

*A*cademic *V*ertical *A*lignment *T*raining *A*nd *R*enewal

January 10, 2012

Dear ESC Core Group colleagues:

We have discussed how important it is for students to be college and career-ready and for students to succeed as they move from secondary to postsecondary education. The University of North Texas is working with Education Service Centers 10 and XI, along with Dallas and Fort Worth ISDs, Dallas County Community College District and Tarrant County College, and the North Texas Regional P-16 Council to design a curriculum alignment process and to implement up to 12 vertical alignment training programs across the state of Texas. This project is supported by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

We would like to invite you to participate with us in the statewide scale-up of this project called AVATAR: Academic Vertical Alignment Training And Renewal. The goals for AVATAR are:

- 1) to design scalable secondary and postsecondary training processes for vertical and horizontal curriculum alignment that support successful transition and completion by students preparing for postsecondary and careers and
- 2) to facilitate state-wide secondary and postsecondary faculty, administrators, and P-16 council leaders' work groups to conduct horizontal and vertical curriculum alignment among high school courses, higher education lower division course sections and between lower division course sequences in 2 year and 4 year higher education settings.

Our two pilot projects in the Dallas/Fort Worth regions have been meaningful to the participants and we believe you will find the same results. The pilots have also found AVATAR to be about creating a process of building relationships to further support seamless connections between secondary and postsecondary education processes.

Who?

An ESC would partner with local secondary and postsecondary education institutions, and their regional P-16 council. The curriculum alignment disciplines would be: Mathematics; English Language Arts; and/or Chemistry. An ESC leader with a background in secondary and postsecondary partnerships and curriculum will assume the coordinator role. Secondary and postsecondary faculty and administrators along with the regional P-16 council leader and ESC coordinator will become the team.

Partnership Teams must include: 1 ESC coordinator; 1 secondary teacher and 1 leader; 1 community college faculty member and 1 leader; 1 four-year institution of higher education faculty member and 1 leader; and 1 executive committee member from the regional P-16 council.

These partnerships and relationships are capacity building and will strengthen relationships between secondary, postsecondary, ESC, and P-16 councils.

Academic Vertical Alignment Training And Renewal

What?

Teams will be formed; convened; trained; and will then create sustained vertical and horizontal curriculum alignment initiatives in their regions to support students in meeting and exceeding the College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) in Mathematics, English/Language Arts, and/or Chemistry as well as the cross-disciplinary standards. Teams must agree to collect data to inform their practice and decision-making. This process will cultivate dialogue and relationships among secondary and postsecondary colleagues that is beneficial to strengthening understanding of scope and sequence of subject matter and cross-disciplinary standards to support student success.

When?

March 1, 2012 - 12 Teams selected and Partnership Agreements signed;

Spring 2012 - Teams convened;

Early summer 2012 - Teams trained (1 day training at ESC XI for all partners);

Mid-summer 2012 - Teams create action plans for implementation - August 1, 2012 - July 31, 2013;

August 1, 2012 – June 15, 2013 - Teams carry out their vertical and horizontal curriculum action plans with support from ESC Region XI, University of North Texas, and pilot partners. (Expectations are a minimum of 4 learning/sharing sessions in fall and 4 learning sessions in spring terms); and

June 15, 2013 - Teams' Reflections, Celebrations, and Next Steps (1 Day training for all partners)

How?

Each selected ESC will receive \$6,500 (to be used for participant stipends, room rental, working lunches, printing) to support teams. We realize this is a minimal amount of funding and that the financial support is not the reason for your support of this project. You will be provided training, training materials, technical assistance, on-going support, and on-site support, when needed, to successfully implement this curriculum alignment process in your region.

May we count on you to help students be college and career ready and to create effective approaches to curriculum alignment between and among secondary and postsecondary education, in your service area? If so, please participate in AVATAR. Please complete the attached form and return to Kathy Wright Chapman at ESC Region 11, 3001 North Freeway, Fort Worth, TX 76106.

If you have questions, please contact: Kathy Wright Chapman (kwc@esc11.net or 817-740-7546) or Jean Keller (jean.keller@unt.edu or 940-565-3427).

Best regards,

Francine Holland, Ph.D., Deputy Executive Director
ESC Region XI-Fort worth

Jean Keller, Ph.D., Coordinator
North Texas Regional P-16 Council
University of North Texas

Enclosure (AVATAR Expression of Interest)

*A*cademic *V*ertical *A*lignment *T*raining *A*nd *R*enewal

AVATAR (Academic Vertical Alignment Training And Renewal) Expression of Interest

Due to: Kathy Wright Chapman, ESC Region XI, Fax: (817) 740-3622 Email: kwc@esc11.net by:

February 10, 2012

Education Service Center ___Region 6_ is interested in participating in the the state-wide scale-up of AVATAR: Academic Vertical Alignment Training And Renewal. The goals for the AVATAR grant are:

- 1) to design scalable secondary and postsecondary training processes for vertical and horizontal curriculum alignment that support successful transition and completion for students preparing for postsecondary and careers and
- 2) to facilitate state-wide secondary and postsecondary faculty, administrators, and P-16 council leaders work groups to conduct horizontal and vertical curriculum alignment among high school courses, higher education lower division course sections and between lower division course sequences in 2- and 4 year higher education settings.

ESC Coordinator will be:

Name: Joe Martin

Address: _3332 Montgomery Road Huntsville TX

Phone: _____ 936-435-8302 _____ Fax: _____

Email: _JMartin@esc6.net_____

Disciplines for Curriculum Alignment will be: (check all that apply)

___X___ Mathematics ___X___ English Language Arts _____ Chemistry

Partners (name) will be:

School District (s) New Waverly and likely more, still trying to get confirmation _____

Two-Year Institution (s) of Higher Education: _____ Lone Star College (tentative)

Four-Year Institution(s) of Higher Education: Sam Houston State University

Regional P-16 Council (s): I am not sure at this time

Thank you for your interest.