

RAISING the Bar

Highlights and Happenings- October 2016



Welcome to second installment of our bi-annual **"RAISING the BAR"** newsletter. This newsletter is intended to keep you and important stakeholders abreast of the latest highlights and happenings for the **RAISE^{UP} Texas** expansion initiative. Based on the overwhelming success of the demonstration project and your generous support, **RAISE^{UP} Texas** is currently utilized by 14 Central Texas schools, directly reaching 28,000 students and training over 1,100 teachers in skills to enhance teaching and learning. Enjoy reading!

A Shared Vision for Growth and Transformation



In the 80 years since University Federal Credit Union was founded in 1936, they have emerged as a strong, financial cooperative dedicated to providing for the well-being of their Members in Central Texas and Galveston County. UFCU envisions a higher education community made strong through shared values and high-impact relationships. The UFCU vision reflects their roots as a credit union initially established to serve the faculty and staff at The University of Texas at Austin. Today they serve more than 200,000 members, including 14 higher education institutions and more than 200 community partners. That makes them a great partner for **RAISE^{UP} Texas**.

The UFCU vision is akin to that of **RAISE^{UP} Texas** : We work to transform middle school teaching and learning in the hope that tangible changes to the learning process will result in real, quantifiable changes for Texas students that will make them successful in college, career and life.

In late August, UFCU launched a back-to-school campaign in support of **RAISE^{UP} Texas**. Every time a UFCU member made a purchase with their UFCU credit or debit card, UFCU contributed \$.25, for a total of \$10,000 in donations. In turn, an anonymous donor to E3 Alliance made a matching donation for a total contribution of \$20,000 to **RAISE^{UP} Texas**. That's an excellent benchmark for what can be accomplished when individuals and communities come together to support our students.

These collaborative efforts will make a substantial difference in helping Texas students become college- and career-ready. And this partnership recognizes the importance of education, which is fundamental to the growth and well-being of the students and families in our vibrant Texas community. When individuals are strong, their community is even stronger. Together, UFCU and **RAISE^{UP} Texas** families are helping to build a community that provides opportunities for all to grow, learn and prosper.

RAISE^{UP} Texas Impact Continues to Spread!

In September, **RAISE^{UP} Texas** Program Director Matt Pope, E3 Alliance Director of Student Success Nichole Prescott, and Principal Valerie Torres-Solis of Paredes Middle School traveled to the STRIVE Network 2016 Cradle to Career Network Convening in Memphis, TN. Change champions and equity advocates from across the country gathered to discuss systems change in support of every student. Our Central Texas team offered their experience with the sustainable change model utilized in the **RAISE^{UP} Texas** initiative to improve school transformation beyond our region. **RAISE^{UP} Texas** continues to spread educational excellence for every child!



Matt, Valerie, and Nichole ready to share their expertise!

Martin Administrators with AISD Superintendent, Dr. Cruz.



Results are In!

After the first year of implementation, each campus in the **RAISE^{UP} Texas** project saw a positive impact on student outcomes. All schools **Met Standard** under the Texas accountability system, with AISD's Martin Middle School soaring far above their previous ranking of Improvement Required to achieve incredible results for the students they serve.

The eight schools in the **RAISE^{UP} Texas** project earned 12 state accountability Distinctions; including four campuses recognized for outstanding student progress. Perhaps the biggest winners last year were the struggling readers enrolled on each campus. Across the project, students identified as reading below grade level showed growth beyond nationally normed expectations after receiving specialized intervention, with many of these students passing state assessments for the first time!

RAISE^{UP} Texas continues to gain support from investors!

In December of 2015, E3 Alliance was awarded a \$200,000 matching grant by an anonymous family foundation to support the **RAISE^{UP} Texas** expansion. This grant was intended to help E3 Alliance increase development capacity while building a new base of individual and family investors to support **RAISE^{UP} Texas**. The last nine months have seen significant accomplishments in the E3 development infrastructure that will continue to reap benefits for **RAISE^{UP} Texas**. With just two months remaining, the E3 team is working aggressively to realize full benefit of this gift through widespread appeals, online investor campaigns, and visits to **RAISE^{UP} Texas** schools. Please consider doubling your investment by making a donation no later than **November 30th** at <http://e3alliance.org/get-involved/donate-now/>.



Want to join the party? Help celebrate E3 Alliance's 10th Anniversary on **November 15 @ 6:00pm** while enjoying food, drinks, great music and dancing! All sponsorships and tickets will support **RAISE^{UP} Texas**.

Get tickets and info here:

<http://e3alliance.org/geeks-in-boots/>

The **RAISE^{UP} Texas** initiative is led by E3 Alliance, an education collaborative that works to support schools across Central Texas. It uses the Strategic Instruction Model, which was developed by the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning. To learn more about the program, please visit the following websites:

<http://raiseuptexas.org/>

<http://kucrl.org/sim/>

<http://e3alliance.org/category/topic/initiative-raiseup-texas/>

