



**Texas Regional STEM
Degree Accelerator
Rio Grande Valley STEM
Faculty Institute**



EDUCATE TEXAS

a public-private initiative of Communities Foundation of Texas

*The project is generously supported by a grant from
Educate Texas.*



**SOUTH TEXAS
COLLEGE**

SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE AND TRSDA GRANT TEAM:

Mission Statement:

“South Texas College is a world-class institution advancing regional prosperity through education for a better quality of life in our community.”



Dr. Shirley A. Reed, President

Dr. Ali Esmaeili, Dean of Math, Science, and Bachelor Programs

Valerie Gamez, Grant Director

Walaa Shaath, Secretary

Rachael Brown, Assoc. Professor, Professional Development Coach

Dr. Kelli A. Davis, University Relations and Articulation Center Officer

Dr. Maricela Silva, Academic Grants and Projects Officer

Dr. Kristina Wilson, Associate Dean, Curriculum and Student Learning ... and dozens more ...



PROJECT GOAL AND STRATEGY

- Provide **Professional Development** for faculty, in order to support improved and innovative methods of teaching and learning, such as active learning.
- **Focus on re-design of gateway courses in STEM pathways to re-align to workforce opportunities, particularly in Health Care and Information Technology.**

The two major outcomes of the project:

- **Increase retention in STEM pathways** by ensuring STEM teaching practices are engaging, supportive.
- Ensure that institutional **policies and systems support retention and completion of STEM pathways, particularly among underrepresented students.**



CAREER CONNECTIONS: EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

- **Employer Engagement Panels:** Faculty heard from Industry Sector partners regarding employers' needs from new employees.
- **Content knowledge, communication and critical thinking skills are essential to a prospective employee; as are *clean credit, legal, and for health care work, medical history.***
- **Career Connections Tours:** Faculty participated in tours of local banks, hospitals, 9-1-1 regional call center, and nature education centers where careers in both Health Care and IT play a role.

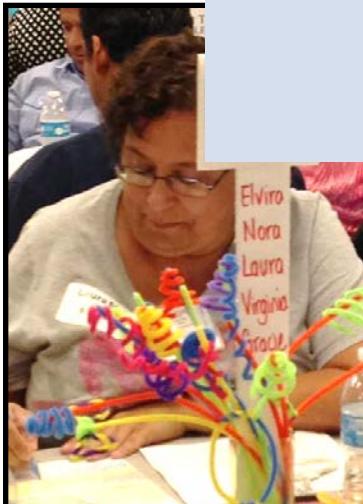


INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES: ACTIVE LEARNING

- Faculty explored the six strategies of the **Common Instructional Framework**.
- Liz Benavides Melson of EM Consulting, an affiliate of Educate Texas, provides reviews.
- **Faculty developed, revised, presented and reviewed group lesson plans** in a rotation process to familiarize participants with the upcoming “Rounds Process”.
- **Following Institutes, faculty will participate in observations using the Rounds Process** to continue developing their Active Learning classroom skills.



**Collaborative Group Work
Writing to Learn
Scaffolding
Questioning
Classroom Talk
Literacy Groups**

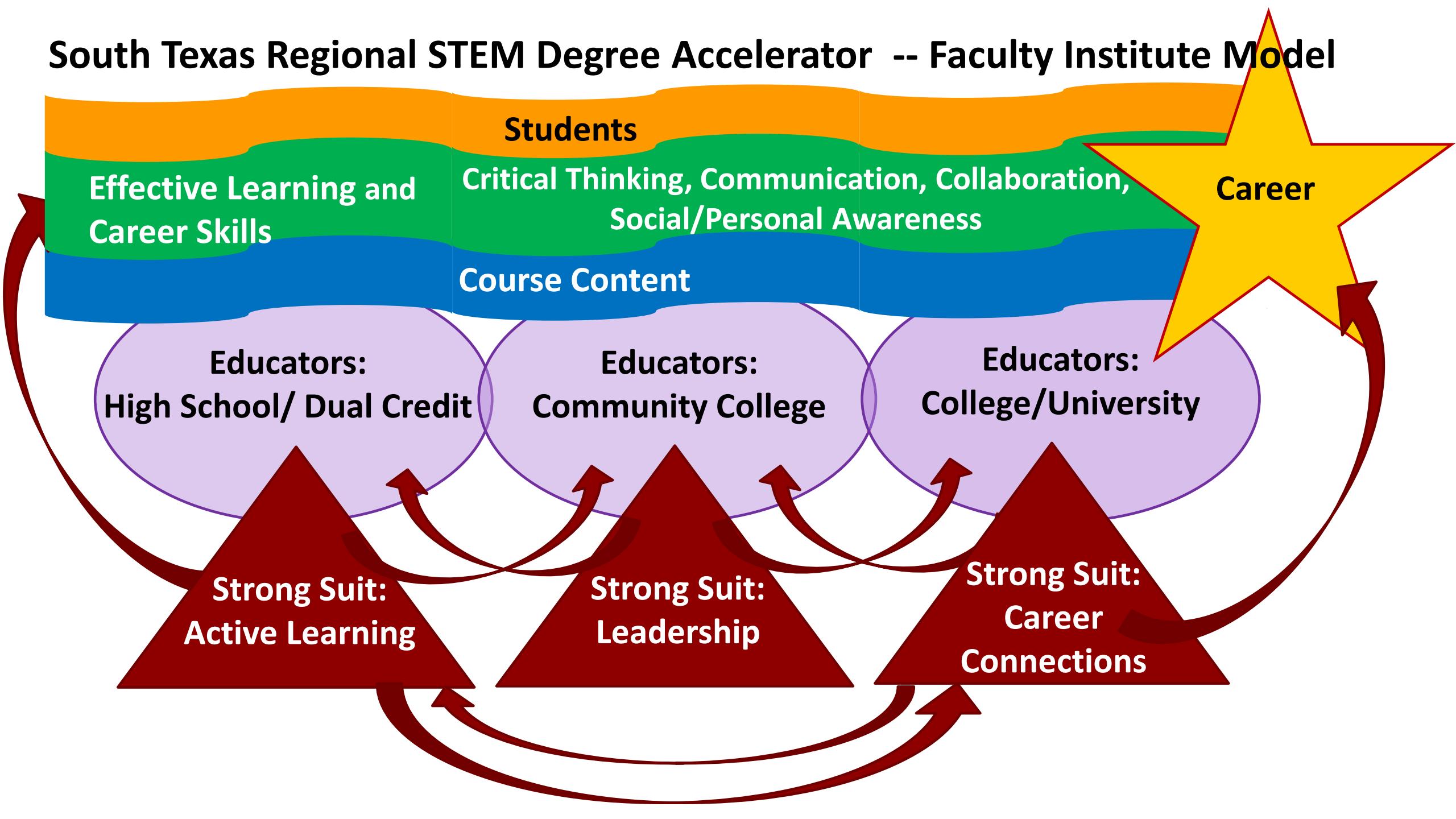


LEADERSHIP AND CHANGE MANAGEMENT

- Participants took part in workshops focused on research and assessments of behavioral styles; **awareness leads to more effective classroom leadership as well as leadership within academic departments.**
- Leadership modules have included:
 - **DISC Assessment**
 - **Strengths Finder 2.0**
 - **The “SCARF” model developed by David Rock**
 - **Crucial Conversations**
 - **Creative Wellness**



South Texas Regional STEM Degree Accelerator -- Faculty Institute Model



STEM PATHWAYS:

- Faculty were **grouped to work with each other, across academic levels** from Dual Credit /K-12, to college and university faculty, so that **they understand themselves as collaborators across levels in the educational pathway from classroom to career.**



CONGRATULATIONS COHORT I & II!

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