



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO June 2011 delegation report

1. BACKGROUND

The June delegation to UTEP comprised two focus areas:

- The High Level delegation introducing senior members of the VU community to UTEP
- The Focus on Faculty component designed to secure further faculty connections between VU and UTEP

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first part of the delegation arrived in El Paso on Wednesday 8 June and the program of presentations and working meetings was conducted over the following two days – 9 and 10 June.

The second group arrived into El Paso and worked with colleagues on developing faculty connections over the period 13 – 15 June.

The weekend which separated the two parts of the delegation was used as a handover between the groups and was also an opportunity to spend valuable social time with colleagues from both organisations building understanding of the culture and history of the El Paso and New Mexico region.

3. OUTCOMES OF THE 2011 VU DELEGATION TO UTEP

The VU staff participating in the June 2011 delegation:

- Professor Peter Dawkins, Vice Chancellor and President
- Dr Rob Brown, Pro Vice Chancellor Institutional Services
- Professor Greg Baxter, Pro Vice Chancellor Academics and Students
- Ms Susan Young, Executive Dean Victoria University College
- Ms Jacinta Richards, Head of School, Pathways and Transition, Victoria University College
- Dr Bronwyn Cran, Head of School, School of Communication and the Arts, Faculty of Arts, Education and Human Development
- Ms Deborah Tyler, Associate Dean International, Faculty of Arts, Education and Human Development
- Dr Carolyn Woodley, Senior Educational Developer, Centre for Work Integrated Learning and Teaching Unit, Faculty of Business and Law
- Mr John Weldon, Lecturer in Professional and Creative Writing, School of Communication and the Arts
- Ms Yolanda Evangelistis, Transition and Student Relationship Coordinator, Faculty of Health, Engineering and Science.

Please see Attachment 1 for delegates' bios.

The program for the delegation included:

- Presentations introducing UTEP including the data and programs underpinning the access and excellence agenda.
- Tours of the campus facilities including the Library conversion with enhanced use of technology and elite sports venues.
- Meetings with leaders, faculty members and students across the university highlighting the connections between VU and UTEP.
- Site visits to UTEP partners – El Paso Community College and two Early College High Schools.
- Working sessions to plan for the 2011-2012 Schedules of ongoing and new activities under the Memorandum of Understanding.
- Social and cultural events to provide a rich understanding of the UTEP environment

June 2011 Delegation Report

4. REPORT ON SCHEDULES – EXISTING AND NEW AS A RESULT OF THE DELEGATION

Schedule 2: Global Learning Communities 1301 (continuing)

Responsibility: (Susan Young, Dorothy Ward)

- Expand course offerings into other faculties/disciplines (Health Science 1301)
- Develop accountability/assessment plan to evaluation effectiveness and reach of program
- Engage senior-level academic leadership
- Identify resources and infrastructure needed to expand service delivery
- Develop layers of leadership to implement and supervise program (focus on sustainability and assessment)

Schedule 2a: Creative Writing Community of Practice (new)

Responsibility: (Bronwyn Cran, John Weldon, Ben Saenz)

- Develop the proposal based on a high-end creative magazine with both UTEP and VU students
- Consider ways of building links with EPCC and TAFE at VU
- Engage students as staff at VU and disseminate through UTEP and VU
- Link with Sunay Palsole to build the website

Schedule 4: Student Employment and Exchange (continuing)

Responsibility: (Gary Edens, Judie Kaye)

- Development assessment instrument
- Strategize about dissemination of findings
- Connect students into faculty pre arrival and at arrival
- Finalize the institutionalization of program efforts and activities
- Develop layers of leadership to implement and supervise program (focus on sustainability and assessment)
- Map curriculum from UTEP/VU to assist student mobility – commencing with social work and psychology.
- Investigate opportunities for graduate student exchanges. (internships)

Schedule 5: Student Leadership Experience (continuing)

Responsibility: (Gary Edens, Colin Macdonald)

- Develop layers of leadership to implement and supervise program (focus on sustainability)
- Continue collaboration between VU, UTEP and UM on student leadership assessment tools
- Implement student leadership conference between VU and UTEP (focus on student interaction and planning of conference)

Schedule 6: Flag and Follow (need to revise title and focus)

Responsibility: (Roy Mathew, Rob Brown, Steve Riter, Peter Dawkins)

- Link educational researchers, institutional researchers and computer science/data mining/cyber infrastructure personnel to develop research plan
- Finalize video conference of respective teams in October/November 2011
- Plan for 2012 forum (see 11)

Schedule 7a: Learning Commons/Library (continuing)

Responsibility: (Nancy Hill, Adrian Gallagher)

- Continue existing efforts per 2011 schedule

June 2011 Delegation Report

Schedule 7b (new): Learning Commons/University Revisualization (new)

Responsibility: (Robert Stakes, Ralph Kiel, Peter Dawkins, Yong Zhao)

- Re-visualize the University around Learning Common concept

Schedule 8: Business and Law Collaboration (continuing)

Responsibility: (Bob Nachtmann, David Lamond, Carolyn Woodley, Stephen Salter, Ray Zimmerman)

- Delivery of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) by VU to UTEP
- Explore Global Simulation possibilities
- Utilize CAPSIM in Global Business Environment/Strategic Management (student collaborations, online discussions, possible student exchange)
- Explore collaborations between marketing faculties (John Hadjimarcou, Robin Grambling)
- Explore collaborations between ethics faculties (Ray Zimmerman, Bob Nachtmann)
- Share professional development activities for faculty (Sunay Palsole, Carolyn Woodley)

Schedule 9a: Post Graduate Research Seminars (revised title)

Responsibility: (Kathy Curtis, Michelle Towstoless, Alan Hayes, Joao Pinto)

- Develop a plan/schedule for project
- Move to a research focus
- Develop layers of leadership to implement and supervise program (focus on sustainability and assessment)
- (Deb Tyler to brief Michelle and Alan)

Schedule 9b : Exercise Physiology/Kinesiology (on hold)

Kinesiology at UTEP is a growth area, with the search for a new Chair currently underway. With that position filled, a further four vacancies at UTEP will be advertised. These positions are expected to provide a closer alignment between the staffing profile and capacity of UTEP Kinesiology to contribute to the UTEP mission, and also to explore opportunities to collaborate with VU. Both programmes have a shared focus on 'special populations'. UTEP's 'Golden Age' health and fitness program is an excellent example of community engagement. Dr Sandor Dorgo has sought to extend this program into health and fitness for pregnant women. The 'special populations' focus is shared between VU and UTEP, albeit with different 'special populations'. VU looks also to refugee communities, and also, through its adapted programs, to those with intellectual and physical disabilities.

Dr Dorgo's expertise in biomechanics and sports science has grown into a further expertise in 'special populations and exercise science'.

There is significant potential for both universities in this 'space'. The time is not right for either university in 2011 to formalise expectations.

Schedule 10 : Early College High School (new)

Responsibility: (Donna Ekal, Susan Young, Peter Dawkins, Anne Jones, Bill Eckersley)

- Find champions for effort
- Develop a plan/schedule to identify pilot site in Melbourne
- Develop an implementation process for the ECHS transported to Melbourne.
- Capitalize on Alejandra Mota's (Peer Leader/MECHS graduate) visit to VU with presentations, etc. (possible VU visit by Armando Aguirre, MECHS Principal)
- Develop layers of leadership to implement and supervise program (focus on sustainability and assessment)

June 2011 Delegation Report

Schedule 11 : Organize 2012 delegation (UTEP to VU) (new)

Responsibility: (Steve Riter, Susan Young, Donna Ekal)

- Cross-reference with Schedules 6 and 10
- Prepare impact statements for documentation and dissemination including journal articles/conference presentation/professional development. (knowledge transfer and exchange, globalization, institutional learning)

Schedule 12 : Universities and Economic Development (new)

Responsibility: (IPED, Peter Dawkins, Bruce Rasmussen, Tom Fullerton)

- Research on education, innovation and role of universities on economic development of regions and impact of public policy
- Strategize opportunities for commercialization of research efforts/knowledge transfer (mini-Cooper/Gary Williams)
- Explore research funding opportunities

Schedule 13 : Water Research (membrane and other possibilities) (new)

Responsibility: (Steve Riter, Tom Davis, Stephen Gray)

- Explore potential research collaborations
- To be developed during Dr Tom Davis' visit to Melbourne in September, 2011

Schedule 14 : Internationalisation of the Student Experience/Curricula: Social Work (new)

Responsibility: (Deborah Tyler, Mark Lusk, Niamh Minion, Head of Social Work (to be appointed) plus UTEP)

- UTEP and VU are exchanging one Social Work student each under the Students as Staff program in Fall/Semester 2, 2011
- Mapping of the curricula to facilitate this experience has commenced, and can be extended across the programs to identify two semesters at different year levels in each four year program that lend themselves to student exchange between the UTEP and VU programs
- The aim is to quickly move from one student, to five students each year from each university between these programs
- Expected to contribute to the internationalisation of both programmes, and to the internationalisation of scholarship of teaching and learning between UTEP and Victoria University.
- Expected to also contribute to highlighting the UTEP and Victoria University collaboration via the International Association for Social Work education, and provide profile.

Schedule 15 : Internationalisation of the Student Experience/Curricula: Education (new)

Responsibility: (William Robertson, Niamh Minion, Deborah Tyler and one other TBA , plus UTEP)

- UTEP and VU will map the curricula across education programs to identify two semesters at different year levels in each four year program that lend themselves to student exchange between the VU and UTEP programs.
- The mapping will focus on UTEP programs in bilingual education, special education, and maths and science.
- Semesters to be mapped will include scaffolded experiences in schools and other educational settings
- Accreditation requirements in Texas and in Victoria will also frame the exchange
- The aim is to quickly move to five students each year from each university on exchange with the other.
- This is expected to contribute to the internationalisation of both programmes, and to the internationalisation of the scholarship of teaching and learning between UTEP and Victoria University.
- Expected to also highlight the UTEP and VU collaboration in research conference presentation that colleagues from both universities routinely participate in the US and beyond.

June 2011 Delegation Report

5. PARTNERSHIP PLANS FOR 2011/2012

Schedule activity will proceed according to the plans established and will be reported on in October/November 2011. The current Memorandum of Understanding is due to be redrafted in early 2012 and this will take account of the development of the relationship.

Schedule 11 focuses on the design and organisation of the 2012 UTEP to VU delegation and will provide a forum for the Schedules 6 (the renamed Flag and Follow) and 10 (Early College High Schools) to be further developed with a wider community.

Bio's UTEP Delegation June 2011

Professor Peter Dawkins Vice Chancellor and President Victoria University

Peter Dawkins became the third Vice-Chancellor and President of Victoria University on 19 January 2011.

This followed six years in high level leadership roles for the Victorian Government, and 28 years in the university sector.

He was Deputy Secretary of the Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance (2005-2006) and Secretary of the Victorian Department Education and Early Childhood Development (2006-2010).

He has held academic appointments in the UK and, since arriving in Australia in 1984, in a number of Australian universities. He holds a Ph.D. from Loughborough University in the UK, where he commenced his university teaching career.

At the age of 35, he became a Professor of Economics at Curtin University in Western Australia in 1990. In 1996 he moved to the University of Melbourne where he was the Ronald Henderson Professor and Director of the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research until 2005.

In 2001 he was elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia (FASSA), for his research on Australian economic and social policy issues.

His research and writing has covered such issues as education, human capital, labour markets, unemployment, tax and welfare, innovation and productivity. He is currently active in writing about federalism and education policy.

He has served on a range of committees and boards for Federal and State Governments, including for example:

- Prime Minister Science Engineering and Innovation Council (PMSEIC), (2003-2005)
- Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority Board (VCAA) (2006-2010)
- Committee (Chair) that produced the *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians* for the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEEDCYA)
- COAG Productivity Agenda Working Group (PAWG) (2008-2009)
- Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership Board (AITSL) (2010-2011)

As Vice-Chancellor of Victoria University, as well as representing the University on the sector's peak body (Universities Australia) he is a member of the boards of

- Business Higher Education Round Table (BHERT)
- World Association of Cooperative Education

Dr Rob Brown Pro Vice Chancellor Institutional Services

June 2011 Delegation Report

Dr Rob Brown became Pro Vice-Chancellor (Institutional Services) at VU in July, 2006.

He has also undertaken executive roles in professional associations, including the Association of Tertiary Education Management (ATEM). He serves as a Director on the Board of Higher Education Services and is a member of the panel of AUQA auditors.

Rob has a wide background in educational administration, particularly in the tertiary sector. He initially trained as a secondary English and ESL teacher, and his early career was served in the Curriculum Branch of the Western Australian Education Department, as well as through teaching in government and private institutions.

After undertaking a three-year stint in Japan as an English language curriculum developer, he returned to take up a post as an academic skills adviser and marketer in a university's International Students Office.

His background in educational administration grew to encompass roles as Academic Secretary, Faculty Manager, and Director of Policy and Planning, before commencing his role as Executive Director - Governance, Policy and Planning Services at Victoria University in November, 2004.

Rob's professional interests particularly focus on tertiary education policy and analysis, as well as the strategic marketing of education services (in which area he completed his doctorate).

Professor Greg Baxter Pro Vice Chancellor Students and Learning and Teaching

Gregory Baxter has a long history in academic research and leadership. As Pro Vice-Chancellor, Students and Learning and Teaching at VU, Greg's current focus is on building and improving learning, teaching and professional teaching capability.

A member of the University's senior leadership team, Greg has led strategic initiatives including the implementation of a Learning Commons approach across VU campuses, founded on a student-centred learning and teaching philosophy; developed capability for researching teaching and learning at VU; and effectively implemented and embedded a comprehensive approach to developing graduate attributes through all university courses.

Over the past ten years, Greg has held positions at VU including Associate Dean (Research and Research Training), Faculty of Health, Engineering and Science, and Chair of Academic. Greg has a PhD (Melbourne University) in Physics. He is one of Victoria University's strongest researchers, with successive ARCAustralian Research Council grants across 12 years.

Greg currently sponsors 'Learning in the Workplace and Community', a strategic initiative in teaching and learning that represents a major shift in curriculum aimed at further enhancing student learning. This initiative is intended to differentiate VU within the tertiary sector.

Ms Susan Young Executive Dean Victoria University College

Susan Young is the Dean of VU College at Victoria University. Susan has a keen interest in the capacity building of individuals who are learning for work and life.

She was instrumental in the establishment of the Re-framing the Future Project - a major initiative of the Australian Government which provided staff development and change management programs to assist in the implementation of the National Training System.

A major component of the program involved the utilisation of the Community of Practice methodology. She co-authored a range of practical publications on this topic which have been widely used by practitioners within Australia and overseas.

Susan began her career in education in South Australia, training as a high school teacher before moving into the TAFE sector where she completed a Bachelor of Education in adult and further education. Her interest in action learning led to

June 2011 Delegation Report

her being asked to develop a Graduate Certificate in Training - Action Learning which was implemented in organisations nationally.

She completed a Graduate Certificate in Business Administration and a Masters of Education in Leadership and Management.

Susan is the inaugural Dean of VU College and is responsible for building and maintaining effective relationships within the University and externally with community and enterprises to provide a comprehensive range of educational programs and services. The VU College, unique in the Australian system, is designed to support student entry, transition, learning and workplace preparation.

Ms Jacinta Richards Head of School, Pathways and Transition, VU College

As Head of School of Pathways and Transition courses, Jacinta is responsible for delivering a range of innovative preparation courses designed to prepare, support and transit students into vocational and/or academic courses. She also has a role in supporting and preparing students currently in vocational courses for higher education and working with local communities to facilitate access and pathways for students from diverse backgrounds.

Formerly, Jacinta's role encompassed Head of the English Language Institute where she prepared students entering VU mainstream courses to reach the required levels of English through an expanding range of general and contextualized ELICOS (English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students) programs. The role also involved offshore delivery to 3,000 students per year at five sites in China, as well as interests in Thailand.

Jacinta's former role at VU was acting Associate Director for Further Education, Arts and Employment Services with responsibility for VU TAFE provision of creative industry programs in Music, Arts and Multimedia, Theatre, Professional Writing and Editing; and programs in Further Education areas of literacy, work education, youth programs language and preparation programs.

Prior to this Jacinta taught and coordinated programs at a variety of community centres and private providers of adult education in the Macedon Ranges and the North of Melbourne. She also taught English Drama, History and Literature in Victorian secondary schools and was faculty head in English and in Drama at various times.

Jacinta is a published author of a number of secondary school texts in English and History and has presented for Victoria University at a number of forums including the international LERN conference in Beijing.

Dr Bronwyn Cran Head of School, School of Communication and the Arts Faculty of Arts, Education and Human Development

Dr Bronwyn Cran joined Victoria University in 1989. She is a fiction writer and a former journalist, having worked for *The Age*, *The Melbourne Times* and *The Darwin Sun*, for commercial radio, and for Indigenous broadcast media in Alice Springs.

Dr Cran has teaching expertise in Professional and Creative Writing, Journalism and Digital Media, at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. She is particularly interested in writing development at first year level, and in professional outcomes for students. She has research expertise in fiction writing, journalism, creative non-fiction, and digital media. Her current research interests focus on the impact of digital technology on journalists and journalism in Europe and Australia, and on the teaching of creative writing in secondary schools in Melbourne's West.

Dr Cran has been a course coordinator for Professional Writing and Multimedia. In 2008, she co-developed new undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Communication with colleagues in her School.

Dr Cran supervises MA and PhD students in creative writing and journalism. Her postgraduate students have had novels and creative non-fiction works accepted for publication by major Australian publishers. Dr Cran currently supervises PhD projects in fiction, nature writing, and creative digital media.

June 2011 Delegation Report

Ms Deborah Tyler

**Associate Dean International
Faculty of Arts, Education and Human Development**

Deborah has been with Victoria University since 1991 when the University amalgamated with Footscray Institute of Technology, and she has been Associate Dean International since 2008. As Associate Dean International, Deborah's role comprises of five major components:

- Recruitment of International on-shore students
- Business Development of Off-Shore Programs
- Internationalisation of the Curricula and the domestic student experience
- Course Development for on-shore and off-shore international markets
- Enhancing the student experience for domestic and international students, in the international context.

Her priorities are:

- Growing the numbers of sponsored international students from the Asia-Pacific region undertaking postgraduate and research degrees at Victoria University
- Growing the opportunities for students from partner universities to have a VU experience through tailored programs.
- Active engagement with AusAid and Endeavour Programs to connect with development priorities of value to our partners and regions of engagement.
- The development of an educational model for international education, which values intercultural exchange and shared learning
- Enhancing the exposure of VU students to international opportunities that add to cross-cultural competencies
- Recognising and addressing the limitations of semester exchange programs in providing international experiences for low SES, NESB and first generation students.
- The Global Classroom – working with VU partners to provide teaching and learning experiences utilising e-technologies, in creative arts and professional writing
- Facilitating an enhanced student experience, for domestic and international students, around the axis of social inclusion and community engagement.
- International practicums for School of Education students, the value of reciprocity

She has developed the following new courses, Bachelor of Arts (Advocacy and Mediation), Bachelor of International Studies (this has been developed with Professor Helen Borland).

Deborah is also an established writer having written many refereed journal articles, guest editorships of refereed journals, book chapters and the publication of a book.

Dr Carolyn Woodley

**Senior Educational Developer, Centre for Work Integrated Learning and Teaching Unit
Faculty of Business and Law**

Dr Carolyn Woodley is a Senior Educational Developer in the Centre for Work Integrated Learning and Teaching in the Faculty of Business and Law. Her research interests include the use of technologies in teaching, internationalising the curriculum, transnational quality and teaching and learning more broadly. Carolyn often works collaboratively with faculty members from a range of disciplines to support the development of Scholarship of Learning and Teaching in the faculty. Her latest publications include research on eportfolios, the use of Facebook to assist transition, using Elluminate to develop learningful interaction between on- and offshore programs and developing legal professionals through blogging about WIL.

June 2011 Delegation Report

John Weldon

Lecturer in Professional and Creative Writing School of Communication and the Arts

John Weldon has worked as a freelance writer since the mid 1990s. During that time he has written extensively for *The Age* newspaper as a food and lifestyle features writer and an op/ed columnist. He has also worked as a newspaper sports reporter, has written for various media websites and has had several children's plays commissioned and produced. From 1999-2001 he held the position of Media and Communications Manager at Australian Football League club (AFL - Australia's premier sporting competition) The Western Bulldogs during which time (2001) the club won the AFL Media Association award for the club with the best media relations.

Currently He lectures in Professional and Creative Writing at Victoria University. He coordinates the units: 'Introduction to Media Writing', 'Writing for Online Media' and 'Performance Writing'. He also project manages the production of *Offset*, VU's Creative Arts journal, produced annually as a graduating project by 3rd year Professional Writing and Communications students.

John Weldon's first novel, *Breaking Up and Down*, is to be published by Vulgar Press in late 2011 and he hopes to complete a PhD in Creative Writing this year too.

Yolanda Evangelistis

**Transition and Student Relationship Coordinator
Faculty of Health, Engineering and Science**

Ms Yolanda Evagelistis is the Transition and Student Relationships Coordinator in the Faculty of Health, Engineering and Science. Yolanda has been employed at VU for 18 years across a variety of roles and as such is well informed across all aspects of the student lifecycle which has further strengthened her commitment to student engagement. Yolanda has recently been involved in several retention initiatives, namely the Flag and Follow and the Starfish projects. Each of these piloted projects concentrate on the early identification of students who may be at risk of failing and or/dropping out and the implementation of targeted interventions in which to decrease attrition rates. Yolanda is very passionate about enhancing the student experience and works collaboratively across all areas of the University to streamline transition into University life.

VU Partnership Manager

Ms Susan Young

Executive Dean, Victoria University College

Victoria University

UTEP Partnership Manager

Dr Stephen Riter

Vice-President

University of Texas at El Paso

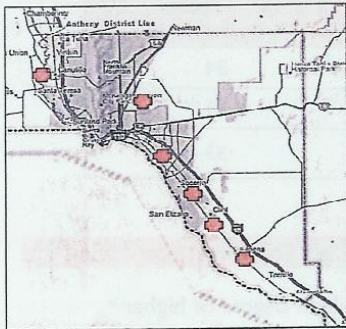
*The Amazing Story of Early College High Schools,
El Paso Community College, and
The University of Texas at El Paso*

Early college high school is a bold approach, based on the principle that academic rigor, combined with the opportunity to save time and money, is a powerful motivator for students to work hard and meet serious intellectual challenges. Early college high schools blend high school and college in a rigorous yet supportive program, compressing the time it takes to complete a high school diploma and the first two years of college.

Early College High School Initiative
www.earlycolleges.org

UTEP's long-standing commitment over the last two decades has been to reject the traditional choice between access and excellence that characterized U.S. higher education in the 20th century and to insist upon the joint attainment and continuing enhancement of both access and excellence. The conversation of access and excellence in Texas is characterized by two initiatives - Closing the Gaps and 81st Texas Legislature's creation of seven emerging Tier One institutions. The Early College High Schools are proving to be a unique and successful way to allow some of our nation's most vulnerable students to achieve the goals of both those initiatives in a way that is forcing us to think differently about the relationship between high school and college.

EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS IN EL PASO



ECHS	YEAR ESTABLISHED
Mission	2006
Valle Verde	2007
Transmountain	2008
Northwest	2008
Cotton Valley	2010
Clint	2011

The first four Early College High Schools are located on El Paso Community College (EPCC) campuses and all the dual credit given is facilitated through EPCC. President Richard Rhodes and his staff at EPCC have done an outstanding job establishing and fostering this educational opportunity for the students of El Paso County.

Traditional vs. Accelerated Graduates

The concept of graduating from high school with an Associate's degree is a challenging notion for many in higher education, however, 65 students at Mission ECHS have pushed that idea even further by graduating from EPCC with their Associate's degree one or two semesters PRIOR to high school graduation. Our pride in these students and their success at pushing the envelope of higher education challenges us to address their unique needs including financial aid. Because they are still high school students they are not eligible for federal or state based financial aid. UTEP has raised over \$225,000.00 in additional scholarship donations specifically to cover the tuition and fees for these 65 students.

THE ACCELERATED STUDENTS OF MISSION EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

23 STUDENTS GRADUATED WITH THEIR ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE AT THE END OF THEIR JUNIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL IN MAY 2009. THEY ENTERED UTEP IN FALL 2009 AS CONCURRENT HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND UTEP JUNIORS.



Roberto Vina-Marrufo is majoring in Microbiology. He completed 110 credits at EPCC and UTEP with a 3.69 GPA and was accepted for a Novartis Pharmaceuticals Summer Internship 2010.

	AVERAGE GPA	DEAN'S LIST	4.0 SEMESTER GPA
FALL 2009	3.44	9 STUDENTS	7
SPRING 2010	3.45	10 STUDENTS	8

THE TREND CONTINUES ... Fall 2010, Spring 2011, and Fall 2011 all have students currently enrolled or on track to enroll at UTEP upon accelerated completion of their Associate's degree one or two semesters prior to completion of their high school requirements. Becoming an Accelerated ECHS/UTEP student has become a viable option for many of the ECHS students.

THE REST OF THE CLASS ... 109 of 118 (92.4%) of the MECHS inaugural class graduated with their Associate's Degree when they graduated from high school in June 2010. All 109 are continuing their higher education – 101 of them at UTEP.

What are they studying?

College	# of ECHS Students by Declared Major
STEM	34
Health Sciences / Nursing	14
Business / Education / Liberal Arts	53

The People of El Paso and the Students of the Early College High Schools

- Only 18.9% of persons 25 and older in El Paso County have a bachelor's degree or higher (compared to 25.1 % in Texas and 27.4% nationally).
- \$33,588 is the average median household income of the Upper Rio Grande Region – lowest of the 11 regional areas defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (compared to the state average of \$45,132 and the national average of \$50,233)
- 67% of El Paso's ECHS students are economically disadvantaged
- 89% of El Paso's ECHS students are Hispanic
- 30.4% of the Mission ECHS students state that they plan to obtain a doctoral degree, compared to 11.1% of first-time freshmen
- 52.2% of MECHS students state that they plan to obtain a master's degree, compared to 21.5% of first-time freshmen