



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 20, 2016**

**CONTACT:**

Laura Rodriguez  
(915) 209-2230  
[lrodriguez@rabengroup.com](mailto:lrodriguez@rabengroup.com)

**STATE AND LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATED IN TEXAS  
GOVERNOR'S REGIONAL EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE FORUM**

*Leaders identify solutions to improve education attainment levels and workforce development to meet future workforce needs*

EL PASO, Texas - Today, Texas and El Paso leaders across academia, workforce development, and the private and public sectors came together to address the region's future education and workforce needs as part of Governor Abbott's Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative. Leaders identified local workforce, economic development, and education initiatives they can work on collaboratively to prepare the North American Borderplex for a 21st century economy. State-level participants included Mike Morath, Commissioner, Texas Education Agency, Raymund Paredes, Commissioner, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and Andres Alcantar, Chairman, Texas Workforce Commission, who oversee the Governor's initiative.

"Dozens of employers; business, civic, and education leaders have launched several initiatives which are providing the roadmaps our region needs to spur economic development, build a talent pipeline of educated students, and ensure our region is harnessing our assets to become a competitive player in the global economy," stated **Woody Hunt, Executive Chairman, Hunt Companies and Chair of the Texas Higher Education Strategic Planning Committee**. "We thank Chairman Alcantar and Commissioners Morath and Paredes for spending the day engaging with local leaders to learn about how our region is collaborating to ensure we are meeting current and future industry needs and building a strong regional economy."

Participants heard from various community leaders who provided a regional snapshot of economic and workforce trends. Presenters included Dr. Roberto Coronado of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, who provided an overview of the current and future regional economic trends found in the region—and future economic opportunities to consider, and Joyce Wilson, CEO of Workforce Solutions Borderplex, who spoke about Borderplex 2020, the regional strategic plan bringing together regional leaders to plan for economic development, workforce, and innovation efforts in the region.

"It is vital that the proactive steps the region's education, economic, and workforce leaders are taking work in tandem with state-level initiatives to maximize our success," said **Joyce Wilson, CEO of Workforce Solutions**. "The Borderplex is taking our future seriously. We were proud to tell our state leaders about Borderplex 2020 and how more than 130 regional leaders from regional institutions of higher education, the business community, government, healthcare and financial sectors, nonprofits, and economic development organizations, have come together to form strong partnerships to address the region's future education and workforce needs."

Dennis Jones of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, a non-profit research and development center founded to improve strategic decision making in institutions and agencies of higher education, provided insight into 60x30TX, the state's new long-range plan for higher education which will help to establish an educated and globally competitive Texas workforce by 2030 by ensuring that 60 percent of Texans ages 25-34 will have a certificate or degree by 2030.

"Working together, the region's school systems and nonprofits such as CREED have already begun initiatives that will have a direct impact on college readiness of high school graduates and increase completion rates at the postsecondary level—top priorities for the region and 60x30TX," stated **Richard Castro, CREED Chairman**. "We are proud that initiatives we support, such as Girls Who Code, Accelerated Certification of Teachers (ACT) programs, and the STEM Degree Accelerator initiative with UTEP, will help El Paso students succeed."

A 75-minute panel discussion brought together regional education, economic, and workforce leaders to talk about the respective efforts they are engaged with, the workforce challenges and opportunities they see in the region, and innovative solutions the region needs to embrace to meet the workforce needs of the future.

Panel participants included: Dr. Patricia Nava, Associate Dean, UTEP Academic Affairs and Undergraduate Studies; Dr. William Serrata, President, El Paso Community College; Terry McGreehan, Vice President and General Manager, ADP; Rolando Pablos, CEO, The Borderplex Alliance; Jodie Meyerov, Talent Sourcing Advisor/Talent Acquisition, Charles Schwab; Dr. Xavier De La Torre, Superintendent, Ysleta Independent School District; and Rosalba Scotto, Capability Leader, Hewlett-Packard Enterprises.

"Today's Regional Education and Workforce Forum showcased the evolution that has taken place in our North American Borderplex. We are now collaborating on amazing economic and workforce development initiatives that will allow us to have a thriving economy and improved quality of life," said **Rolando Pablos, Chief Executive Officer of The Borderplex Alliance**. "We intend to take what was shared today and embed it into Borderplex 2020: our region's strategic roadmap for economic growth and prosperity."

###

**About Workforce Solutions Borderplex**

Workforce Solutions is the public workforce system in the six-county Borderplex region that assists employers in finding quality employees, and training individuals with the skills necessary to thrive in the workplace. We administer a broad range of programs and services to effectively address local workforce issues. Workforce Solutions establishes partnerships with various stakeholders within the region to improve education, employment, and economic development. Our organization and its initiatives have been recognized and awarded by the Texas Workforce Commission for our innovative approach to assisting employers and job seekers.

**About The Borderplex Alliance**

The Borderplex Alliance is a bi-national, private sector led regional economic development organization that has as its main objective the integration and promotion of the economies of El Paso, Texas; Cd. Juarez, México; and Southern New Mexico.

**About CREED**

The Council on Regional Economic Expansion and Educational Development (CREED) 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.

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

505 Angella Drive, Suite 9  
Weslaco, TX | 78599 US

This email was sent to .  
*To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.*