Early College High School Students: The UTEP Perspective

The University of Texas at El Paso

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Students from the highest income families are almost 8X as likely as those from the lowest income families to earn a degree by age 24.

If talent crosses all boundaries (race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic), then we’re missing out on a lot of talent.

*The College Completion Agenda 2010 Progress Report*
Early College High Schools

• Started in 2002 with seed funding from Gates, Carnegie Corp., Ford, Kellog, and Lumina
• Primarily funded by states and local districts
• Partnership between schools district, higher education institution (2 or 4yr), and community
• Committed to serving students under-represented in higher education
• Goal – in 4 yrs post middle school, achieve high school diploma and 2 yrs (assoc degree) college credit
Early College High Schools

Number of Early College Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Early College High Schools
Locations of **UTEP** and the **ECHS**

**NW ECHS**  
**TM ECHS**  
**VV ECHS**  
**MECHS**  
**CV ECHS**  
**CECHS**
79% of UTEP’s undergraduate students from El Paso County are from zip codes with per capita incomes of less than $19,900 per year.
83% of all students are from El Paso County

56.6% of new students are first generation
# UTEP Undergraduate Degrees Awarded to Hispanics

## National Rankings: AY 08-09

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Science</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics and Statistics</td>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Professions</td>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological and Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Total Undergraduate Degrees Awarded

| Field                                      | 3<sup>rd</sup> |

# Types of ECHS Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional ECHS</th>
<th>Accelerated ECHS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Completed Associate’s degree at end of senior year of high school</td>
<td>• Completed Associate’s degree PRIOR to the end of senior year of high school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Completed Associate’s degree and High School diploma at the same time</td>
<td>• Senior year of high school and junior year of college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 60 or more credits</td>
<td>• 60 or more credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UTEP ECHS First Cohort

“The 23”

Entered UTEP 2009, all accelerated route

- 16 / 23 STEM & Allied Health Majors
- Average ACT Score: 22.6
- Average HS GPA: 97.0
- Average EPCC GPA: 3.5
- Free/Reduced Lunch Eligible: 65%
- Hispanic: 100%
The 23 Fall 2009 Results

- 11 / 23 were registered Full Time
- 12 / 23 were registered Part Time (5 – 11 hours)
- 7 students earned a 4.0
- 2 additional students made the Dean's List
- Average GPA of the 23 was 3.44
- All 23 students registered for Spring 2011, 18 FT
- 22 students registered for Fall 2011
First Two Engineering Graduates

• Sofia Reyes (CE) and Stephanie Sanchez (ECE)
• Graduated CC 2009, ECHS 2010, UTEP 2012
• Motivation – parental influence, faster to degree

+ Transitions – ECHS to UTEP smoother than MS to ECHS
– No UTEP advising until 2009 (late Calc start)
– Missed senior year activities
Potential ECHS Student Enrollment at UTEP

![Bar graph showing potential student enrollment from Fall 2009 to Fall 2014. The enrollment increases significantly from 2009 to 2014.]
Key Practices

Integrated across the University

- ECHS Advisory Group with Faculty and Staff representatives
  - Financial Aid
  - Academic Advising
- Keep Administration current with progress, successes, and issues
- Take key personnel to on-site tours

- Enrollment Services
- Faculty in key disciplines
Key Practices

Write Grants to support various components

– NSF GK-12: $2.8 million
– Boeing: ECHS Young Women in STEM: $4,000
– Teachers for a New Era
  • ECHS Professional Development
  • Summer Conference
– Learn & Serve with Center for Civic Engagement and College of Engineering
Future Opportunities?

• Expanded 2 + 2 degree plans (like Europeans?)
• More Summer Programming
  – Research
  – On-campus residency
• Encourage more student involvement with clubs and organizations, research labs, internships