The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley™

College of Education and P-16 Integration Strategic Plan 2018

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Ratified by Faculty June 2019

Letter from the 2017-18 Strategic Planning Committee

Dear College of Education Colleagues and Partners,

The 2017-2018 Strategic Planning Committee is pleased to provide our recommendations for the College of Education and P- 16 Integration's future direction. Committee members contributing to this plan were Jesus (Chuey) Abrego, Zulmaris Diaz, Veronica Kortan (Harlingen CISD), Ming-Tsan (Pierre) Lu, Paul Sale, Janine Schall, and Yih-Jiun (Jean) Shen. We worked diligently throughout the 2017-2018 academic year to develop a thoughtful and comprehensive planning document. The faculty voted to ratify the priorities at the December 2018 College meeting. Priorities were not ranked.

Our recommended Strategic Plan mirrors, as appropriate, the University's Strategic Plan to ensure fidelity with University direction. The committee identified six priorities, their corresponding goals, key initiatives, and sample metrics. The priorities identified were: Student Success, Educational Opportunities, Enhancing the Community of Faculty, Building a Research Enterprise, Evidence-Based Decision-making, and Community Engagement.

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As the members of the Committee, we are honored to serve our colleagues by producing this document. With this completed work we recommend dissolution of the Committee. We recommend that our Plan be ratified by faculty at the Fall, 2018 COE meeting and that the College Leadership be charged with plan implementation, monitored by the COE Advisory Board. The Committee stands adjourned, *sine die*.

Respectfully Submitted,

Strategic Planning Committee

Priority 1: Student Success

Goal

Providing innovative, accessible, and high-quality educational programs founded on the belief that scholarship and life experience are strengthened when integrated, that diversity in all its manifestations is a fundamental component of excellence in education, and that partnerships that foster authentic social and community engagement are vital.

Key Initiatives

- *District and School-Based Partnerships.*

  Maintain and create new portfolios of face-to-face undergraduate and graduate degree programs offered on-site in local school districts (e.g. STEP UP; school district cohorts)

- *Multiple Pathways to Teaching*

  Develop and implement an innovative 2 + 1 program which provides an avenue for timely completion of undergraduate teacher-preparation students (e.g. Project Impact).

Develop and implement an innovative alternative certification program (e.g. Prep-A).

- *Roadmaps & Advising*

  Develop and implement a well-articulated, sequenced path for full and part-time students to progress through their academic programs with maximum cost savings and time savings. The process may include one-on-one student mentoring to support students for successful certification process.

- *Standard Length and Accelerated Online Programs:*

  Maintain and create new portfolios of online, asynchronous undergraduate, master's and doctoral programs extended throughout the nation.

Sample Metrics

- Memorandums of Understanding with districts.
- Timely 4, 5, and 6 year completion rates of undergraduates.
- Multiple methods defined by individual Programs to measure student success.

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Priority 2: Educational Opportunities

Goal

Expanding high quality and innovative instruction through curricular and technological advancement to remain at the forefront of the changing educational and global reality.

Key Initiatives

- Increase the number of innovative tools available to facilitate our curriculum and pedagogical methodologies, such as TeachLive TM.
- Increase the number of faculty and programs using mixed reality environments and other technological innovations.

- Develop an increasing number of scenarios for TeachLiveTM to represent the spectrum of situations our educators are likely to encounter.
- Augment the array of curriculum delivery methodologies including alternate scheduling schemata and use of additional synchronous and asynchronous technologies.

Sample Metrics

- Increased number of faculty using mixed reality simulations and other innovations.
- Increased number of programs using mixed reality simulations and other innovations.
- Deployment of new scheduling and technology utilization.

Priority 3: Enhancing the Community of Faculty Goal

Goal

Attracting and retaining multiculturally responsive scholars, learning leaders, and education professionals who serve as change agents that make a difference by promoting social justice, embracing diversity in its broadest definition, inspiring thought leadership, and pursuing lifelong learning.

Key Initiatives

- Provide professional development on topics related to linguistically and culturally diverse populations.
- Create a trusting, welcoming, and friendly environment that values and respects the true essence of the diversity of opinion, and ideas.
- Provide incentive (starting) packages for new faculty.
- Increase the diversity of faculty members that are responsive to multicultural education and research.

Sample Metrics

- Number of professional development activities provided each year.
- Retention rate of new faculty.
- Annual college climate survey.
- Longitudinal data on demographics of college faculty and pools of potential applicants.

Priority 4: Building a Research Enterprise

Goal

Building a research enterprise, including research services, graduate programs, and undergraduate research opportunities that empower the generation of knowledge, discoveries, and creativity in all fields represented by our College.

Key Initiatives

• Create a center for research support which enables faculty to conduct research and provides consultation services to faculty, graduate students, and community school districts as follows:

   o Provide research design and methodology.
   o Derive psychometric properties for scales, measures, and assessment instruments.
   o Statistical data analysis for quantitative and qualitative research.

o Provide staff that focuses on grant development and post-award activities, such as budget management.
o Collect and aggregate data on grant activities.

• Develop undergraduate scholarly opportunities.

• Develop graduate scholarly opportunities.

Sample Metrics

- External funding opportunities.
- Center creation.
- Scholarly opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students.

Priority 5: Evidenced-based Decision-making

Goal

Lead through evidence-based decision-making and data literacy.

Key Initiatives

- Establish a data institute to promote evidence-based decision-making and data literacy.
- Create a portal through which faculty members can access anytime, anywhere programmatic information to maximally inform decision-making.
- Implement programmatic decision-making based on data from the institute and other extant sources.

Sample Metrics

- Established institute.
- Portal created for all faculty access.
- Evaluate the use of data in programmatic decision-making.

Ratified by Faculty June 2019

Priority 6: Community Engagement

Goal

Contribute to community wealth and asset building by integrating, coordinating, and leveraging programs and resources to support activities that enhance educational opportunities and wellbeing, including especially underserved and bilingual communities through partnerships with educational partners, families, policymakers, and local, regional, national, and global agencies, institutions, and organizations.

Key Initiatives

- Catalog college and educationally related partnerships throughout the University to provide an understanding of existing partnerships.
- Enhance curriculum and research by building upon and creating new partnerships, internal and external to the University.

Sample Metrics

- Creation of catalog that describes partnerships.
- Increased number of partnerships, collaboration, and collaborative activities.