

Richard M. Rhodes, Ph.D.

Dr. Richard M. Rhodes became President of El Paso Community College on December 1, 2001. A native of Alamogordo, New Mexico, Dr. Rhodes received his Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and a Master of Arts in Educational Management and Development (Higher Education) from New Mexico State University. He earned his Ph.D. in the Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Rhodes is a CPA, certified in both Texas and New Mexico

Dr. Rhodes serves on numerous boards in the El Paso community including the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce; El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; FEMAP Foundation; United Way; Boy Scouts of America, Yucca Council; Upper Rio Grande Workforce Development Board; the University of Texas at El Paso Centennial Commission; Del Sol Hospital Board of Trustees, and is a founding member of the Paso del Norte Group. In addition to his local commitments, Dr. Rhodes serves as the Chair of the Texas Association of Community Colleges and Past-chair of the Texas Association of Community College Trustees and Administrators. Dr. Rhodes also serves on the Formula Funding Advisory Committee for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Governor's Commission for a College Ready Texas, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Texas Education Reform Foundation, the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation, the American Association of Community Colleges President's Academy and the Carnegie Foundation.

Dr. Rhodes has received the Distinguished Graduate Award from the Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas at Austin, the Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year Award from the U. S. Small Business Administration, the "Vision of Excellence" award from the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Citizen of the Year Award from the Military Order of the World Wars - El Paso Chapter; the Distinguished Service Award from the Rotary Club of El Paso; and is a member of the El Paso Business Hall of Fame.

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I. TACC’s analysis of developmental education contact hours and formula funding yielded some surprising results.

Developmental Education Contact Hours & Formula Funding

Community Colleges	2004-05	2006-07	2008-09	2010-11
Appropriation to Dev Educ	166,356,378	146,583,727	139,354,916	156,051,351
RFOE - Dev Education	321,698,334	280,354,275	276,355,958	328,745,846
<i>Contact Hours</i>				
Math	16,156,698	15,112,064	14,172,518	14,769,338
Reading & Writing	12,828,620	9,693,052	6,624,149	6,973,180
Total Developmental	28,985,318	24,805,116	20,796,667	21,742,518
Total Contact Hours	233,829,584	244,044,489	241,839,512	259,351,081
% of Total Contact Hours	12.4%	10.2%	8.6%	8.4%

- As a percentage of the total contact hours, developmental education contact hours have decreased each biennium (12.4% in 2004-05 to 8.4% in 2010-11).
- Contact hours for developmental reading and writing have decreased 45.6% from 2004-05 to 2010-11 (12.82 million CHs to 6.97 million CHs).
- Contact hours for developmental math have decreased (16.15 million CHs to 14.76 million CHs).
- The Legislature appropriated less money to developmental education in 2010-11 (\$156.0 million) than in 2004-05 (\$166.3 million).

II. TACC realizes there are significant challenges in developmental education and the association is committed to increasing the success of students in developmental education.

A. Among the challenges we face in developmental education:

- 14% of all developmental math students in Texas community colleges successfully completed a college level math course within four years.
- One-half of all underprepared reading and writing students completed their developmental reading and writing requirements within three years.
- Approximately one-half of all community college developmental education students returned for their second year.

B. TACC and our colleges are taking steps to improve developmental education results

- Achieving the Dream (page 8 of Dr. Garcia's testimony)

Close the Gaps in Success - Achieving the Dream in Texas




- *Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count* is a multiyear national initiative to help more community college students succeed, with a special focus on students of color and low-income students.
- Each *Achieving the Dream* college is committed to student success by creating a culture of evidence, engaging with diverse groups, and implementing systemic reforms.
- *Achieving the Dream's* objective is to help more students:
 - ▶ Successfully complete developmental instruction and advance to credit bearing courses.
 - ▶ Enroll in and successfully complete the initial college-level or gatekeeper courses in subjects such as math and English.
 - ▶ Complete the courses they take with a grade of C or better.
 - ▶ Persist from one term to the next.
 - ▶ Earn a certificate or associate's degree.
- 27 Texas community college districts are participating in *Achieving the Dream*. The Texas Association of Community Colleges is the State Lead Organization for *Achieving the Dream* in Texas.
- Coastal Bend College, El Paso Community College, Houston Community College System, South Texas College and Southwest Texas Junior College have been named *Achieving the Dream Leader Colleges* (a total of 21 colleges nationwide).




- Developmental Education Initiative (page 9 of Dr. Garcia’s testimony)

Close the Gaps in Success - Developmental Education Initiative



DEVELOPMENTAL
EDUCATION
INITIATIVE

Accelerating Achievement



- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Lumina Foundation for Education have partnered to fund an ambitious investigation of institutional strategies and state policies that can dramatically improve the success outcomes for students who enroll in community college and test into developmental education.
- The four colleges in the institutional component of the Developmental Education Initiative are Coastal Bend College, El Paso Community College, Houston Community College System, and South Texas College.
- The Texas Developmental Education Policy Team (Co-chaired by Dr. Steve Kinslow, President, Austin Community College and Dr. David Gardner, Deputy Commissioner, Higher Education Coordinating Board) is focused on improving developmental student outcomes.
- The intent of the Developmental Education Initiative is to contribute to the *Closing the Gaps* goal for underprepared students by building on the momentum of the *Achieving the Dream* colleges, acting as a unifying catalyst of statewide coordination, and extending ongoing statewide initiatives. Key areas of focus are: improving statewide use of data on developmental education, aligning curriculum and assessment of developmental education, and scaling comprehensive and promising developmental innovations.

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- Coordinating Board Demonstration Projects

III. The committee will hear reports of innovative approaches to developmental education from several colleges in the panels that follow. I would like to briefly talk about our experiences at El Paso Community College with my remaining time.