



## **BLUEPRINT for CHANGE** **2008 Leaders Summit**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **E<sup>3</sup> ALLIANCE LEADERS SUMMIT TO CREATE BLUEPRINT FOR EDUCATION CHANGE IN CENTRAL TEXAS**

(Austin, Texas) ---- Over 150 business, education and community leaders around the region are convening to create a 21<sup>st</sup> Century blueprint to create systemic change in our education systems in Central Texas.

Central Texas regional leaders will gather on January 23, 2008 at the Four Seasons in Austin to develop the “Blueprint for Change in Education for Central Texas.” The E<sup>3</sup> Alliance has spent a year and a half compiling the most extensive set of objective regional data on education outcomes and trends ever available and engaging Central Texas communities to bring forward the best ideas from across the region. The process led to over 600 participants taking part in multi-session, structured dialogues about the impacts of education achievement gaps on our region. Now the E<sup>3</sup> Alliance is asking regional leaders to “roll up their sleeves” to help define the “Blueprint for Change.”

"Recent studies have shown that closing the gaps to education success across all groups would benefit the Central Texas region by almost \$52 Billion by 2030," said Susan Dawson, executive director of the E<sup>3</sup> Alliance. "It is vital that our education goals are aligned with the economic future of the region. Creating a ‘Blueprint for Change’ will help our children to be prepared for personal success and build the workforce we need for a globally competitive economy."

The summit will be an interactive process that will allow leaders to select and quantify strategic education goals that will drive the Blueprint for Change. The community action plans from E<sup>3</sup> Alliance’s previous work will support these goals, and this in turn will “cascade down” to actionable strategies.

Raymund Paredes, state Commissioner of Higher Education and speaker at the upcoming Summit stated, “Education is the key to our economic and social future. As we look at our global competition and the requirements of a competitive economy – especially with the coming retirement of the baby boomers – it is clear that too few students are successful in high school and higher education. Today we must work together to develop quantified goals for the Central Texas region. Whether you are a business, political, community or education leader this is in all our self-interest. We must commit to true systemic change – not just in our own organizations but as a region and a state.”

(MORE)



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(E<sup>3</sup> ALLIANCE LEADERS SUMMIT Cont'd)

### **About the E<sup>3</sup> Alliance**

The E<sup>3</sup> Alliance was formed as a regional collaborative to increase global competitiveness, economic vitality and overall quality of life for Central Texas by aligning our education systems to better fulfill the potential of every citizen. Founding partners are Austin Community College (ACC), the Austin Area Research Organization (AARO), the University of Texas, and dozens of businesses, foundations, educational institutions and community-based organizations are active partners.

Guided by an objective data map and a clear community vision, the E<sup>3</sup> Alliance proposes to better align the practices of our regional education system and allocate investments and services more efficiently to dramatically and sustainably increase educational outcomes. The E<sup>3</sup>Alliance is the Central Texas P-16 Council.



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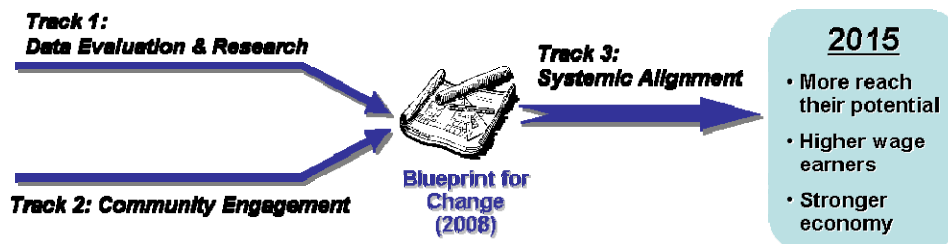
**What:** E<sup>3</sup> Alliance **Blueprint for Change** 2008 Leaders Summit

**When:** 7:30 – 11:30AM Wednesday January 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Who:** Business leaders, politicians, community leaders, superintendents, college presidents from across the Central Texas region

### Background:

The E<sup>3</sup> Alliance is a regional collaborative established to create a research-based “blueprint” to align our education systems to better fulfill the potential of every citizen and in turn, increase economic outcomes and build a stronger economic future for our region. All of the research and community engagement that has been undertaken by the E<sup>3</sup> Alliance and our many partners over the last two years has led into this Summit, where leaders from across the region will be “rolling up their sleeves” to help us prioritize strategic goals for Central Texas education as part of the **Blueprint for Change**.



### Key Activities:

- Why do We Need to do This? – Dr. Raymund Paredes, Commissioner of Higher Education
- The Financial Context of Educating – Education finance expert David Thompson
- Prioritizing Regional Education Goals – business, education and community leaders will work together to set quantified strategic goals that are the basis for our Blueprint for Change
- “Firing Line” Panel to Reflect on Goals – Evan Smith, Nyle Maxwell, Sterling Lands, Rene Ruiz
- Leading the Commitment to Change – Senator Kirk Watson

### What is the Blueprint for Change?

The Blueprint for Change is the regional strategic plan that defines critical leverage points enabling systemic alignment of our education systems from early childhood to workforce prosperity. The Blueprint for Change will specify quantified goals and strategic actions around community engagement, alignment of practices and institutions, optimization of resources, needed policy changes, and financial opportunities. The completed Blueprint will provide a way for people at every level to connect into and engage in education reform for our region.

*Example Q&A: If we want to achieve our Closing the Gaps to college goal by 2015, how many additional students from my school do we need to get into college in the next 2 years?*

### Questions?

Rick Olmos at [rolmos@e3alliance.org](mailto:rolmos@e3alliance.org) or by phone at 512-223-7244



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### Summit Goals:

- 1) Prioritize 3-5 quantified, strategic goals for regional education outcomes
- 2) Create leadership commitment to support and drive these strategic goals

### Agenda:

- 7:30      **Check-In, Breakfast, Table Location**
- 7:45      **Welcome, Exciting Announcement – *Susan Dawson***
- 7:50      **Personal Stake in Goal Setting – *All Participants***
- 8:20      **Overview, Meeting Purpose – *Commissioner Raymund Paredes***
- 8:30      **The Financial Context – *David Thompson***
- 8:40      **Background for Setting Goals – *Susan Dawson, Yolanda Almendarez, Gene Austin, Hannah Gourgey***
- 9:10      **Prioritize and Adopt Goals – *All Participants***
- 10:25     **“Firing Line” Panel – *Evan Smith, Nyle Maxwell, Sterling Lands, Rene Ruiz***
- 10:50     **Where We Go from Here – *Susan Dawson***
- 10:55     **Committing to the Blueprint for Change, Moving to Action – *All Participants, led by Senator Kirk Watson***