

# Highlights of 2009 Activities

The Education Alliance leadership and the stakeholder groups produced or supported many activities during 2009. Nine of the more notable activities are highlighted below. Contact information is shown to allow you to obtain additional information concerning the activities.

## 1. Guided Reading Training

- a. Contact: Cyndi Hernandez, 254-495-5264, cyndi\_hernandez@baylor.edu
- b. Tutor training for community volunteers and non-profit in-/and/afterschool tutors to teach research-based tutoring methods and set standards. Guided reading strategy will enable tutors to:
  - i. Determine the approximate reading level of the student, if that information is not provided by the school.
  - ii. Match students with the appropriate reading material.
  - iii. Use techniques that are most effective at the student's reading level.
  - iv. Track data in order to measure the impact of the efforts.
- c. Tutoring program pilot at Doris Miller started in September
  - i. Intervention to address students who are not reading at grade level
  - ii. Six weeks of individual tutoring
  - iii. Already seeing marked improvements

## 2. Early Childhood Assessment Study

- a. Contact: Ashley Allison, 254-754-3404, a.allison@wacofoundation.org
- b. Waco Foundation \$10,000 grant for a comprehensive study of childcare, ages 0–5, in McLennan County, to include daycare centers, family care, and baseline needs assessment
- c. Progress report presented at the 2009 Education Summit

## 3. BLOCK Fest

- a. Contact: Melba Bunch, mbunch@esc12.net
- b. Interactive parent-student activity to help parents learn teaching techniques to work with their children using block play. Each BLOCK Fest involves 40 children and their parents rotating through five stations of block play.
- c. Boise, Idaho, pioneered Block Play for parents and children 18 month to 8 years to develop language and math concepts; proven significant skill increase by high school
- d. Facilitator training provided by Region XII, to be demonstrated (with children and their parents) at the 2009 Summit (Nov. 18–20) Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon
- e. Block Fest facilitator training will be available to all after-school programs, child care professionals, churches, tutors, librarians, CIS workers, etc.



## 4. Businesses Stakeholder Group

- a. Contact: David Lacy, 254-753-1521, wdlacy@cbtwaco.com
- b. Visiting high school classes to discuss general skills needed for employment
- c. Supported and promoted the Waco ISD dress code and closed campus issues in spring 2009



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## 5. College Readiness Workshops

- a. Contact: Chris Lazaro, 301-467-8110, ChrisL@ci.waco.tx.us; and Robbie Stabeno, 254-752-9457, rstabeno@wacofoundation.org
- b. Pilot program at one (1) high school to address all high school seniors regarding college application and financial aid processes
- c. College preparation workshops at two (2) local high schools to address all high school freshmen regarding various “talking points” on college selection, admissions, and financial aid.

## 6. Nonprofit Alliance

- a. Contact: Cheryl Allen, 254-754 3404, cheryllallen@wacofoundation.org
- b. Created Nonprofits Aligned for Education
- c. Collaboration, regular meetings, and communication between nonprofit organizations

## 7. Scholarship Website

- a. Contact: Robbie Stabeno, 254-752 9457, rstabeno@wacofoundation.org
- b. Searchable database of all local scholarships

## 8. Afterschool Care

- a. Contact: Ashley McClure, 254-752-5515, ashley@campfiretejas.org
- b. Collaboration among afterschool care organizations
- c. Creating local chapter of Texas Afterschool Association
- d. Provide training for afterschool care employees

## 9. Community and Faith Organizations’ Work Day at Brazos Middle School

- a. Contact: Kevin Harrison, pk@vlcwaco.com
- b. Develop relationship with the school through clean-up and other projects around the school

