

NEWS RELEASE
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AVID Center – Rice University College Readiness Institute Ten Houston-area districts benefit from engaging teaching strategies

SAN DIEGO – Participants from ten Houston-area school districts were highly engaged at the inaugural AVID Center and Rice University College Readiness Institute (CRI) held on the Rice campus this summer. The Institute, funded by the Houston Endowment, is one aspect of the partnership between AVID Center and Rice University, which is focused on supporting participating school districts to improve the enrollment, instruction, and performance in Advanced Placement® (AP®) and Pre-AP courses.

Data shows that students taking AP courses in high school graduate from college at a higher rate than students who have not had AP experience. Seeking to narrow the gap in enrollment between student groups in Pre-AP and/or AP courses on the designated campuses and ultimately on AP exam scores, the Institute provided professional development for 6th through 12th grade educators that was designed to integrate proven AVID instructional strategies and AP/Pre-AP content. The four-day Institute hosted more than 100 AP and Pre-AP teachers, where training focused on AP course content and the teaching methods necessary to scaffold instruction at various grade levels to help students learn the content and be successful on the AP exams. Content areas included ELA Language and Literature, U.S. History, Life Science, and Pre-AP Math.

Teachers praised the Institute, writing, “This Institute was AMAZING! The resources are incredibly useful to increase the level of RIGOR in my classroom and district. This in turn will increase the level of comprehension the students gain. Definite strategies to move towards more student-focused and away from teacher-focused sessions. Five stars and two thumbs-up. Exceeded my expectations!” “The benefits of this training...collaboration with teachers from different districts and levels, easy-to-follow format, given increasing rigor when developing lessons, given many strategies to help students understand content at a deeper level, very kid- and teacher-friendly strategies.” “The Institute really helped me define what rigor means in my classroom.”

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About AVID

AVID is a non-profit, proven college readiness system that closes the achievement gap. Today, AVID is implemented in more than 4,900 schools in 45 states and 16 countries/territories. AVID impacts more than 700,000 students in grades K–12, as well as students in 28 postsecondary institutions. The AVID College Readiness System transforms a school’s academic culture to increase the number of students who enroll in four-year colleges and succeed in higher education and training.