are also very proud to be one of four partnerships selected for the Advance Together grant which will increase and accelerate our ability to work toward alignment between the needs of industry and the education that is provided in our region.

IMPACT STORY: The BCMA awarded two scholarships this year. This is the first year the scholarships have been available. One student was a high school senior when he won the scholarship. He has since transitioned to technical school to pursue welding. One of our BCMA member companies is located in the same town where the scholarship recipient is attending school. The employer and the scholarship recipient have been able to connect. The employer provided a facility tour for the scholarship recipient and discussed challenges the student will face during his education. An informal mentorship has begun which no doubt will increase the student's chance of success throughout his education and ultimately in his transition into his career.

More Information: Visit bcmatexas.org

Brazos Valley Teach

MISSION: To equip the next generation of PreK through middle-grade teachers in the Brazos Valley with the guidance, resources, and support to become college and career ready.

AREA SERVED:
Bryan ISD, Caldwell ISD,
Hearne ISD

TARGET POPULATION: High school students

SERVICES: BVTeach provides guidance and leverages resources and support for students to become college and career ready. BVTeach students are provided an affordable pathway to earning a Texas A&M education degree. They receive financial literacy training, peer mentors, and access to paid summer externships. Through the BVT Education Academy, students are given the opportunity to join a community of education peers and grow both academically and professionally.

PARTNERS: Greater Texas Foundation, Blinn College, Texas A&M University

BRAGGING RIGHTS: Within our program, students receive guidance, resources, and support in the form of dual credit, education courses, externships, and co-enrollment options at Blinn and Texas A&M University.

IMPACT STORY: We do not have student impact stories yet because we are preparing to launch our first cohort of BVTeach students. We hope to get our first cohort this semester!

More Information: Visit joinbvt.org

Collegiate Edu-Nation: A P-20 System Model for Rural Student Success

MISSION: To assist small and rural districts with Tri-Agency Alignment leading to post-secondary credential attainment. The CEN Model supports districts in obtaining 100% students earning college degrees (indicating college readiness), workforce certifications (indicating workforce readiness), and student research skills (indicating life readiness).

AREA SERVED: Roscoe, Hamlin, Throckmorton, Cumby, Floydada, Lytle, Sunray & Iraan ISDs currently, with Venus, Bellville, Spurger, and Freer ISDs joining this network of high performing rural districts next year. Our goal is to establish 12 regional models in Texas by 2023 and scale to 300 rural schools in Texas by 2030.

TARGET POPULATION: High school students, Youth who have dropped out of high school, College students, Adults with some postsecondary education but no credential, Adults with no postsecondary education experience

SERVICES: CEN supports small and rural districts with elevating post-secondary credential attainment from the average of 13% to 100%.

PARTNERS: Texas Education Agency, Educate Texas, Texas A&M University, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Texas Tech University, Angelo State University, West Texas A&M University, Western Texas College

ORIGIN STORY: The CEN Model began in Roscoe Collegiate ISD in 2008 when we became the first rural school-wide Early College High School in Texas. In 2012, RCISD became the first rural school-wide STEM Academy in 2012, which became the first rural PTECH Academy in 2017.

BRAGGING RIGHTS: Roscoe Collegiate ISD became the first rural early college in which over 90% of graduates earned an associate degree prior to graduating from high school in 2015.

IMPACT STORY: Recently 7 students who graduated from RCHS with associate degrees from WTC in 2019 went on to graduate from West Texas A&M University with bachelor's degrees. Their average age was 20, student debt was \$0, and GPA exceeded the average WT graduate's GPA.

More Information: Visit edu-nation.org

Deep East Texas College and Career Alliance

MISSION: It is the mission of the Deep East Texas College & Career Alliance that within four years, students will complete an individual learning path demonstrating commitment to self, peers and community, graduating with up to 60 hours toward an associate's degree, Institutional Award, or Level I certificate to be prepared for and admitted to a bachelor's degree program or enter the workforce.

AREA SERVED:
Burkeville ISD, Spurger ISD, Newton ISD, Woodville ISD, Kirbyville ISD, and Jasper ISD

TARGET POPULATION: High school students, Youth who have dropped out of high school, College students, Adults with some postsecondary education but no credential, Adults with no postsecondary education experience

SERVICES: DETCCA supports six small school districts to collaboratively provide high school students with student success services including advising, counseling, workforce career development, technology resources, and dual credit college opportunities leading to labor market-valued credentials.

PARTNERS: Jasper Economic Development Cooperation, Lamar Institute of Technology, Stephen F. Austin University

ORIGIN STORY: In 2018, in an isolated region of rural East Texas, students were offered few dual credit courses options, the courses weren't aligned to credentialing or workforce pathways, and, as a result, few students were enrolled. The superintendent of Jasper ISD called a meeting of nine local school districts in the region to discuss the possibility of collaborating to provide high school students carefully selected career pathways aligned to regional jobs. Several months of planning resulted in six school districts developing and signing Memoranda of Understanding to form DETCCA in 2019.

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Deep East Texas College and Career Alliance - continued

Recent East Texas labor market analyses indicate that the share of high-skill, high-wage jobs is trending upward. These types of jobs require postsecondary credentials—education beyond high school. DETCCA is working to develop career paths that lead to postsecondary credentials that specifically align to the jobs in the region. With only one out of five eighth graders in the rural region of East Texas going on to complete any degree or certificate within six years of high school graduation, DETCCA is working to turn that trend upward and improve postsecondary credentials that provide job opportunities for young people.

The leaders of the Alliance have created this collaboration to serve over 7,000 students in Deep East Texas to meaningfully increase college and career educational opportunities. High school students can earn college credits and stackable certifications that provide college-level career and technical education and general education college courses.

BRAGGING RIGHTS: Expansion of the program through the support of new partners, local community, and businesses is a point of pride. Three years in, the DETCCA pilot program has been a significant success: pathways to high-demand, high-wage careers have been developed and launched, dual credit participation has surged, the collaborative platform has attracted new investments and partnerships, and rural students have more opportunities to thrive. In 2021, there are several new opportunities to build on the success of the DETCCA platform, including strengthening the school to workforce preparation alignment, expanding services for opportunity youth with the Aspen Institute and Jobs for the Future, and participating in the Advance Together initiative through the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

IMPACT STORY: In moving to small-town Jasper from the suburbs of Cypress, Zavion was nervous about missing out on college courses and his advanced computer science classes. DETCCA presented him with an opportunity to study cyber security through Lamar Institute of Technology as a sophomore. At the end of his junior year, he earned his certificate and was proud to say he graduated from college before high school. In his senior year, he is enrolled at Stephen F. Austin and LIT through DETCCA for basic courses. Zavion has received internship offers in cyber security since graduation.

More Information: Visit detcca.com and find DETCCA on YouTube

Empower Schools

MISSION: We catalyze innovative solutions so students and communities thrive. We believe that the public education system should work for all students. We envision a country where every student – especially those in underserved communities – has the opportunity to succeed in school and life. We partner with educators and communities to reimagine local education systems towards more equitable life outcomes for all students.

AREA SERVED:

Empower Schools is a national nonprofit serving public school systems across the country. Our deepest partnerships are here in Texas, with impact in each region of the state.

TARGET POPULATION: High school students

SERVICES: Strategic planning, project management, technical assistance for planning and implementation of collaboratives, development of performance contracts/MOUs, governance support, fundraising and financial planning support, and more.

PARTNERS: Empower Schools partners with school districts, institutions of higher education, employer and workforce partners, the Texas Education Agency, and local community groups to design context-appropriate collaboratives that meet local needs.

ORIGIN STORY: Empower Schools is honored to serve as a founding partner supporting the development of the Rural Schools Innovation Zone, a successful rural high school collaborative in South Texas improving postsecondary outcomes across Brooks County ISD, Premont ISD, and Freer ISD. From this work since 2018, we have developed a partnership with the Texas Education Agency to support the creation and success of additional regional collaboratives across the state.

BRAGGING RIGHTS: Supporting the development of the Rural Schools Innovation Zone; partnering with the Texas Education Agency to launch the Rural Collaboration Toolkit

More Information: Visit empowerschools.org or contact Brett Alessi at brett@empowerschools.org. Our new Rural Collaboration Toolkit is available here: empowerschools.org/resources/rural-collaboration-toolkit

No Limits No Excuses

MISSION: To increase educational attainment and skills leading to careers which improve the quality of life of all Texas Panhandle Residents.

AREA SERVED:
TEA Region 16 (26 counties in the Texas Panhandle)

TARGET POPULATION: NLNE targets leadership of the entities which target: High School Students, Youth who have dropped out of high school, College students, Adults with some postsecondary education but no credential, Adults with no postsecondary education experience

SERVICES: NLNE seeks to be a neutral convener facilitating collaboration between cross-sector partners in the Panhandle to build pathways, alignments, and systems to empower our residents to meet their career potential. No direct services are provided.

PARTNERS: Amarillo College, Amarillo ISD, Amarillo Economic Development Corporation, Workforce Solutions Panhandle, West Texas A&M University, Pantex, BSA, United Way, Canyon ISD, Region 16 ESC, Education Credit Union

ORIGIN STORY: NLNE began 10 years ago with a Partners for Post-Secondary Success grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation with a mission of developing career pathways for economically disadvantaged youth to ultimately reduce the poverty rate in the Amarillo Area.

BRAGGING RIGHTS: Many of the initiatives that have led our partner, Amarillo College, to be named one of the top five community colleges in the nation by the Aspen Foundation, originated with or were empowered by this collaborative.

More Information: Contact Kimberly Anderson at kimberly@aaf-hf.org

Northeast Texas Career and Technology Education Center

MISSION: To provide the opportunity for students from small rural schools an opportunity to earn dual credit and CTE credit from Kilgore College (and others) as well as earning industry certifications while still in high school.

AREA SERVED:
Overton ISD, Arp ISD, West Rusk CCISD, Carlisle ISD
Leverett's Chapel ISD

TARGET POPULATION: High school students

SERVICES: NETCTEC offers academic dual credit (in person), college/career counseling, CTE dual credit, and industry certifications.

PARTNERS: Kilgore College, University of Texas at Austin, Georgetown Healthcare Foundation, University of Texas at Tyler, East Texas Builders Association

ORIGIN STORY: The 5 superintendents in the schools involved met to begin discussions on improving our CTE offerings. We discovered that Georgetown Health Foundation had a building that was available and we met with Sam Schultz of Georgetown Health and began the process. The planning started five years ago, and we are in our third year in the building. The school districts involved have shared the costs of this adventure and there have been nothing but positive meetings as we learn on the go about how best to serve our students.

BRAGGING RIGHTS: We are offering dual credit academic and CTE courses at no cost to our students. The number of students taking advantage of the NETCTEC offerings has increased yearly.

IMPACT STORY: We have a number of students who would not have begun their college courses because of financial issues but offering free college classes at the Center enabled them to get started.

More Information: Contact Stephen Dubose at stephen.dubose@overtonisd.org or 903-834-6145

Ram Ready: Engineering

MISSION: To recruit and enroll community college students interested in pursuing engineering undergraduate degrees in civil and mechanical engineering.

AREA SERVED:
Concho Valley and surrounding area

TARGET POPULATION: College students

SERVICES: Ram Ready coordinates dual enrollment at community college and Angelo State, including financial aid consortiums and online and in-person curriculum and co-curricular activities.

PARTNERS: Howard College, Cisco College

ORIGIN STORY: As a result of our Department of Education HSI grant, we have established the partnership to provide outreach to community college students attending institutions that do not offer lower-level engineering courses. We began engaging various partners at prospective institutions in 2020. Our admissions office helped us to establish initial partnerships with institutions. The model follows one similar to Texas A&M's Academy.

BRAGGING RIGHTS: We are still in the building phase, but I am excited about the opportunity this can provide to students who wish to pursue engineering.

More Information: Contact Andrea Robledo at andrea.robledo@angelo.edu

rootEd Alliance of West Central Texas

MISSION: To support the growth of a healthy and robust regional economy by developing high-quality career pathways that improve alignment from K-12 to post-secondary and onward into the workforce.

AREA SERVED:

Region 9 Workforce
Development Board (19 counties
in West Central Texas)

TARGET POPULATION: High school students, College students

SERVICES: Embedded college and career advisors in 10 rural high schools; Rural Partnerships Coordinator to support work-based learning in our rural communities; postsecondary persistence advisors

PARTNERS: Region 14 ESC, Big Country Manufacturing Alliance, rootEd Alliance, local community/technical colleges, economic development organizations, community organizations

ORIGIN STORY: We began when we received the rootEd alliance grant in the summer of 2020. Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas has been working in the K-12 space and developing career awareness/exploration supports since 2010. Supporting rural youth in their postsecondary plans toward a successful career was the logical next step. With the support of many partners from industry, postsecondary education, and economic development, we were able to align our goals and establish a successful collaborative.

BRAGGING RIGHTS: We grew the program from 5 to 10 schools in the midst of a pandemic! We have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from students and parents about the impact of Youth Success Advisors.

IMPACT STORY: Removing barriers is a central component of embedded advising. One student was afraid to share with adults that they were an undocumented student. They had the desire to pursue a post-secondary education but did not know if that would be possible due to their current citizenship status. With time, their advisor gained their trust and informed them of financial aid options and which schools would be a best fit for them. The advisor even celebrated with the student when they received the news that their application for citizenship had been approved. At the end of the semester, the student left the advisor this note: "I know this is your job, but I am grateful to know you helped me when you did. Being able to know what I want my life to be was because of your help. I am very excited to see what my future holds. Before you came, I wouldn't have thought college was even an option with my situation."

More Information: Contact Amelia Reeves at amelia.reeves@workforcesystem.org

Rural College Promise

MISSION: To build rural regional ecosystems that make economic mobility “possible,” focusing on college and career readiness, college enrollment and retention, and living wage workforce entry with equity aligned to the regional workforce. The Rural College Promise of a Good Rural Job!

AREA SERVED:
North Central Texas College,
Grayson College, and Tyler
Junior College Service Areas

TARGET POPULATION: High school students, Youth who have dropped out of high school, College students

SERVICES: Regional Talent Strategy, Technology Development

PARTNERS: Economic Mobility Systems at the Commit Partnership, North Central Texas College, Grayson College, Tyler Junior College, Rural Community College Alliance, National College Promise Campaign, Phi Theta Kappa, and 60 rural school districts

BRAGGING RIGHTS: We designed a Year One strategy that includes ALL students in an affordable college pathway to a good rural job to launch the Texoma Promise and Red River Promise, and to build on the Tyler Junior College Promise this year to increase financial aid completion and college enrollment.

IMPACT STORY: We just received a grant from Greater Texas Foundation in June of 2021. We will have a lot of powerful student stories in the future.

More Information: economicmobilitysystems.org

Rural Resilience and Opportunity on the High Plains

MISSION: West Texas A&M University's Rural Resilience and Opportunity on the High Plains AmeriCorps program (WTAMU R2OHP) is a state and regional collaboration that aims to close gaps in access to opportunity. We serve in under-resourced and rural communities across the Texas Panhandle; building the capacity of organizations striving to meet community needs; improving access to and attainment of post-secondary training, education, and skills building; and connecting economic opportunities. Our mission is to augment existing systems and help in building a more supportive, resilient, inclusive, and equitable environment through opportunity, engagement, and investment where all people thrive in sustainable careers and communities.

AREA SERVED:

The upper 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle

TARGET POPULATION: High school students, College students, Adults with some postsecondary education but no credential, Adults with no postsecondary education experience

SERVICES: Provided: Academic Coaching, mentoring and college and career guidance for high school students; mentoring and success coaching for post-secondary students; GED support; capacity building activities; community service

PARTNERS: Frank Phillips College, Amarillo College, Clarendon College, No Limits No Excuses-AAF, Guyon Saunders Resource Center, Region 16 school districts, and more

More Information: wtamu.edu/americorps

Rural Schools Innovation Zone

MISSION: Our mission is to provide rural school students high-quality opportunities for postsecondary success.

AREA SERVED:
Premont ISD (Premont, TX), Freer ISD (Freer, TX), and Brooks County ISD (Falfurrias, TX)

TARGET POPULATION: High school students

SERVICES: RSIZ supports its campuses in core academics and college and career opportunities, facilitates student participation in career academies across the districts, and supports expansion of college and career opportunities through existing and new academies.

PARTNERS: Premont ISD, Freer ISD, Brook County ISD, Coastal Bend Community College, Del Mar Community College, Texas A&M Kingsville

ORIGIN STORY: Formed in 2019, the RSIZ was launched as a collaborative partnership between three independent school districts (ISDs): Freer ISD, Premont ISD, and Brooks County ISD. The impetus for the RSIZ began with an informal partnership between Premont ISD and Freer ISD superintendents where Premont would send students to Freer to participate in the Next Generation Medical Academy, where students were able to take courses towards earning health sciences certifications, and Premont would help subsidize some of those staff expenses. Through this initial partnership, it became clear that this type of collaborative work could help to expand opportunities for rural students, so Premont ISD applied to TEA for a School Redesign Grant. The initiative was awarded a \$1.5 million grant with the plan to partner with a managing entity to provide the district's high school students with expanded opportunities. These resources helped to enable the formation of a new, dedicated, nonprofit entity: the Rural Schools Innovation Zone. The superintendents of the three RSIZ districts—Dr. Maria Casas of Brooks County ISD, Conrad Cantu of Freer ISD, and Steve VanMatre of Premont ISD—were key champions of the work, sharing an innovative vision of how opportunities can expand across the region through collaboration. The three superintendents, in a co-written piece in the 74 Million, write that, "We've come together to provide our students with a multitude of options they would not receive in their respective districts. What we cannot do alone, we can certainly do together. Through the creation of the Rural Schools Innovation Zone, students will have the opportunity to choose from various postsecondary pathways. Brooks County, Freer, and Premont independent school districts are collaborating because we know we're stronger together, and our students deserve every opportunity for success."

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Rural Schools Innovation Zone - continued

BRAGGING RIGHTS: Early results from the RSIZ show promising data regarding student outcomes as compared to state and regional peers. 2019–2020 accountability data shows: 78.6% of RSIZ students completed a dual credit course, compared to 62% of students in the region and 65.8% of students across the state. RSIZ students had a higher graduation rate than the state or region, with 96.7% of students graduating in four years. SIZ students outpaced the state and region in College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) outcomes and producing College Ready students as evidenced by Texas Success Initiative (TSI) scores. Additionally, over 40% of students across the three districts participate in and take advantage of the academy offerings. In 2019-2020, students earned over 400 certifications!

IMPACT STORY: “My dad was a welder and my grandpa was a welder and I saw them doing it and I really liked it and I just wanted to pursue it. When I graduate from high school I’m going to head to Houston to the Tulsa Welding School, a very well-known trade school. The IGNITE program that y’all have put into school has actually helped me a lot because the Tulsa Welding program I’m going to is a 9-month school but I have been able to cut that 9 months down to 5 months because of all the certificates I’ve been getting here and that gives me the opportunity to start my career sooner.” — Brooks County ISD Student

More Information: Visit thersiz.org, contact Mike Gonzalez at mgonzalez@ruralschoolsinnovationzone.org, or view a video about RSIZ here: vimeo.com/580789535

Rural Student Success Initiative

MISSION: To increase the number of rural students enrolling in and completing a postsecondary certificate or degree program.

AREA SERVED:
Angelina, Bee, Cameron, Fannin, Jasper, Nolan, San Augustine, Trinity, Zavala, Colorado, Fayette, Kleberg, Willacy, Duval, Tyler, Jones, Hopkins, Floyd, and Throckmorton Counties

TARGET POPULATION: High school students, College Students

SERVICES: RSSI provides technical assistance to 21 school districts to build a customized, data-driven, and culturally-relevant college access implementation plan. Additionally, RSSI specialists deliver professional development and design curriculum for school counselor staff in an effort to build their capacity for serving students and families needing assistance with the college admissions and financial aid processes.

PARTNERS: Presently two of our integral partners are the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and Texas Rural Leadership Program

ORIGIN STORY: With leadership from the Texas A&M Foundation, and support from Greater Texas Foundation and T.L.L. Temple Foundation, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service launched the project in eleven Texas counties in Fall 2018. To date, we have scaled the project to support 21 school districts spanning across 19 counties.

BRAGGING RIGHTS: We are most proud of how RSSI has inspired other land-grant institutions outside of Texas to leverage their existing county extension platforms to reach students and families in rural regions.

IMPACT STORY: Like many of the other RSSI districts, prior to its participation in RSSI, Apple Springs ISD would only occasionally conduct college tours and they were trips that were restricted to nearby institutions like Angelina College. With RSSI support and leadership from the local county extension agent, Katherine, Layla, and Ethan were among the students who went on a college tour to Texarkana to tour Texas A&M Texarkana's campus. The tour inspired these students to apply to college. Notably Ethan, a first-generation college-goer, received a full ride scholarship to TAMU Texarkana and is now in his first year in college!

More Information: Visit rsi.tamu.edu

Texas Impact Network Rural CCMR Accelerator

MISSION: The Texas Impact Network supports pioneering school systems to develop, implement, and evaluate the evidence-based strategies funded through the passage of HB 3. The Network works with regional and statewide partners to create proof points and blueprints for success and facilitates a network of peers sharing their best practices and strategies for assisting school systems in realizing the potential of HB 3's core innovations. The Rural CCMR Accelerator has a laser-focus on supporting districts in developing a strong strategy and plan to bring additional funding for new CCMR supports in perpetuity.

AREA SERVED:
Seventeen rural Texas districts served spanning West Texas, Central Texas, the Panhandle, and the Rio Grande Valley

TARGET POPULATION: Rural Texas school districts

SERVICES: School systems selected to participate in the Rural CCMR Accelerator Program participate in an 18-month experience that includes technical assistance experts with experience in supporting the improvement of CCMR outcomes in rural school systems, as well as pre-vetted and procured additional supports targeting TSI-readiness, college enrollment, and career credential attainment.

PARTNERS: rootEd Alliance, MAYA Consulting, and ContigoEd

ORIGIN STORY: Rural school systems have the passion and dedication, but not always the resources, to improve college, career, and military-readiness outcomes and successful postsecondary transitions for their high school students. For this reason, the Texas Impact Network, a joint initiative of the Commit Partnership and Educate Texas, launched the Rural CCMR Accelerator Program in 2020 to extend expert coaching and student support services to select rural Texas school systems and building a network of rural school systems focused on common goals.

BRAGGING RIGHTS: The first cohort of Rural CCMR Accelerator districts are in their implementation year in 2021-2022 and all districts have implemented specific strategies to improve TSI-readiness, college enrollment, and career credential attainment and we look forward to reporting on their improved outcomes. The application for the second cohort went live on November 11 and 20 new districts will be selected by the end of January 2022.

IMPACT STORY: Cohort 1 districts are monitoring and reporting quarterly on a set of indicators during this inaugural cycle of the Rural CCMR Accelerator. Forty-three districts applied for the first cohort.

More Information: texasimpactnetwork.org/rural-ccmr-accelerator

Work4College Program

MISSION: The purpose of the NTCC Work4College Program is to help students earn their degree with two goals in mind: 1. To give every student the opportunity to attend college without acquiring debt. 2. To provide a hands-on learning experience in a meaningful work area allowing students to earn while they learn.

AREA SERVED:

Rural Northeast Texas, including Titus, Camp, Morris, Franklin, Upshur, Cass, Wood, and other Northeast Texas counties

TARGET POPULATION: High school students, College students, Adults with some postsecondary education but no credential, Adults with no postsecondary education experience, Youth who have dropped out of high school, Open to anyone above the age of 16

SERVICES: Learning to work, learning to serve your community, learning life skills, earning money for college

PARTNERS: Chapel Hill Independent School District, Winnsboro ISD, Harts Bluff Early College High School, and adding two more ISD's next summer

ORIGIN STORY: The Program started in 2014. The Texas Pioneer Foundation has provided Capacity Building grants for the program since the second year. Greater Texas Foundation provided a grant allowing the program to hire a full-time coordinator.

BRAGGING RIGHTS: 95% of the eligible W4C students have taken classes after participating in the program. 88% of W4C students remain debt-free!

IMPACT STORY: 30% of W4C are currently attending NTCC, 27% percent are still in high school/dual credit, 25% have graduated NTCC, and 14% are in the workforce.

More Information: Visit work4college.com or ntcc.edu/work4college



GREATER TEXAS FOUNDATION

For questions about the event, please contact [Allison Pennington](#)