

# Empowered for Success



A College and Career Newsletter for the Gulf Coast

## All Kids Alliance brings Cradle to Career to Greater Houston

As stated on their Website, [All Kids Alliance](#) (AKA) adheres to [five core principals](#) which enable them to "create capacity in regional partner organizations to use data and approach educational change through a commitment to continuous, scalable, and sustainable results." The alliance, which launched in 2010, developed out of Greater Houston's P-16+ Council when the former council learned of the relatively new and highly acclaimed Cradle to Career [framework](#) of [Strive Network](#), and decided to model it.

(Read more about the [Cradle to Career approach](#).)

The first of their principals summarizes the cornerstone of AKA's approach: "Convene the village." They believe that for lasting impact, top leadership from all sectors in a community need to meet at a decision-making table.

Executive Director Robert Wimpelberg, Ph.D, shared,

**"We are capacity-building, empowerment-creating, but with very deep process and very specific protocols. We think only by doing this kind of work will we get scalable and sustainable change."**



Houston was one of four cities recognized by Strive Network in 2011 as a Cradle to Career Community.

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## >> Quick Links for All Kids Alliance

All Kids Alliance is a resource for a large amount of education data for Greater Houston. Visit [allkidsalliance.org](http://allkidsalliance.org) and click the presentations below to learn more.

Wimpelberg described AKA's approach as a stark contrast to what he sees is a community's typical response to the school system: a call for a charismatic leader to come in and single-handedly affect change. (Read more in their introductory presentation, right.)

Wimpelberg explained, "The community has to own this process, get behind [education] leaders, and have a way of supporting what they do."

The specific aspects of the community they recruit include business and workforce, non-profit and volunteers, education and health, faith, philanthropy and civic. The [Houston Council of Executives](#) is comprised of executives from corporations like Chevron, JP Morgan and AT&T; non-profit organizations like the YMCA, Parents for Public Schools Houston and Project GRAD; education partners such as Houston Community College, Lone Star College System and Texas Southern University; along with many others.

Once the decision-making table has been recruited and is complete with executive leadership from all sectors of a community, the conversation can begin. First, the board is asked to identify the three most problematic areas in their region.

"We put together (the board's) definition of the problems and possible change strategies that they can then identify that could work for them," said Wimpelberg.

A large part of AKA's role in this process is providing data and research for the regional team. The group produces an [annual data report](#) on education in Houston, and tailors this data to the specific community the board will be serving.

They also assist the regional boards in researching solutions. All are examined before the team selects their approach. The strategies must be within several guidelines, said the director, including: "no million dollar off-the-shelf solutions," and: "use close-to-home solutions as much as possible."

Wimpelberg sees "community-owned change for kids" as a move toward improving the landscape of education for all parties involved, not only for students. When a new superintendent is hired, for instance, "the community will be able to say 'Welcome!' We'd like you to work with us in helping improve things, but let us tell you what we've got going." Which, according to him, is a stark contrast to a community's typical expectations for a new superintendent.

"You need to have good leaders [in education]," he said. "We're not saying you don't. We are saying that the whole community has to wrap around them."

Currently seven cities are identified by Strive Network as Cradle to Career communities: Boston; Houston; Cincinnati; Oakland, Calif.;



Introductory Presentation  
(.pdf, 5.6 MB)



2011 Data Update (.pdf,  
6.09 MB)



2010 Baseline Report  
(.pdf, 3.58 MB)

Also, read the op-ed piece published in the Houston Chronicle in February 2012, "[Passing isn't good enough](#)," written by AKA Executive Director Robert Wimpelberg, Ph.D.

Professional  
Development  
Calendar

Portland, Ore; Richmond, Va; and Seattle, Wash. Strive aims to have 20 by 2015.

To learn more about All Kids Alliance, [visit them online](#).

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**This section of *Empowered for Success* is based solely on the feedback of our readers. To share your institution's CCRS initiatives, simply visit our [Contact Us](#) page at the [Gulf Coast CCRS](#) website and send us an email with your information. We look forward to hearing from you!**



## ESC 20 Conferences Support CCRS

In June, Region 20's Education Service Center held two conferences in San Antonio to support College and Career Readiness in their region. ESC Region 20 Educational Specialist Supervisor Olga Escamilla, Ph.D,

said, "We're responding to the many changes that are occurring throughout education in order for everyone to adapt. We want to be proactive in order to help the future of our students."

### **College & Career Keystone Conference:**

#### **Supporting Student Success Through P-16 Collaboration**

The College & Career Keystone Conference took place June 22, 2012, and offered a wide variety of sessions for its participants (staff and faculty from adult education, higher education and K-12, as well as representatives from the local workforce).

Sessions and presenters included:

- ***College and Career Readiness is More Than a Cut Score***, David Conley, CEO Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC); Professor, University of Oregon
- ***Coastal Bend College: Responding to the Training Needs of the Petroleum Industry***, Glynis Holm Strause, Dean of Institutional Advancement, Coastal Bend College
- ***STAAR and College Career Readiness: What's the Connection?*** Jeff Goldhorn, Ph.D, Component Director, Leadership and Instructional Services, ESC Region 20
- ***San Antonio Ready: Working Across District Lines to Create a College and Career Ready Culture***, Brook McArthur, In-School Director, Generation TX San Antonio

The conference was also intended to be a platform for educators

Regions 4, 5, and 6

August 1 - 2

[Physics EOC Success](#)

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

@ College Station ISD

August 2 - 3

[English III EOC Success](#)

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

@ Region 6 ESC

August 6 - 8

[World History EOC](#)

[Success](#)

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

@ Sheldon ISD

August 8

[Emergent Literacy:](#)

[Young Authors](#)

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

@ Kirby Elementary

School

August 8

[Geometry EOC Success](#)

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

@ Region 6 ESC

August 9

[CSCOPE PLAN: Math &](#)

[Science, 1st Six Weeks](#)

Grades 3 - 5

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

@ Region 5 ESC

August 9

[CSCOPE PLAN: ELAR, 1st](#)

[Six Weeks](#)

Grades 6 - 12

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

@ Region 5 ESC

August 13 - 14

[Algebra I EOC Success](#)

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

@ Region 4 ESC

August 15 - 16

[US History EOC Success](#)

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

@ Port Arthur ISD

August 29

[CSCOPE Social Studies](#)

from the various backgrounds to communicate.

"Because our attendance is so diverse, we provided opportunities for networking so that we can have those connections with adult education and higher education, or adult education and K-12," Escamilla said.

#### Adult Development Education Summit

ESC Region 20 collaborated with Alamo colleges to provide the Adult Development Education Summit, which focused on the transitions for student success.

Escamilla said, "The main goal was to come together to talk about teaching and learning, student services, professional development approaches, and the various changes affecting developmental education."

She described the two conferences, and those like them, as part of a "work in progress, and very worthwhile effort. These are some really great opportunities for networking and collaboration that we want to continue."

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Materials for each of these conferences will be available at the ESC Region 20 Website soon. To locate them, visit ESC Region 20's [Project Great page](#). When they are posted, a tab for the resources will be available.

## Online Resources

### CCR Presentations

Have you recently attended a conference supporting College and Career Readiness? Forward presentation materials to *Empowered* Editor [Alicia Wilson](#) so they can be added to our collection on the [GC-CCR Presentations](#) page and shared with educators around the Gulf Coast!



A few of the presentations listed currently:

- [Panhandle P-16 College Readiness Data Overview](#), contributed by Dr. Russel Lowry-Hart and the Texas Panhandle P-16 Council
- [Are You Smarter Than a Texas 11th-Grader?](#) Presented by Deb Kiesel at the 2012 Texas Advising Network Conference
- [TAKS/STAAR Double Bubble Comparison](#), contributed by Kathy Harvey from ESC Region 9

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If you have any feedback or suggestions, please email *Empowered for Success* Editor [Alicia Wilson](#).

### [Content Training](#)

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

@ La Porte ISD

See the complete ESC event calendars for June 2012:

[Region 4](#)

[Region 5](#)

[Region 6](#)

For other resources:  
[Gulf Coast CCRS News](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

Be sure to stop by the [GC-CCRS](#) website  
for more information and updates!

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All Kids Alliance

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Education Service Center 20

Editor:

Alicia Wilson, [adwilson4@uh.edu](mailto:adwilson4@uh.edu)

Contributing Editors:

JoAnne Davis, [jadavis-jones@central.uh.edu](mailto:jadavis-jones@central.uh.edu)

Chris Cheatham, [ccheatham@uh.edu](mailto:ccheatham@uh.edu)

Agnes DeFranco, Ed.D., [adefranco@uh.edu](mailto:adefranco@uh.edu)

[www.txccrs.org](http://www.txccrs.org)

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