

Administrative and Educational Support Report

GEAR UP

Annual Action Plan
Annual Assessment Report

June 2006 – May 2007



Annual Action Plan: June 1, 2006–May 31, 2007

Unit: GEAR UP 2005-2011 Project

UTPA Mission: The University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA) serves the higher education needs of a rapidly growing, international, multicultural population in the South Texas Region. The University preserves, transmits and creates knowledge to serve the cultural, civic, and economic advancement of the region and the state. The University provides students advanced instruction in academic programs offered through innovative delivery systems that lead to professional certification, and baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees. Through teaching, research, creative activity and public service, UTPA prepares students for lifelong learning and leadership roles in the state, nation and world community.

Division: Enrollment and Student Services **Unit Head:** Dr. Martha A. Cantu

Unit Mission: The mission of GEAR UP is to significantly increase the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education.

University Goal: Collaborate with P-12 schools to enlarge the pool of applicants who are personally prepared and academically qualified for higher education.

Division Objective: Promote the holistic development of students for success in college.

Unit Objective	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY07
Improve cohort students' academic performance. (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize residential summer camps in the areas of English, Engineering, Health Sciences and Computer Science. • Collaborate with Valley Outreach Center to promote college access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80% of students will pass Algebra I by end of 9th grade. • There will be a 5% annual increase in students retained at grade level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze six weeks grades and semester grades to measure academic improvement. • Evaluate online state assessment results to compare student progress from year to year and from campus to campus. • Implement and assess usage of Technology Initiatives to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online TAKS state assessment data will be needed from year to year and from campus to campus. • Campus Data entered into GEAR UP database system will be needed to assess six weeks and semester

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide access to tutoring and mentoring services. • Provide students with multiple opportunities to interact with university faculty and staff. • Provide access to credit recovery programs. • Encourage students to enroll in rigorous coursework. • Support math and science enrichment through grant initiative. 		<p>assess student progress.</p>	<p>grades improvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of necessary Texas Instruments Technology for math teachers to enhance student learning will be needed. <p>It will be needed to coordinate summer camps with UTPA faculty and staff.</p> <p>Accessibility to rigorous coursework and credit recovery programs will be necessary to improve cohort students' academic performance.</p>
<p>Increase rate of postsecondary education through K-16 alignment. (2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue participation in the UTPA PK-16 council. • Provide professional development for GEAR UP school district staff through the UTPA Excellence Program. • Conduct monthly project meetings with 	<p>Establish vertical curriculum committees at each school annually and identify content to be aligned.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of quarterly Meetings with PK-16 Council to align curriculum. • Establish accessibility to Electronic Communication Pipeline with all staff members with no exception to enhance communication. • Schedule Seminars, Conferences, Professional 	<p>Access to computers will be needed to maintain Electronic Communication Pipeline.</p> <p>Organization of PK-16 Council meetings and professional development will be necessary to enhance curriculum alignment</p>

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	<p>campus staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain electronic communication pipeline with district staff. 		<p>Development sessions to enhance professional growth.</p>	<p>and one common goal.</p>
<p>Offer teacher preparation and curriculum development to enhance the quality of the instructional program. (3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the UTPA Excellence Program. Support professional development for teachers with pre-AP and/or AP training. Promote involvement of teachers in the Region One ESC Consortium. Provide AVID Path training. Enhance professional development through grant partnership efforts. Offer tuition assistance for core content area teachers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40% of teachers will receive training in specialty areas to incorporate it into teaching annually. 40% of mathematics teachers will receive mathematics specific professional development annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessibility to professional development, Conferences, Workshops, AP/Pre AP courses, Summer Institutes, and Training will be provided to teachers to enhance the quality of the instructional program. Tuition Assistance will be provided to teachers to make professional development accessible to them. 	<p>Schedule Training, Conferences, Workshops, AP/Pre AP courses, and summer institutes with faculty and other partnerships (AVID, TI, SureS core, Princeton Review) to provide professional growth to teachers.</p>
<p>Increase the integration of instructional technologies into teaching and learning. (4)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate specialized educational technology in the classroom. Provide access to concurrent enrollment 	<p>There will be a 25% annual increase in students that report using a computer for projects and assignments.</p>	<p>Through the six weeks grades and semester grades, analyze students' math improvement after using technology to learn mathematical concepts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide accessibility to Computer assisted labs, Math Navigators, and Graphic calculators to all math teachers

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	<p>classes via distance learning technologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance learning through computer assisted labs 			<p>at each campus.</p>
<p>Provide opportunities for career exploration. (5)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate academic summer camps focusing on career pathways. Collaborate with Valley Outreach Center to maximize the utilization of online career awareness. Evaluate student interests and abilities through the implementation of college placement exams. Provide guidance and counseling through GEAR UP Campus Coordinator. Conduct campus career fairs. 	<p>There will be a 20% annual increase in students' participation in career exploration activities, including knowledge about career options.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Career fairs, College visits, GO Centers, and Summer Camps to enhance students' career exploration opportunities. Provide "EXPLORE Career Inventory" to all students to assess their career interests. Provide Virtual Job Shadowing to enhance career exploration opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase and implement the "EXPLORE Career Inventory". Provide feedback on results of "EXPLORE Career Inventory" Contract with partnership on accessibility to Virtual Job Shadowing tours.

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University Goal:

Enhance UTPA's engagement with the community to meet challenges and maximize opportunities.

Division Objective:

Increase community awareness of the value of higher education.

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<p>Increase parent's knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation, and financing to improve their children's performance. (6)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide each GEAR UP campus with a Family Liaison. • Empower and educate parents by conducting home visits. • Disseminate information about college awareness through neighborhood walks and field activities. • Conduct college visits for parents. • Coordinate financial aid workshops for parents. • Support parents through the Fatherhood Initiative. • Train a cadre of parents at each campus to focus on college preparation 	<p>There will be a 20% annual increase in participation of parents in school activities, Family GU Programs, and college prep workshops.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule Conferences, Seminars, Workshops, and training for parents and family liaisons to increase their knowledge of postsecondary education. • Train and encourage parents to conduct neighborhood walks to train other parents into college awareness topics. • Evaluate parent involvement activities through surveys and event evaluations to analyze increase in participation of parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design, scan, and analyze Event evaluations forms to assess for parents' participation into sessions. • Schedule Workshops, conferences, and trainings for parents and parent liaisons.

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	and financial aid options.			
Build partnerships to provide services to cohort students, their parents and teachers, and sustain program services. (7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build and maintain corporate, business and local partnerships as specified by GEAR UP Grant. • Evaluate partnership initiatives to ensure effectiveness. • Participate and collaborate with UTPA HESTEC educational activities. 	Add one partner annually.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Partnerships with businesses, schools, and community to sustain initiatives implemented by the GEAR UP Grant. • Evaluate partnerships' initiatives to ensure effectiveness and quality of program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustain partnership efforts with NHI, Princeton Review, Texas Instruments, SueScore and other partnerships. • Other Partnerships
Increase student engagement in community development and service. (8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement/maintain programs that promote community involvement such as food drives, clothing collections, community cleanup, etc. • Organize Youth Action Campus Councils to build capacity in GEAR UP youth. 	There will be a 10% annual increase in student participation in community service activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Community Organizations to assist in the promotion of community service projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Community Organizations to provide community service.
Provide opportunities for cultural and leadership development. (9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide cultural opportunities to attend UTPA sponsored plays and concerts. 	There will be a 25% annual increase in student participation in school based character, cultural leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote student participation at Museums, UTPA Drama and Music Depts., International Dept., and other cultural events to enhance 	Contact different cultural agencies such as International Dept., UTPA Dram and Music Dept. Museums to

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in a literature series that focuses on multicultural authors. • Provide opportunities to tour the local museums. • Participate in university sponsored events that foster cultural awareness. • Provide classroom teachers with TEKS aligned curriculum and activities to enhance multicultural awareness. • Facilitate mentoring of GEAR UP students through the UTPA Leadership Program. 	<p>activities, and through field experience.</p>	<p>students' awareness of a diversified society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize Leadership Events for students to enhance their leadership skills. 	<p>schedule students' participation in their events.</p> <p>Schedule leadership events to enhance students' leadership opportunities.</p>



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Unit Objective	Measurable Outcome for Unit Objective	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Measurable Outcome	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
Improve cohort students' academic performance. (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of students will pass Algebra I by end of 9th grade. There will be a 5% annual increase in students retained at grade level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze six weeks grades and semester grades to measure academic improvement. Evaluate online state assessment results to compare student progress from year to year and from campus to campus. Implement and assess usage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective not applicable at this time because students were in 8th grade. Objective was met. 8746 cohort students were promoted to next grade level giving a 2% of students retained or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential summer camps were organized in the areas of English, Engineering, Health Sciences and Computer Science. GEAR UP collaborated with Valley Outreach

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		<p>of Technology Initiatives to assess student progress.</p>	<p>were not promoted during their 7th grade. There was an increase of 721 more students served during this reporting year.</p>	<p>Center to promote college access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEAR UP provided access to tutoring, mentoring, and course recovery services at each of its twenty eight campuses. • GEAR UP provided multiple opportunities to students to interact with university faculty and staff. • Students were encouraged to enroll in rigorous coursework. • Math, science, English, and social studies enrichment initiatives were supported through the grant
<p>Increase rate of postsecondary education through K-16 alignment. (2)</p>	<p>Establish vertical curriculum committees at each school annually and identify content to be aligned.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of quarterly Meetings with PK-16 Council to align curriculum. • Establish accessibility to Electronic Communication Pipeline with all staff members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UTPA GEAR UP in partnership with The University of Texas-Pan American, South Texas Community College, and School Districts participated in two summits to discuss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued participation in the UTPA PK-16 council. • Provided professional development for GEAR UP school

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		<p>with no exception to enhance communication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule Seminars, Conferences, Professional Development sessions to enhance professional growth. 	<p>vertical curriculum in P-16 education.</p>	<p>district staff through the UTPA Excellence Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted monthly project meetings with campus staff. Maintained electronic communication pipeline with district staff.
<p>Offer teacher preparation and curriculum development to enhance the quality of the instructional program. (3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40% of teachers will receive training in specialty areas to incorporate it into teaching annually. 40% of mathematics teachers will receive mathematics specific professional development annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessibility to professional development, Conferences, Workshops, AP/Pre AP courses, Summer Institutes, and Training will be provided to teachers to enhance the quality of the instructional program. Tuition Assistance will be provided to teachers to make professional development accessible to them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective was met and exceeded in all core content areas. There were a 30% of teachers receiving training above stated objective in ELA, 40% in math, 37% in science, and 21% in social studies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided professional development opportunities for content area teachers. Supported professional development for teachers with pre-AP and/or AP training. Promoted involvement of teachers in the Region One ESC Consortium. Provided AVID Path training. Enhanced professional development through grant partnership efforts.
<p>Increase the integration of instructional technologies into teaching and learning.</p>	<p>There will be a 25% annual increase in students that report using a computer for</p>	<p>Through the six weeks grades and semester grades, analyze students' math improvement after using technology to learn</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of teachers received technology training. Objective was met and exceeded by 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued providing technology training to core subject area teachers.

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(4)	projects and assignments.	mathematical concepts.	<p>55% above stated objective. 154 teachers received technology training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 69% of students reported use of a computer for projects and assignments. 8% more students as compared to last year reported in their survey using a computer for projects and assignments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoted student participation in computer assisted laboratories. Worked with partnerships to increase educational technology into classroom settings. Continued motivating students to use computers for projects and assignments.
Provide opportunities for career exploration. (5)	There will be a 20% annual increase in students' participation in career exploration activities, including knowledge about career options.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Career fairs, College visits, GO Centers, and Summer Camps to enhance students' career exploration opportunities. Provide "EXPLORE Career Inventory" to all students to assess their career interests. Provide Virtual Job Shadowing to enhance career exploration opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63% of students participated in college visits. 51.6% of students participated in job site visits. Objective was met. There was a +23% increase of students participating in college visits and +48.6% increase in job site visits including virtual job shadowing opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved collaboration with colleges/universities and virtual job shadowing to provide career information exploration. Utilized GO Centers as sources of career related information for students to access. Continued participation in HESTEC and career fairs. Continued participation in career days with local colleges and universities.

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Increase parent's knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation, and financing to improve their children's performance. (6)	There will be a 20% annual increase in participation of parents in school activities, Family GU Programs, and college prep workshops.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schedule Conferences, Seminars, Workshops, and training for parents and family liaisons to increase their knowledge of postsecondary education. 2. Train and encourage parents to conduct neighborhood walks to train other parents into college awareness topics. 3. Evaluate parent involvement activities through surveys and event evaluations to analyze increase in participation of parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15% of parents participated in family involvement activities. • 32% of parents participated in academic awareness activities, • 2% parents participated in college visits, and • 9% parents participated in community outreach. • 25% participation on college preparation and financial aid. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoted and offered parent training sessions that accommodated parents' schedules as much as possible. • Provided training to parent liaisons to enhance their professional skills as they facilitated parental involvement with outside sources. • Provided opportunities for district, campus, and GEAR UP coordinators and liaisons to work collaboratively in providing parental involvement activities that enhanced knowledge of post-secondary education.
Build partnerships to provide services to cohort students, their parents and teachers, and sustain program	Add one partner annually.	Support Partnerships with businesses, schools, and community to sustain initiatives implemented by the GEAR UP Grant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 39 partnerships were included during the second year of implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built and maintained corporate, business and local partnerships as specified by GEAR UP Grant.

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services. (7)		Evaluate partnerships' initiatives to ensure effectiveness and quality of program.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborated with existing partners and sought additional partners to provide services to students, parents, and teachers.
Increase student engagement in community development and service. (8)	There will be a 10% annual increase in student participation in community service activities.	1. Contact Community Organizations to assist in the promotion of community service projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 37% students participated in community service activities. Objective was met. There was a 26% increase on students' participation in community service activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased students' involvement in community activities with Toys for Tots, Feast of Sharing, Christmas Gift Wrapping and Bag Stuffing, City Cleanup, etc.
Provide opportunities for cultural and leadership development. (9)	There will be a 25% annual increase in student participation in school based character, cultural leadership activities, and through field experience.	2. Promote student participation at Museums, UTPA Drama and Music Depts., International Dept., and other cultural events to enhance students' awareness of a diversified society. 3. Organize Leadership Events for students to enhance their leadership skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 57% of students participated in character and cultural activities. 64% of students participated in leadership development activities. 52% of students participated in job site visits, job shadowing or in field experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided cultural experiences for students through the UTPA Music, English, Liberal Arts, and Drama Departments, Centro Cultural Mexicano, and the International Museum of Art and Science.