



NEWS RELEASE

Thursday, April 15, 2010

CONTACT: Liz Morse
AVID Center
(214) 718-8380
lmorse@avidcenter.org

AVID Center, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) announce selection of colleges and universities to pilot four-year AVID Postsecondary initiative

Program will increase college graduation rates

DALLAS, TEXAS – AVID Center, in partnership with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, is pleased to announce that the following colleges and universities have been selected to pilot the AVID Postsecondary System beginning next fall:

Central Texas College
Southwest Texas Junior College
Texas A&M-Commerce
Texas A&M-Kingsville
Texas State Technical College-Harlingen
University of Houston-Downtown
University of Texas-Pan American
University of Texas of the Permian Basin

AVID Postsecondary (APS) is a part of the AVID College Readiness System for grades 4-16 designed to increase student persistence and completion rates in postsecondary institutions. This four-year project will provide a full range of academic support services using AVID strategies for first-time, underprepared college students. These services include the AVID Freshman Experience course, tutorials, faculty development and student counseling. The selected institutions will begin by planning a year-long AVID course for freshmen students that will

- Reduce the barriers that traditionally limit levels of academic achievement
- Provide academic and advising support
- Develop skills needed for academic success, persistence and degree completion

The University of Texas of the Permian Basin will continue their implementation of AVID Postsecondary from the 2009-2010 year. Last fall, UTPB president Dr. David Watt reported to the THECB about their AVID program stating, "I think AVID is one of the ways we can take students where we find them and bring them to where they need to be."

Lanita Akins, a UTPB AVID-trained Freshman Seminar instructor, agreed. "They come here without all of the tools that they need for college. I truly believe that the AVID program can supply those tools to make them better students and to help them have successful lives."

AVID Center will work with THECB to collect data on these AVID postsecondary students over the four-year period to determine the effectiveness of the AVID program.

Jim Nelson, AVID's executive director said, "I think we can expect that our AVID Postsecondary program will be as successful as the AVID program in elementary, middle and high schools across the country. We teach students academic skills and give them the support that instills confidence to take and be successful in rigorous courses."

About the organization

AVID – Advancement Via Individual Determination

AVID is a 30 year-old, non-profit college readiness system preparing underserved (predominantly minority and economically disadvantaged) students for college. AVID Postsecondary (APS), the most recent addition to the AVID College Readiness System, was established to work with institutions of higher education to support students with the goal of increasing academic success, persistence, and completion rates.

The AVID College Readiness System works. Of the 2009 AVID high school graduates, 99.6 percent graduated from high school with 92 percent planning to attend college. Since 1990, more than 65,300 AVID students have graduated from high school and planned to attend college. Today, AVID's college readiness system is implemented in nearly 4,500 schools in 45 states, the District of Columbia and 16 countries/territories, and serves more than 400,000 students in grades 4-12. For more information, visit www.avid.org.

###