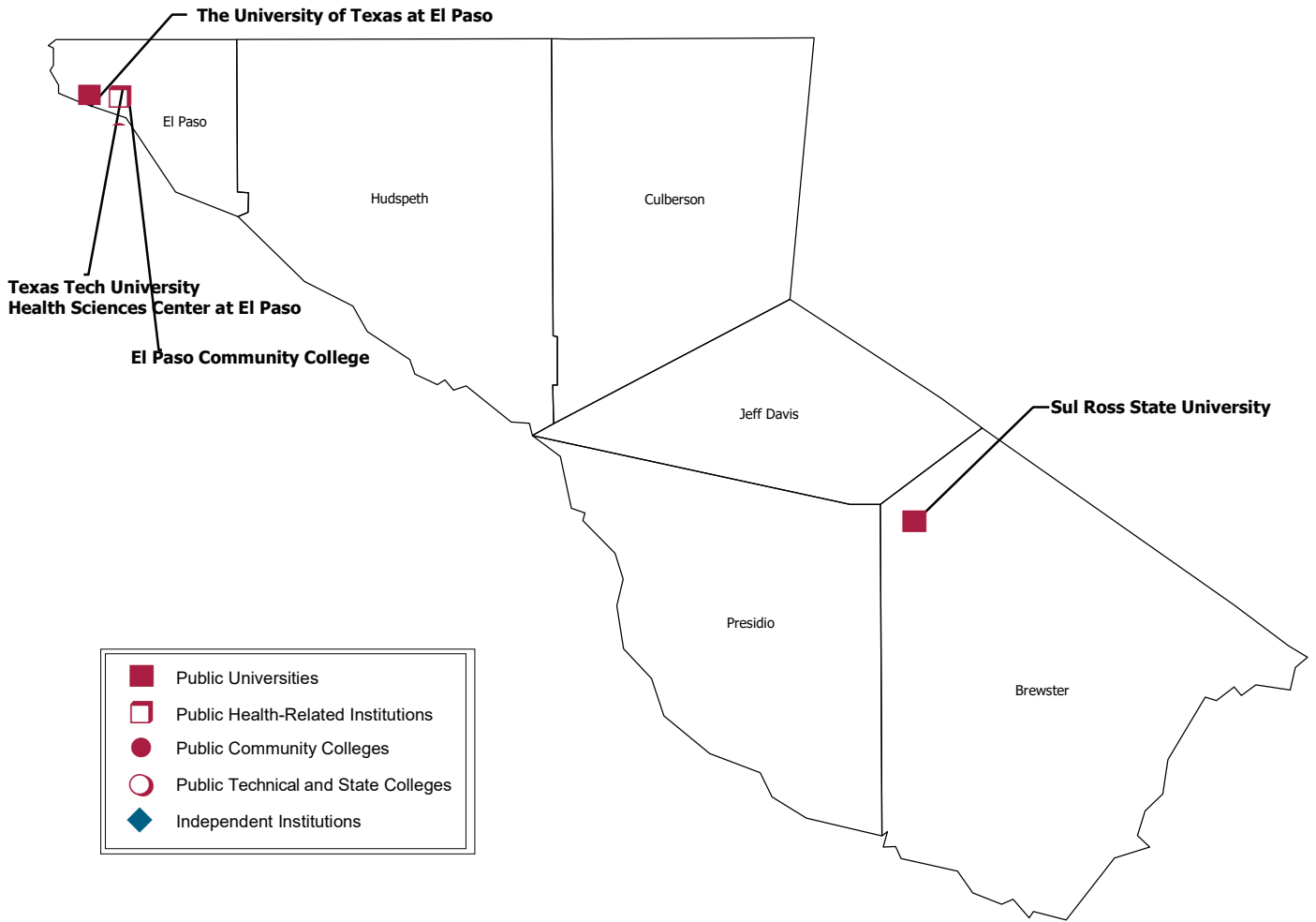
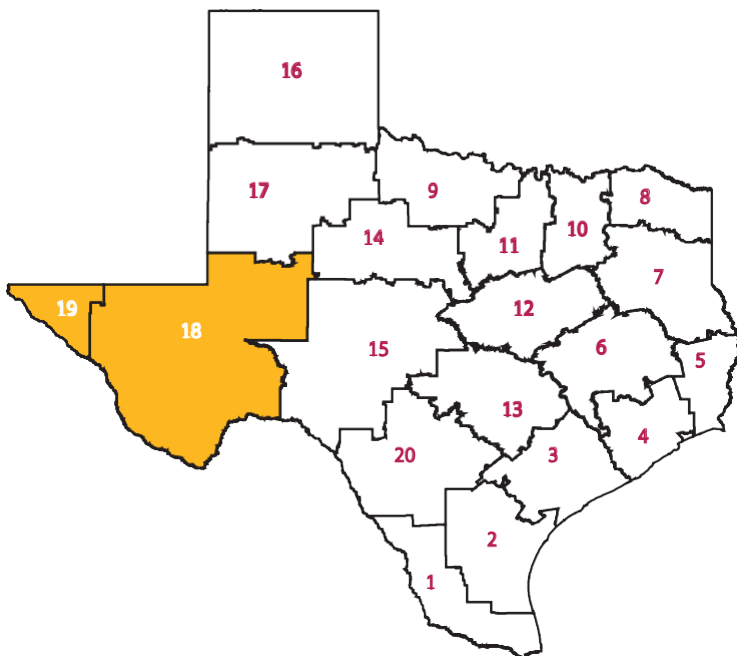


# Upper Rio Grande 2019 – 2020 REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

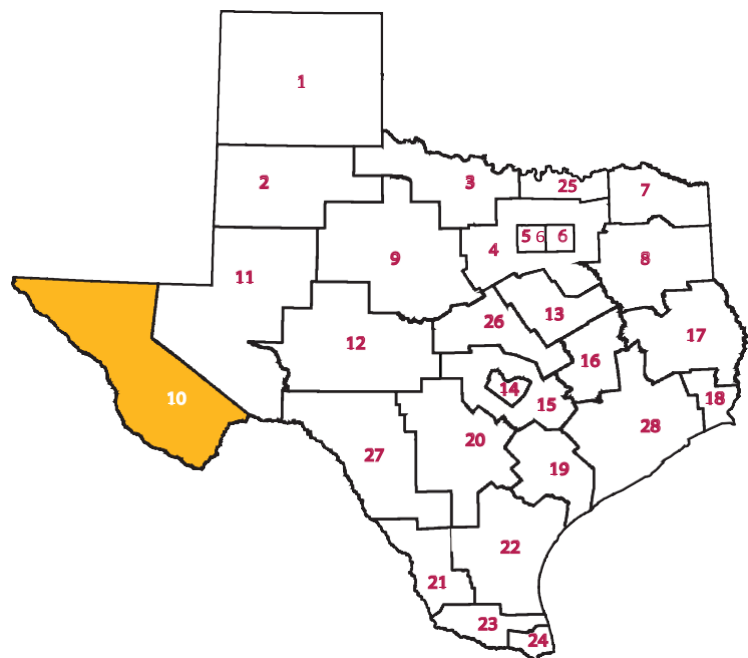
## Higher Education Region



## Education Service Centers (K12)



## TWC Workforce Development Areas



## Upper Rio Grande Region

### 60x30: EDUCATED POPULATION

#### Completed Activities

The Upper Rio Grande Region 10 has implemented several strategies that seek to increase the population of 25-34 year old students to return to college.

(1) Gathering and reviewing relevant data. THECB has identified 37,000 potential students in Region 10 with some credit- but without a credential. UTEP and EPCC have enlisted the support of their respective research departments to determine the number of stop-outs who have left the college or university between fall 2015 to fall 2018

(2) On-going partnership meetings. In collaboration with the Workforce Solutions Borderplex (WSB), UTEP and WSB submitted a joint grant application for nearly \$500,000 to fund at least 40 students who have stopped-out. Analysis of qualifying individuals assessed for good standing, within 30 hours of degree completion and potentially able to join the workforce in high-demand, upper wage quartile jobs. In partnership with UT System and other internal UTEP departments, organizations such as Re-Up are being validated for their claim to successfully re-engage stop-outs at a rate of 7%. Costs associated with this partnership appear inhibitive at this time, and currently prevent next steps. Discussions are still in progress to determine whether or not this is a good option for the region. Regional efforts with the Workforce Solutions Borderplex are making programs available to students who receive SNAP/TANF benefits. UTEP or EPCC students may qualify for social services support (daycare, emergency aid, etc.) and paid certifications that make the student more marketable. Through the El Paso Collaborative, and in partnership with the Teachers' Federal Credit Union, a survey has been disseminated to employees at TFCU to gage their level of interest in returning to college. Overall, the survey found that in the target age range of 25-34 year-olds, most employees without credentials are interested in pursuing coursework leading to a bachelor's degree. Next steps will be discussed to launch the strategy to support interested students. TFCU Back to School workshop- A 'back-to-school' workshop will be held with TFCU employees to provide information about certificate and degree programs available at EPCC or UTEP. The workshop is scheduled for late September 2019.

## 2019 – 2020 Planned Activities

- 1) Continue partnership meetings Host Back to School Workshop with TFCU Partner with ADP (large employer) to identify and provide back-to-school information to the target population Seek additional business partners Continue collaborative efforts with Workforce Solutions Borderplex
- 2) Review of data Work with Texas Tech Health Science Center- El Paso to determine the number of stop-outs in the target age range Work with Sul Ross University to determine the number of stop-outs in the target age range
- 3) Consider Re-Up as a potential vendor and partner with the region to re-engage target population
- 4) Design and print collateral specifically geared at the target population

## Insights Related to Educated Population Data Trends

**2017 Educated Population 39.8%**

**2016 Educated Population 41.7%**

**2015 Educated Population 38.3%**

The Workforce Solutions Borderplex has produced a study that indicates that between 2012-2016 the region has experienced a net migration loss of -11,347 individuals. San Antonio/Bexar County, Fort Worth/Tarrant County, Austin/Travis County and Albuquerque/Bernalillo County are the top 4 areas attracting El Paso's talent largely due to higher wages paid in these communities.

## COMPLETION

### Completed Activities

The dual credit ecosystem in Region 19 is widely supported in partnership with EPCC, UTEP, El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence, ESC Region 19, the 12 ISDs, and recently, Texas Tech HSC and Western Technical College. The number of students participating in dual credit programs in Region 19 has increased to +8,600 in fall 2018 from 8,066 in fall 2017. Teachers seeking college instructor credentials at EPCC most often pursue graduate coursework at UTEP. The number of credentialed college instructors who teach dual credit has increased from 224 in 2017-2018 to 261 in 2018-2019. There are many contributing factors such as:

- \* Steadfast, regional focus supporting dual credit education through the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence
- \* Dedicated Dean for Dual Credit and Early College High School funded by El Paso Community College
- \* All 12 ISDs in ESC Region 19 provide incentives to dual credit teachers
- \* External funders provide teachers with substantial scholarship support

- \* Dedicated office to support early college high school students at the University of Texas at El Paso
- \* Regional dual credit learning modules tailored to meet the needs of a variety of audiences to establish regional dual credit expectations
- \* Regularly scheduled and facilitated dual credit leadership and counseling institutes between higher and public education institutions

### **2019 – 2020 Planned Activities**

- \* Develop dual credit heat maps for data analysis
- \* Develop 3-way (ISD, EPCC, UTEP) degree maps for maximum alignment of dual credit coursework
- \* Continue to support the ISDs in growing their early college high school programs or P-TECH academies
- \* ISDs are expanding partnership with Texas Tech HSU, Western Technical College and UT On-ramps to increase dual credit opportunities in the schools. Ensure dual credit data is being collected and reported.

### **Insights Related to Completion Data Trends**

**2018 Completion 9,690**

**2017 Completion 9,416**

**2016 Completion 9,507**

In Region 10, the majority of the credentials come from El Paso Community College and the University of Texas at El Paso. Both institutions have made gains in the number of credentials awarded and are on pace to meet the 2020 target.

## **HIGH SCHOOL-TO-HIGHER EDUCATION**

### **Completed Activities**

- \* Key focus of the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence
- \* HB5 College Prep Courses The ESC Region 19 is the backbone organization supporting the region in the use and implementation of the HB5 college prep courses. Region 19 has provided the platform and organized the participants who have developed the College Prep English Course and College Prep Mathematics Course with appropriate faculty from the ISDs, EPCC and UTEP. Across the region, there has been a significant increase in the use of the HB5 college prep courses: College Prep ELA course SY 2017-2018 - 359 students SY 2018-2019 - 2,121 students College Prep Mathematics course SY 2017-2018 - 1,209 students SY 2018-2019 - 3,038 students This strategy allows students who have otherwise been unsuccessful on the TSIA to earn the TSI exemption and enter a gateway college course. Data will be collected and assessed.
- \* Operation College Bound
- \* UTEP/EPCC and ISD data meetings across the region with ISD leadership team

## 2019 – 2020 Planned Activities

### Next steps:

- \* Data mining- investigate the number of students who enrolled college-ready
- \* Collaborate with ISDs to increase the number of students who can benefit
- \* Track how well students are doing in gateway courses at EPCC and UTEP
- \* Partner with Region 19 to develop professional development for teachers and other relevant stakeholders that supports and expands implementation of HB5 college prep course

## Insights to High School-To-Higher Education Data Trends

**2018 High school-to-higher education rate 54.7%**

**2017 High school-to-higher education rate 56.4%**

**2016 High school-to-higher education rate 56.9%**

As of July 2019, the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas reports positive job growth and low unemployment for El Paso and Hudspeth Counties. Typically, in a good economy, there is a decline of students pursuing higher education. A concerted effort to increase college participation across the region continues to play a central role for institutions of public and higher ed. Below are a few of the ongoing efforts the region is committed to:

- \* El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence
- \* Operation College Bound
- \* Leveraging Data to Support a College-Going and College-Completing Culture: Individual leadership meetings at each ISD
- \* Dedicated outreach and recruitment efforts from El Paso Community College and the University of Texas at El Paso
- \* Apply Texas Executive Team
- \* FAFSA Nights Regional Committee
- \* Executive Articulation Council (UTEP and EPCC senior leadership)
- \* New UTEP PayDirt Promise to cover tuition and fees for students reporting annual family incomes of \$40K per year or less

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence (a regional leadership council) is the backbone of the Upper Rio Grande regional work. The EPCAE convenes quarterly and discusses progress towards the 60x30TX plan. Depending on the strategy, the EPCAE develops or supports regional action networks that develop action items to push on the strategies. A fall convening is being planned to inform the community of progress made towards the 60x30TX goals.