



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CREED: WHAT'S NEXT IN TEACHING AND LEARNING?**

*Amy O'Rourke, CREED Director of Choose to Excel, participates in Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, State of Education Event*

**(EL PASO, Texas)** - Today, The Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce held their annual State of Education event, which highlighted ways the region can build a culture of high educational attainment and one that better prepares students to obtain a college degree or post-secondary credential. Amy O'Rourke, Director of CREED's Choose to Excel initiative, issued the following statement:

"Today's speakers at State of Education are all implementing innovative learning models that effectively prepare students for the rigors of college, equip them with the knowledge and tools they need to complete their postsecondary degrees, as well as the skills they need to compete in the 21st century economy. These speakers represent just a few of the initiatives that are being implemented across our region to expand the number of high quality seats. This event serves as an opportunity to showcase great educational leaders who are empowered to implement instructional models that will raise the bar in educational attainment in our region.

This year's theme, "Creating A College-Educated Workforce" speaks to our responsibility as a community to foster a college-going culture that gives our students a competitive edge when entering the workforce, and creates the workforce our region needs to compete for jobs and investment. Currently, only 60% of El Paso's high school graduates go on to pursue a college degree or certificate; and only 19% of those students will actually obtain a college degree.

As we look to our region's future, it is important to ask: how do we prepare this generation for the jobs of tomorrow - not just to fill them, but to create them as well; and what are educators doing to drive the success of our students? CREED will continue to engage superintendents, local colleges and universities, nonprofit organizations, educators, parents, and other stakeholders to create transformational change in our education system."

For more information or to speak to CREED staff members or board members on this topic, please contact Cassie Flores at [cflores@rabengroup.com](mailto:cflores@rabengroup.com) or (915) 345-4952.

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