

## **Texas A&M University-Texarkana Continuing Education and Outreach Services Program Summary and Program Outcomes**

### **Introduction**

Since the university's inception in 1971, Texas A&M University-Texarkana has consistently provided service to students and to the community as a whole in a variety of ways. In addition to academic programs, student support programs, and student services, the philosophy of the institution has been one of service and support for the community. Each college within the institution has provided its own unique program offerings over time. Currently, three programs are provided through the College of Education and Liberal Arts and have sustained over time. A brief summary of each program and the program outcomes for student learning and achievement are listed below.

### **Para-Legal Studies Program**

A&M-Texarkana partners with the Center for Legal Studies from Golden, Colorado, to provide online instruction in a variety of areas, including Paralegal Certification, Advanced Paralegal Certification, Legal Secretary Certification, Alternative Dispute Resolution Certification, Victim Advocacy Certification, and Legal Nurse Consultant Certification. Through this partnership, the students are afforded state-of-the-art instruction in these areas through online venues and taught by qualified instructors. The university supports the program by providing documentation for the students and by certifying the course completion. Each course provides student learning outcomes that insure the student is able to master the content needed to be successful in the program.

#### **Program Outcomes**

- Provide access to training from a reputable organization for students in the areas of paralegal studies and related fields;
- Support completers of the program by providing certificates with the affiliations of Center for Legal Studies and A&M-Texarkana and with archived transcripts of completions;
- Maintain communication with Center for Legal Studies and review organization's functions on a regular basis.

### **East Texas Writing Project**

The East Texas Writing Project (ETWP) is proud to be one of the 190 National Writing Project (NWP) sites across the nation and one of the ten sites in Texas. NWP's purpose is to improve the teaching of writing K-16. Originating in California in 1974, the NWP is recognized by Congress and the Department of Education as an exemplary professional development program. A&M-Texarkana's ETWP is in its 26<sup>th</sup> year of delivery. The ETWP invites teachers to join an ongoing professional learning network. We applaud teachers who want to improve their own writing and teaching of writing, and we support the model of "teachers teaching teachers."

#### **Program Outcomes:**

- Provide quality professional development for regional teachers, K-16, in the form of the Invitational Summer Writing Institute
- Provide ongoing professional development throughout the academic year
- Maintain a network of teacher consultants who can offer in-service programs for area ISDs
- Offer spring writing conference for regional teachers

### **Young Writers' Project**

Young Writers' Project is sponsored by the ETWP, as a direct benefit of the National Writing Project. Each summer, A&M-Texarkana faculty sponsor the Young Writers' Program. For two weeks, students ranging from second to twelfth grade, spend their mornings writing with master teachers in thematically-driven genres. Along with daily activities that make writing fun and interesting, students enjoy visits from children's authors. The program culminates with a public presentation when students read from their writing to an audience of teachers and parents. Students submit their best writing to an anthology, which is published the following school year. Through this partnership, area students are able to reduce summer learning loss in the areas of reading and writing and have the opportunity to write in genres to which they would be exposed only minimally in traditional English Language Arts curriculum. The program is primarily grant-funded from local and national funders; the university supports this program by appointing a full-time faculty to organize and administer the program, cultivated future educators from its programs to serve as workshop teachers, and provides facilities and financial support for program materials.

### **Program Outcomes**

- Improve students' understanding of one or two genres atypical to traditional ELA curriculum through high-engagement writing activities;
- Support student writing success with the integration of grade-appropriate readings, genre models, and discussion of genre features; and
- Promote student empowerment through authorship opportunities, including a closing ceremony featuring samples of student work and the creation of an annual program anthology.