

**REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE  
TASK FORCE ON  
U. T. SYSTEM/PUBLIC SCHOOL  
COLLABORATIONS**

**Presentation to The University of Texas System Board of Regents  
October 7, 1994**

*Amdeant @ 10/7/94 Board  
of Regents' meeting  
(William Murphy)*

## **BRIEF HISTORY**

### ● **DECEMBER, 1993 CONFERENCE**

**Purpose:** To bring a greater sense of awareness and direction to interactions between U. T. System component institutions and public schools.

**Participants:** More than 80 people from component institutions, public school sector and other educational interests and System Administration.

## ● **OUTCOMES OF THE DECEMBER CONFERENCE**

- **Identification of over 150 existing collaborative programs (estimated \$18 million annual expenditures)**
- **A later update in Spring 1994 expanded the list of current programs to over 200, with estimated expenditures of more than \$25 million annually**
- **Creation of network of people in similar programs and interests**
- **Stimulation of additional ideas for program and grant proposals**
- **Encouragement of on-going activities as public service**
- **Led to creation of Task Force**

## **EXAMPLES OF CURRENT COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES:**

- 1) Hispanic Mother-Daughter Program**  
(U. T. Austin; U. T. Dallas; U. T. El Paso; U. T. Pan American; and U. T. San Antonio)
  
- 2) Science Teacher Access to Resources at Southwestern (STARS)**  
(U. T. Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas)
  
- 3) Fundamental Skills Training Project**  
(U. T. San Antonio, U. S. Air Force, and San Antonio ISD)
  
- 4) University Outreach Centers**  
(U. T. Austin with Texas A&M University)

- 5) **School-based and/or School-linked Health Clinics**  
(U. T. Medical Branch at Galveston and U. T. El Paso)
  
- 6) **Texas Math and Science Hotline**  
(U. T. Health Science Center at San Antonio)
  
- 7) **Centers for Professional Development and Technology**  
(U. T. Arlington; U. T. Brownsville; U. T. El Paso; U. T. Permian Basin; and U. T. San Antonio)
  
- 8) **Reading Recovery**  
(U. T. Tyler)
  
- 9) **Pre-freshmen Engineering Program**  
(U. T. Brownsville; U. T. Permian Basin; U. T. Pan American; and U. T. San Antonio)

- 10) Minority High School Research Apprenticeship Program**  
(U. T. San Antonio; U. T. Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas;  
U. T. Medical Branch at Galveston; and U. T. Health Science Center at  
Houston)
  
- 11) Marine Education Services**  
(U. T. Marine Science Institute at Port Aransas)
  
- 12) High School Summer Program in Biomedical Sciences**  
(U. T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center)
  
- 13) Science Education**  
(U. T. Health Center at Tyler)

● **CHANCELLOR APPOINTED TASK FORCE**

*Charge: propose five to ten well-developed systemwide-statewide collaborative programs or activities*

**Underlying Assumption:**

*Develop and support programs that will improve the overall academic achievement of public school students*

**Participants:** *39 Member Task Force (with three subcommittees) representing all U. T. System component institutions, the elementary and secondary sector, and representatives of the U. T. System Student Advisory Group and the Faculty Advisory Council.*

**Task Force met five times in four months -- completed its work in April.**

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF PROPOSED INITIATIVES OF TASK FORCE**

1) **Support and train school professionals and community-based family service professionals using all appropriate university disciplines.**

- *Implement Centers for Professional Development and Technology systemwide.*
- *Establish The University of Texas Educational Leadership Institutes.*

2) Demonstrate tested concepts through model schools or programs (including academic, health care, and delivery of social services).

- *Establish model schools or programs that support a comprehensive set of collaborative efforts in the areas that have a proven successful impact on student learning.*
- *Promote increased U. T. System faculty involvement in collaborative curriculum development and related efforts.*
- *Create a campus-wide liaison function at each U. T. System component to coordinate collaborative efforts with public schools.*
- *Collaborate with other state agencies and entities, such as Texas Communities in Schools Program, to develop prototypes for coordinated delivery of school-based or school-linked health and human services to students and their families.*

3) Support students and their families in attaining educational success and pursuing career objectives (e.g., programs for at-risk students, bridging programs, retention programs).

- *Establish the "University Connection" as an initiative to increase the number of students from groups historically underrepresented in higher education who will be prepared to enter and succeed at Texas colleges and universities.*
- *Encourage and assist component institutions to work with elementary schools in their areas to establish "Reading: One-One" programs.*

In addition, the Task Force recommended that the U. T. System Administration should:

- *Work with each component institution to undertake a review of the incentive structure for higher education faculty who participate in collaborative efforts with the public schools.*
- *Strengthen the existing telecommunications networks with the public schools (THEnet and TENET) and create new consortium efforts to facilitate electronic information exchanges.*
- *Provide a coordination and communication function which would support collaborative efforts with the public schools.*

## ● **SUBSEQUENT ACTIVITIES**

### **Telecommunications:**

**Establish an ongoing connection between university and public school faculties by building on the existing backbone of THENet and TENET and to create a structure that would permit incorporation of new technologies as they develop.**

### **Suggested Activities:**

**Proposals included within the efforts of the U. T. System's Task Force on Telecommunications Legislative Initiatives.**

**Work with TENET and TEA to explore ways to enhance collaboration within existing resources.**

## **Centers for Professional Development and Technology:**

**Current U. T. System Centers: U. T. Arlington; U. T. Brownsville; U. T. El Paso; U. T. Permian Basin; and U. T. San Antonio.**

## **Suggested Activities:**

**Work with directors of Centers, other System colleges preparing teachers, and officials of State Board of Education and the Texas Education Agency, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and Legislative Budget Office to coordinate activities on a number of issues including continued expansion of the Centers and stable funding options. Inclusion of the health-related components within the model-training programs should also be examined.**

## **Enhancement of Health and Human Services in Schools:**

Several U. T. components are currently involved in school-related health and social services: U. T. El Paso, U. T. Medical Branch at Galveston, and U. T. Arlington.

Several U. T. System components are involved with Communities in Schools (CIS) which organizes coordinated delivery of community health and social services on school campuses for students and families in at-risk situations: U. T. Arlington; U. T. Pan American; U. T. Austin; U. T. San Antonio; U. T. El Paso; U. T. Medical Branch at Galveston; and U. T. Health Science Center at San Antonio.

## **Suggested Activities:**

Initiate discussions with the state director of the Communities in Schools program and chief administrative officers for increased collaboration opportunities.

Continue discussions with components, other state agencies, and study groups to determine appropriate role and activities for U. T. System components in school-related health and social services.

### **University Connection:**

Initiative to increase the number of students from groups historically underrepresented in higher education who will be prepared to enter and succeed in Texas colleges and universities.

### **Suggested Activities:**

Each component of the U. T. System should assess the need in their immediate service area for services designed to support students (middle and high school) and their families in attaining educational success and pursuing career objectives.

Each component should then evaluate its present programs which address these needs and propose, within the guidelines contained in the Task Force Report pertaining to the University Connection, and consider any additional programs for funding in a special item entitled "University Connection".

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3) Support students and their families in attaining educational success and pursuing career objectives (e.g., programs for at-risk students, bridging programs, retention programs).

- *Establish the "University Connection" as an initiative to increase the number of students from groups historically underrepresented in higher education who will be prepared to enter and succeed at Texas colleges and universities.*
- *Encourage and assist component institutions to work with elementary schools in their areas to establish "Reading: One-One" programs.*

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### **Suggested Activities:**

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## **Suggested Activities:**

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Continue discussions with components, other state agencies, and study groups to determine appropriate role and activities for U. T. System components in school-related health and social services.

## **Reading One-One:**

**Program is designed to improve the chance for student success in reading and thus decrease likelihood of these students dropping out of school.**

### **Suggested Activities:**

**Each component of the U. T. System should assess the opportunity within their immediate service area to collaborate with elementary schools, utilizing Chapter 1 funds as a method of financing, in implementing Reading: One-One programs.**

**U. T. Dallas should develop a special item request for funds (either by general revenue or special grants) to finance consultation and training services to be provided other U. T. System components as they prepare to develop their own, local, collaborative programs.**

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## **U. T. Educational Leadership Institutes:**

Proposal to develop institutes with tracks in leadership training, diversity training and in training for the use of community-based social and family service resources. Training programs would be provided for principals, teachers (new and experienced), social and support services personnel, superintendents, board members, other administrators and school volunteers.

### **Suggested Activities:**

Focus of the initial institute should be on principals. Preliminary discussions are underway with U. T. Austin's Colleges of Business and Education, the Dallas Independent School District, and others. U. T. Austin will convene a meeting of appropriate deans from throughout the institution to consider potential involvement.

Institutes should be multi-disciplinary; include all appropriate disciplines in the planning and/or implementation of the institutes; and, include appropriate involvement of all U. T. System component institutions.

## **Collaborative Contact Structure:**

**Task Force recognized the need for a central focus at each component for current and future model programs of collaboration with elementary and secondary public schools. This campus-wide liaison function would serve as an access point to the institution for public school faculty and others.**

## **Suggested Activities:**

**Each component president has been asked by the Chancellor to provide the name of a contact person to work on the university/public school project.**