

## **Austin American-Statesman**

Metro & State; Page B7  
Sunday, August 6, 2006

### **Education Equals Economics? Bank on It.**

Austin Community College has co-founded the E<sup>3</sup> (Education Equals Economics) Alliance, a regional collaborative whose goal is to "close the gaps" to college and ensure a home-grown, qualified workforce in Central Texas.

"Central Texas faces a steady loss in household income unless we align all the components of our regional education system to better fulfill the potential of every student," says Susan Dawson, E<sup>3</sup> Alliance executive director.

E<sup>3</sup> Alliance goals include alignment of educational resources and practices directed at individuals from birth through college in order to prepare individuals for successful careers. Doing so links educational outcomes with global competitiveness of the region—thus Education Equals Economics.

"As the regional leader in workforce training and retraining, ACC recognizes the unbreakable connection between individual success and a strong workforce," Dawson says. "It is a natural partner for the E<sup>3</sup> Alliance."

The E<sup>3</sup> Alliance is a collaboration of the region's education systems; co-founders include the University of Texas at Austin and the Austin Area Research Organization. ACC houses the E<sup>3</sup> Alliance and acts as fiscal agent for E<sup>3</sup> initiatives.