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Central Texas college access group wins \$113K

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A collaboration working to increase college access and success in Central Texas was awarded \$113,000.

The **Austin College Access Network** (ACAN) received the funds from TG, formerly known as the **Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corp.**, to create community systems that support college persistence among under-represented students.

ACAN is a **E3 Alliance**-facilitated collaboration of community providers and regional higher education institutions, chaired by the **College Forward** organization. Other participants include **Austin Community College**, **Breakthrough**, **Con Mi Madre**, the **Hispanic Scholarship Consortium**, **Kipp Austin**, the **Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources** and **Texas A&M University**.

The group's are working together to increase the number of students headed to college and their success after they get there. Currently, only 43 percent of Central Texas high school graduates who attend Texas colleges graduate within six years. The rate is even lower for low-income and first-generation college-goers.

The group is working with researchers from the Ray Marshall Center Student Futures Project to gauge the success of the collaboration's initiatives and systemize the most success ventures. The E3 Alliance was created to develop such a "blue print" for aligning educational systems and increasing economic outcomes for the region.

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