

Date

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 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 this 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 region have been meaningful to the participants and we believe you will find the same results.

Who?

An ECS 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

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;

April 30, 2012 - Teams convened;

June 29, 2012 - Teams trained (1 day training at ESC XI for all partners);

July 15, 2012 - Teams create action plans for implementation - August 1, 2012 - July 31, 2013;

August 1, 2012 - July 31, 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 29, 2013 - Teams' Reflections, Celebrations, and Next Steps (1 Day training for all partners)

How?

Each selected ESC will receive \$6,500 (paid as tasks are completed) to support its team. We realize 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 and complete the attached form.

If you have questions, please contact: Kathy Wright Chapman _____ or Jean Keller jean.keller@unt.edu or (940)-565-3427.

Best regards,

Francine Holland

Jean Keller

Enclosure (AVATAR Expression of Interest)

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

Due to: _____ by **January 31, 2012**

Education Service Center _____ 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: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

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

____ Mathematics ____ English Language Arts ____ Chemistry

Partners (name) will be:

School District (s): _____

Two-Year Institution (s) of Higher Education: _____

Four-Year Institution(s) of Higher Education: _____

Regional P-16 Council (s): _____

Thank you for your interest