



SECOND CENTURY EDUCATION SUMMIT

Education in the Borderlands of West Texas

SCES NEWSLETTER

JULY 2016

NO. 1

A Message from President Bill Kibler

On April 26, 2016, educational leaders came together to discuss the future of education in the region. We see a need to improve our collaborative efforts within school districts and with the local university. The discussion yielded similarities and differences and ways to use each other as resources.

Our borderlands regions holds a unique position in the state of Texas, and it is up to us to find innovative ways to meet the demands of the residents.

I look forward to many more opportunities for our work together as we build up the borderlands!

Best wishes,

STILL WATER
FOUNDATION

PERMIAN BASIN
AREA FOUNDATION

KING
FOUNDATION

MEADOWS
FOUNDATION

KIRKPATRICK
FAMILY FUND

What is the Second Century Education Summit?

Five foundations approached Sul Ross State University President Bill Kibler with an idea for a way to give back to the region they consider special to them. They suggested that Dr. Kibler serve as a facilitator to encourage the fourteen regional school districts to serve as an example of collaboration, cooperation, and conversations. The foundations look forward to learning more about the needs, ideas, and programs that each school district offers in order to increase educational attainment of the region.

The first education summit included facilitation by Dr. Scarlet Clouse, Assistant Professor and Director of Teacher Education and Ms. Patricia Long, Director of the Small Business Development Center. They worked together to ask a series of questions to garner input from the attendees about ways to improve, cultivate, or enhance their educational programs in the region. Ms. Long presented information about economic vitality for the area and the importance of educated and skilled workers in order to thrive as a region. Dr. Clouse provided an analysis of the various academic performances for the area. The end result showcased a trio of goals that drive the summit: elevated educational attainment leads to elevated local economy leads to elevated the quality of life; and the circle continues.

The next pages outline the ongoing topics for Education in the Borderlands.





Roundtable Discussions encouraged participants to provide input about the region's education levels, goals, and future collaboration. Using four questions to solicit input permitted the facilitators to gather information and condense the answers below.

What role will educational attainment play in enhancing the quality of life and vitality of the people of our region?

As a profession, we believe that education enhances life. This region offers significant opportunities for educational attainment but after our students earn degrees they leave for larger cities. In order to combat this problem, it is up to the region to revitalize the economy and create jobs so that our children can enjoy a higher quality of life and earn better incomes. This idea starts by asking employers what they need and requires educators to follow through by offering more opportunities to learn those skills. We must re-package learning so that we emphasize the needs relevant to our communities. When our local businesses thrive, our graduates have a likelier chance to earn a living in the area. As a community of educators, we must engage with our local business leaders to produce a workforce that is sustainable for the region and offers opportunity for innovation.

- Develop relationships with local businesses
- Enhance Skilled and Trade Vocations
- Identify Regional Employment Needs
- Encourage Innovative Industries in the Region

What role should the fourteen Independent School Districts in our region play in achieving those educational attainment goals.

The mission that the local ISD's play in advancing educational attainment goals remains critical. In order to accomplish increased education levels for the Borderlands region, ISD's wish to expand the traditional definition of their role in the community and with Sul Ross State University. Regional ISD's strongly desire to promote the idea of "shared" resources, especially due to the unique challenges they face with recruiting and retaining quality teachers and administrators.

Throughout the discussions, it was evident that ISD's desire to continue and grow the reciprocal nature of the partnership with Sul Ross State University through 1) greater Sul Ross presence on campuses, 2) ongoing dialogue regarding dual credit opportunities, and 3) support ISD's mission to prepare students for academic success in postsecondary education.

- Ongoing & Open Communication of Needs
- Explore Nontraditional Learning Opportunities
- Shared Resources
- Emphasis on Real-Life Education in the Borderland Region





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How can Sul Ross State University work with ISD's and serve as a resource in achieving these educational goals?

Sul Ross State University remains passionate about providing support and resources to the ISD's in order to elevate educational attainment in the Borderlands. Sul Ross, in partnership with area ISD's, continues looking to the future to combine our understanding of the current market challenges we face to achieve our collective educational goals. During the discussion at the April 26th Summit, participants generated a number of ideas for Sul Ross to facilitate services and host functions on campus, to provide the ISD's with a venue to hold career fairs, to provide teacher training, to facilitate problem and needs assessments, to bring employers and employees together and host informal monthly conversations with principals, counselors or students. In this effort, Sul Ross aspires to enable teaching and learning by leveraging the Sul Ross faculty and staff to provide effective ISD-support services for the enrichment of the cultural, intellectual, social and economic lives of the citizens of the Borderlands.

- Administer Vocational Training
- Continuing Education Facilitation
- Expand Dual Credit Program
- Foster Internships

What educational attainment progress can we expect to achieve in the next five years and what are the steps required to achieve that progress?

Local ISD's and Sul Ross State University share a vision for progress in the borderlands. The key to achieving success in the region requires frequent and sustained collaboration between ISD's. With effective communication, each ISD serves as a resource for one another to learn, collaborate, and discuss best practices. Education serves as the primary indicator for vitality in a region. By focusing efforts like establishing Pre-K in all border cities, students begin their educational career early and prepared for their futures. Enhancing programs at Sul Ross in Industrial Technology and other skill based vocations offers residents opportunities for an elevated quality of life. Continuing discussion between ISD's and Sul Ross encourages partnerships to address the growing needs of the area and the workforce. As a region, educational attainment cannot improve without support from the leaders in secondary and post-secondary institutions.

- 21st Century Teachers who Inspire Critical Thinking
- Share Knowledge and Resources Across the Region
- Address Community Needs
- Provide Effective Professional Development in Education



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Looking Forward

Further discussion and collaboration from each ISD and Sul Ross.

Biennial Second Century Education Summit meetings of the ISD's at Sul Ross - each fall and spring. Please choose two dates from the list below to schedule the 2nd Second Century Education Summit for the Fall of 2016 and reply to Yvonne Realivasquez (yrealivasquez@sulross.edu) with your preferences.

Thursday, September 15th

Wednesday, October 12th

Monday, November 14th

Counselor Camps @ Sul Ross - Counselors meet with representatives from Financial Aid, Admissions, Advising, and Academic Departments to learn about each area in order to prepare high school students for college.

Discussion for potential internships in local businesses for area high schools students to learn industry standards and on the job training.

Teacher training collaboration with ISD's and Sul Ross Education Department - Sul Ross Education Majors hear directly from Principals and Superintendents about the needs of the districts and what it takes to succeed in West Texas Public Schools.

Thank you to each ISD representative for attending the first Second Century Education Summit.

Thank you to the Still Water Foundation, Permian Basin Area Foundation, King Foundation, Meadows Foundation and the Kirkpatrick Family Fund for their generous support of this initiative.

Thank you to ARAMARK dining services at Sul Ross State University.

