



Advancement Via Individual Determination

NEWS RELEASE

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AVID Center

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Students' Need for College and Career Readiness Met Through AVID Training of Future Teachers

Teacher Candidates Benefit from AVID's Teacher Preparation Initiative

SAN DIEGO—Partnering with teacher education programs at both UT Arlington and UT Permian Basin, more than 600 professors, teacher candidates, and local school district personnel have piloted the AVID *for* Higher Education Teacher Preparation Initiative (TPI) since 2011. The purpose of the initiative, which received funding from The Meadows Foundation (Dallas, TX) and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), is to ultimately impact teacher candidates as they enter their classrooms and begin supporting a college-going student culture. Results for this initiative, which is in its third year of development, show progress toward the preparation of educators to work with diverse student populations to enable their students' success in college and beyond.

Since August 2013, more than 100 course sections at UT Arlington and UT Permian Basin, the initial pilot schools, have embedded AVID methodologies and strategies in their teacher preparation courses, and all education courses at UT Permian Basin embedded AVID in their curriculum. Three additional universities implemented AVID's Teacher Preparation Initiative in the academic year of 2012–2013, bringing the total impact of the work stemming from the grant from The Meadows Foundation and THECB to 1,466 teacher candidates involved in 95 AVID-infused teacher preparation courses.

AVID's development of TPI evolved from two fundamental problems plaguing the Texas public education system. First, is an undersupply of well-prepared teachers to serve the state's ever-growing, ever-diversifying student population. Second, is the disconnect between current teaching practices and the immediate need to effectively prepare students for college and career readiness. Cultivating and sustaining a quality teacher workforce is imperative for achieving the state's educational and economic objectives as addressed in THECB's "Closing the Gaps—The Texas Higher Education Plan."

Beth Parker, TPI project manager for AVID, states, "It has been an incredible experience to hear the teacher candidates share how excited they are to be learning and practicing the AVID methodologies and strategies in their education courses. These future teachers feel strongly that these skills will enable them to effectively teach a broad spectrum of students to be college ready."

Teacher candidates participating in TPI at UT Permian Basin see the immediate and long-term benefit of such training which infuses AVID methodologies and strategies into their courses. One candidate adds, "I have learned many new concepts to take into the classroom . . . I have always been quick to just give the students the answer; it is important to ask questions to get them thinking and problem solving on their own."

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TPI is being developed through a three-year grant, with The Meadows Foundation committing more than \$800,000 to support the partnership of AVID Center with teacher education programs at the campuses of UT Arlington and UT Permian Basin. Seed funding of approximately \$100,000 was also provided by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for this initiative at both campuses. To date, TPI has expanded to a total of nine university campuses in Texas, Minnesota, and California.

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About AVID

AVID is a global, non-profit, proven college readiness system that closes the achievement gap "by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society." Today, AVID is implemented in approximately 4,900 schools in 45 states, the District of Columbia, and 16 countries/territories and impacts more than 700,000 students in K-12 and in 41 higher education institutions. The AVID *for* Higher Education Teacher Preparation Initiative (TPI) infuses AVID frameworks, methodologies, and strategies into college of education programs.

For more information, visit www.avid.org.