



For Immediate Distribution
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STATEMENT: CREEED BOARD CHAIRMAN ON STATE OF EDUCATION EVENT

EL PASO, Texas - Today, The Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce held their annual State of Education event and focused the discussions on the findings and recommendations of the [60x30 El Paso Report](#), commissioned by the Council on Regional Economic Expansion and Educational Development (CREEED). The report provides a baseline understanding of current education attainment gaps in the El Paso region and factors contributing to these gaps. The event convened business, academic and community leaders to discuss ways the region can improve educational outcomes and workforce preparedness. Richard Castro, Board Chairman of CREEED, issued the following statement:

"Today's Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce State of Education event is precisely the kind of convening and conversation CREEED hoped would arise among El Paso's varied stakeholders when the 60x30 El Paso Report was released earlier this year.

The report provides an outlook on where the region is in meeting the state's outlined goal on postsecondary attainment - to have 60 percent of working age adults obtain a postsecondary degree or specialized certificate by 2030. Meeting that goal helps ensure that our region is able to compete for jobs in our ever-changing global economy. We face difficult, complex challenges to reach that goal, but I am inspired by the regional response of the business, education and nonprofit communities.

The event's theme, "Laying the Groundwork for our Future," is telling of the road ahead. Together, we can develop solutions that will help our region move forward in securing a competitive workforce and vibrant economy. The next steps involve all of us. CREEED will continue to engage superintendents, local colleges, nonprofit organizations, and other stakeholders to pave the way to a brighter El Paso future."

For more information or to speak to CREEED representatives on this topic, please contact Laura Rodriguez at lrodriguez@rabengroup.com or [\(915\) 209-2230](tel:9152092230). To read the findings and recommendations of the 60x30EP Summary Report, please visit: <http://www.creed.org/60x30-el-paso>.

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About the Council on Regional Economic Expansion and Educational Development (CREEED)

CREEED is a not-for-profit education policy and advocacy group focused on creating measurable outcomes and dedicated to closing the achievement gap for El Paso County students. We accomplish this goal by investing in policies, programs, and metrics that prepare students to succeed in college and our future workforce.

www.creed.org