



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rick Olmos
Phone: (512) 223-7244
Email: rolmos@austincc.edu

Central Texas School District Superintendents Partner with the E³ Alliance for Unprecedented Series of Forums on Education

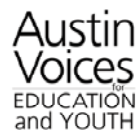
Central Texas school district superintendents and the E³ Alliance—a collaborative effort of Austin Community College (ACC), the Austin Area Research Organization (AARO), the University of Texas and others—will launch an unprecedented community-wide dialogue about the impacts of Achievement Gaps in Education with a forum on Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. at McNeil High School. The forum is the first in a series that will be held in October and early November in communities across Central Texas including Austin, Bastrop, Manor, Round Rock, San Marcos and Westlake.

The moderated discussions, hosted in partnership with Austin Voices for Education and Youth and Texas Forums, are open to the public, allowing each community to examine options for improving education outcomes for all students.

"Recent studies have shown that closing the gaps to education across all groups would benefit the Central Texas region by almost \$52 Billion by 2030," said Susan Dawson, executive director of the E³ Alliance. "It is vital that the public have an opportunity to participate in a discussion about education and the achievement gaps that threaten our economic future."

The goal of the forums is to give everyone the opportunity to voice their opinion and share their views on education and, in turn, provide the community, experts and policy-makers more understanding prior to making decisions and setting education policies. These group discussions will strengthen the community's standing in the eyes of policy makers and will build consensus and increase clarity within the community.

These deliberations will culminate in a Regional Delegate Forum on November 15, at which each community will take part in developing a region-wide plan to close education achievement gaps that will lay groundwork for a Blueprint for Change in Education for Central Texas.





The discussions will be held on the following dates and times at the following locations:

Discussion Schedule						
Community	Day	1st	2nd	3rd	Location	Time
Round Rock	Tuesdays	10/2/2007	10/9/2007	10/16/2007	McNeil High School 5720 McNeil Drive Austin, TX 78729	6:30-9pm
Manor	Tuesdays	10/9/2007	10/16/2007	10/23/2007	Old Manor Middle School aka New Tech High 10323 Hwy 290E Manor, TX 78653	6-8:15pm
Bastrop	Mondays	10/15/2007	10/22/2007	10/29/2007	Mina Elementary School 1203 Hill Street Bastrop, TX 78602	6-8pm
Austin	Thursdays	10/18/2007	10/25/2007	11/1/2007	Reagan High School 7104 Berkman Austin, TX 78752	6-8:30
San Marcos	Mondays	10/22/2007	10/29/2007	11/5/2007	San Marcos High School 2601 East McCarty Lane San Marcos, TX 78666	6-8pm
Eanes	Tuesdays	10/23/2007	10/30/2007		Hill Country Middle School 1300 Walsh Tarlton Austin, TX 78746	6-9pm

For more information about the discussions in a specific community, to RSVP, or for materials, visit the E³ Alliance Web site at: www.e3alliance.org

About the E³ Alliance

The E³ Alliance was formed as a collaborative effort of Austin Community College (ACC), the Austin Area Research Organization (AARO), the University of Texas and others to initiate a regional effort 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.

Guided by an objective data map and a clear community vision, the E³ 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 E³ Alliance acts as the Central Texas P-16 Council.

