

**Howard College P-16 Council Meeting
September 18, 2007**

Meeting Overview

Present at the Meeting:

Ed Mills, The University of Texas of the Permian Basin
Jolyn Jones, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board P-16 Field Specialist
Amy Burchett, Howard College
Cheryl Sparks, Howard College
Randy Johnson, Forsan ISD
Steven Saldivar, Lamesa ISD
Jerry Johnson, Coahoma ISD
Michael Downes, Big Spring ISD
Mary Gregg, Workforce Network
Carla Gross, Workforce Network
Carol Hanes, Howard College P-16 Special Advisor

Dr. Mills provided an overview of P-16 initiatives at the state and regional levels. He discussed statewide strategies and updated the group on efforts of the West Texas P-16 Council. The West Texas P-16 Council is hosting a P-16 conference on October 19 at the Region 18 Service Center. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Postcards will be mailed.

Each college and university was asked to select a P-16 Special Advisor to the Higher Education Coordinating Board. Carol Hanes has been selected as the Special Advisor for Howard College. As she participates in meetings and workshops, she will share information with this council.

The group discussed ideas for creating a college going culture in our communities:

- Provide parent education.
- Increase career development in the early school years, at least by the 8th grade.
- Visits by the Hawk to every kindergarten; a picture taken to give to the child. These pictures could be mailed at a later date and even mailed several years later as a fun memory/recruiting tool.
- “Aim High” is a Lamesa ISD initiative that seems to be effective. Contact Steven Saldivar for more information.
- “I Can Too” is a partnership between Howard College and Big Spring ISD; third graders spend a day with a college student and parents are invited to join them for lunch. Contact Michael Downes or Javier Flores for more information.
- Money is needed to help fund projects and possibly scholarships for all Howard County graduates. Foundations and civic clubs are potential sources.
- Include local business and industry representatives on council; Terry Wegman and Debbye Valverde were recommended.
- Personal one-on-one time with students is needed to discuss college/career goals.
- Howard College could set-up a college/career center for one week at each high school. Counselors, admissions staff, and financial aid advisors could be available to help

students complete paper work, narrow career choices, complete financial aid paperwork, etc. Schools could provide the room and computers. Advanced notice and marketing is critical so parents and students can make plans to participate.

- Student data sharing agreements between schools and colleges would help facilitate communication.
- The suggestion was made to schedule future council meetings in conjunction with Tech Prep Consortium meetings since membership and purpose are similar. The Howard College Tech Prep Consortium meets approximately three times a year. The next Tech Prep meeting is scheduled for November 27.