

CITY OF TUCSON
MEC 2014-2015 FINAL REPORT

METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION

The Metropolitan Education Commission (MEC) Key Measures of Performance progress is outlined below:

Key Measures of Performance:

Administrative Functions	<u>Adopted FY 15</u>	<u>Actual 6/30/15</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of MEC monthly meetings • Number of updates to RCAC website 	10 400	9 457
Regional College Access Center		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of unduplicated participants who complete Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms • Number of School Districts united by MOU's for Post Secondary Success in Tucson & Pima County, AZ • Number of unique visits to the RCAC website • Number of unduplicated participants who enter Pima Community College, U of A or an out-of-State college or university • Number of unduplicated students, guardians and educators trained on the use of RCAC website for college planning • Expansion of RCAC access locations 	350 7 9,500 500 3,500 9	415 9 13,398 585 2,453 13
Youth Ambassador Program		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Ambassadors • Number of classroom presentations 	13 50	14 25
Key to 21st Century Employment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of students participants • Percentage of students who obtain career advice • Percentage of students whose interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics careers increases 	400 80% 70% <u>Adopted</u>	467 80% 70% <u>Actual</u>

Teen Town Hall

• Number of student participants	200	154
• Number of area leaders present	25	38

Crystal Apple Awards

• Number of participating school districts	8	12
• Number of participating youth	25	26
• Number of participating elected officials	10	11
• Number of awards presented	11	11

Leveraged Funds

• Other municipal, foundation and federal funds leveraged	\$500,000.00	\$441,228.82
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Deliverables

• Annual Teen Town Hall report	Quantity 1
• Annual Key Advocacy Issues & Collaborating Organizations	Quantity 1
• Performance Measure Report	Quantity 4

Section 3: Services to be provided by The City

A sum of money in the amount of Nineteen Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$19,570) to be paid as set forth in Section 13 below.

Section 4: Responsibility for Open Records

The **Agency** agrees to make open all records relating to any funds directly received from the City that the **Agency** distributes to other organizations and individuals.

CITY OF TUCSON FINAL REPORT 2014-2015**Key Measures of Performance****Administrative Functions**

Number of MEC Monthly Meetings

Date

8/09/2014

Meeting

August - MEC Retreat

The MEC began to meet for the 2014-2015 fiscal year with a Retreat held at the University of Arizona on August 9th. It was attended by a majority of MEC Commissioners, together with elected officials, University administrators, Pima Community College Chancellor, and student representatives from area school districts. The focus of the Retreat was to: 1. Discuss and develop an action plan for the Youth Advisory Council/Tucson Teen Congress (YAC/TTC) for the coming year; 2. Plan for the MEC's 25th Anniversary Celebration in 2015; and 3. Plan for the Regional College

Access Center (RCAC) activities including Student Ambassadors and discuss the Investing in Innovation (i3) Validation grant recently submitted to the U.S. Department of Education.

9/17/2014 September 2014 MEC Regular Meeting
The September meeting was cancelled due to concern about rain and flooding.

10/15/2014 October 2014 MEC Regular Meeting
Pima County Library Youth Media Center Presentation – The Pima County Joel D. Valadez Library opened a Youth Media Center. Youth Media Center representatives Jennifer Nichols, Reyes Suarez, and Katie Burkholder presented on the new Pima County Library Youth Media Center. This multi-media Center is designed to afford youth from throughout the community the opportunity to learn media arts crafts and techniques, as well as a digital learning center. The Power Point presentation is available from the MEC office or from the Pima County Library.

11/19/2014 November 2014 MEC Regular Meeting
Make Way for Books Presentation - MEC Commissioner Dr. Mary Jan Bancroft and Make Way For Books Executive Director Jennifer Volpe presented on the Neighborhood School Readiness Project, which addresses the achievement gap that exists between early childhood readers and non-readers or poor readers. Children who arrive at kindergarten unprepared without emergent literacy skills and limited oral language development start behind and often remain behind; early intervention is a strategy that addresses this issue, utilizing books and various techniques. Make Way For Books is one of the principal organizations in the community addressing this critical need.

12/17/2014 December 2014 MEC Regular Meeting
The agenda item was tabled for a future date. Items discussed in the Committee Reports included the MEC Budget; the Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon selection of honorees; MEC Appointments; YAC/TTC meetings with City Council members scheduled to attend and the Student Advocacy Day plans; and Regional College Access Center updates.

1/21/2015 January 2015 MEC Regular Meeting
E-Rate Funding Benefits for Schools & Libraries - Pima County Downtown Library Director Melinda Cervantes and Dan Hunt presented on the E-Rate Funding benefits for schools and libraries, E-Rate is a universal Service Fund that is easy to apply for and obtain. There is a total of \$1.9 million as of the year 2014. MEC Commissioners asked various questions about the program.

2/18/2015 February 2015 MEC Regular Meeting
Text, Talk, Act: A National Dialogue on Mental Health Issues – this is the tabled agenda item from the December 2014 meeting. Rachel Goodrich from the National Institute on Civil Discourse gave a presentation on Text, Talk, Act, an innovative approach to mental health conversation and intervention that combines text messaging, face-to-face dialogue, social media, and community organizing. One in four Americans experience mental health issues, and this is an effective tool for intervention and discussion.

3/18/2015

March 2015 MEC Regular Meeting

Update on Regional College Access Center; Arizona State Budget: Education – RCAC Coordinator David Rodriguez updated the Commissioners on the Regional College Access Center’s activities. The RCAC has greatly increased its service range and is busier than ever before. For the 2014-2015 school year, we have 13 Student Ambassadors at Pima County high schools, over 600 FAFSA’s have been completed, and there have been 11,396 RCAC website hits. The full report is available from the MEC office. MEC Commissioner Amber Mathewson presented on recent Library activities and their connection to the RCAC.

Dr. Alan Storm gave a presentation on the effects of the state education budget cuts will have on JTED. Afterwards there was significant discussion about the cuts’ effect on K-20 education and its long-term ramifications. It was suggested that the MEC advance two Resolutions – one concerning JTED and the other concerning K-20. In order to get the Resolutions to the Tucson Mayor & Council, Pima County Board of Supervisors, school superintendents, legislators, etc., the Commission voted on whether to allow the MEC Executive Board to approve the final drafts of the Resolutions. A Motion to allow MEC Executive Committee to approve final draft of Resolutions was passed.

4/15/2015

April 2015 – MEC Regular Meeting

Presentation of RCAC and YAC/TTC Activities to Mayor Jonathan Rothschild – Mayor Rothschild was briefed on the MEC, RCAC, and YAC/TTC’s recent activities; Mayor Rothschild briefed the Commissioners on relevant City activities and initiatives, including that Tucson has been awarded a \$1.8 million grant from America Serves, the umbrella group of the AmeriCorps/Vista, a model that is built off of the Community Schools model, and is similar in a way to what the MEC has been doing for a long time, but in an expanded form. He also presented on the United Way Cradle to Career initiative, and the President’s My Brother’s Keeper Initiative – (the City) has joined with the Urban League and LULAC on this, and the Literacy Program.

MEC Commissioners asked questions and discussed these items, as well the MEC Resolution supporting the restoring of funding for JTED and K-20 education by the Arizona Legislation.

5/20/2015

May 2015 MEC Regular Meeting

Discussion of 2015 MEC Retreat Agenda (to be held in August 2015) - The MEC Retreat is currently scheduled for Saturday, August 8, 2015 at the University of Arizona Student Union Catalina Room, 7:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Topics and committees for the Retreat will be the Regional College Access Center (RCAC), the Youth Advisory Council/Tucson Teen Congress (YAC/TTC), and Education Funding and MEC Fundraising.

PLEASE NOTE: The MEC does not hold its Regular Meeting in the months of June & July.

MEC ACTIVITIES

The MEC continues to engage the community through advocating for education and collaborations. These collaborations include the Southern Arizona Community-Schools Alliance, United Way's Youth Development Coalition/Youth On The Rise, Pima County Workforce Investment Board Youth Council, Arizona College Access Network (AzCAN Steering Committee), Expect More Arizona, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Arizona Sci-Tech Festival, and others.

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL/TUCSON TEEN CONGRESS

The Youth Advisory Council/Tucson Teen Congress (YAC/TTC) hosted elected officials visits at the YAC/TTC meetings throughout 2014-2015. Those who attended included Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, Council Members Shirley Scott, Steve Kozachik, and Paul Cunningham, and Pima County Supervisors Ramon Valadez and Richard Elfas.

The YAC/TTC hosted the 20th Annual Teen Town Hall on October 17, 2014 at Catalina Magnet High School; 154 students and 38 community leaders attended. The YAC/TTC selected three main issues that were raised at the Teen Town Hall, formed committees to address each issue. These topics were:

1. Lack of Student Motivation/Loss of Educational Options/Lack of Support for Teachers;
2. Arizona ranked 49th in U.S. in Public Education Funding; #1 in U.S. in how much has been cut from education budgets from 2008 through 2013 – 21.8%, which represents \$783.00 per pupil since 2008 (Arizona School Administrators Association, Center on Budget & Policy Priorities); and
3. Standardized Tests / Common Core Funding; Purpose & Goals of Education; Educated Workforce/Economic Development Issues

At the January 7, 2015 the YAC/TTC received training on how the legislature works and from Senators Steve Farley advocacy techniques by and David Bradley. Next, the YAC/TTC members formed 3 committees, addressing each of the issues as discussion items when meeting with the legislators.

The students travelled to the State Capitol on Wednesday, March 4, 2015. The student committees met one-on-one with the Chair of the Senate Education Committee, the Vice-Chair of the Senate Education Committee, the Vice Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, and a member of the House Health & Human Services Committee, as well as members of the Southern Arizona Legislative Delegation. The students also visited the Senate Chamber floor, received a tour of the State Capitol, and attended a legislative session in the Senate Gallery and were recognized from the floor. 29 students from 7 area school districts (Amphitheater, Catalina Foothills, Flowing Wells, Marana, Sunnyside, Tucson, and Vail) attended the Student Advocacy Day. Students that represented their schools at the Teen Town Hall accompanied the YAC/TTC students and adult chaperones. High schools represented included Andrada Polytechnic, Catalina Foothills, Catalina Magnet, Desert View, Flowing Wells, Marana, Mountain View, Palo Verde, Presidio, Rincon, Sabino, Tucson, and University High Schools.

Other YAC/TTC activities for the year included members selecting the Crystal Apple Counselor and Youth Honorees; selecting 10 Outstanding Teen Citizen honorees from 39 submissions, and

3 Goal One: Graduate! Poster Contest winners. The Outstanding Teen Citizens were presented to the Tucson Mayor & Council on April 21st. The YAC/TTC members also made suggestions for workshop topics for the LULAC Youth Leadership Conference and Career Fair that was held on March 27, 2015 at Pima Community College's West Campus. 1,173 students attended the event.

THE KEY TO EMPLOYMENT FOR THE 21st CENTURY SYMPOSIUM

The Key to Employment for the 21st Century Symposium took place on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at the University of Arizona Student Union. 467 students from across Pima County, 56 educators and adult chaperones, and 51 Exhibitors representing high tech industries and academic disciplines from the U of A, Pima Community College, and others attended the event. Workshops presented included presentations from the UA College of Engineering, Pima Community College/ U of A Dual Enrollment Program, and the MEC's Regional College Access Center.

25th ANNUAL CRYSTAL APPLE AWARDS LUNCHEON

The 25th Annual Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon took place on Friday, May 8th, 2015 at the Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel. There were over 300 registered attendees; including representatives from 12 school districts (one from the Phoenix area), 26 youth (10 Outstanding Teen Citizens, 3 Goal One: Graduate! Poster Contest winners, 5 Tucson Pima Arts Council Youth Art Awardees, 5 Regional College Access Center Student Ambassadors, and 3 YAC/TTC members. The 2015 Honorees are: LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - Sam Polito; SPECIAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - George Favela; EDUCATION ADVOCATE AWARD - Former Tucson Mayor Bob Walkup; EDUCATION ADVOCATE AWARD - Pima County Supervisor Richard Elías; TEACHER AWARD - Kevin Kehl, Andrada Polytechnic High School, Vail USD; COUNSELOR AWARD - Eve Rifkin, City High School; CORPORATE AWARD - League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC); YOUTH AWARD - Onelio Madrid Calderon, Pueblo High School, Tucson USD. Additional awards included the 3 Goal One: Graduate Poster Contest winners, who each received a \$100.00 stipend for their work.

REGIONAL COLLEGE ACCESS CENTER

The Metropolitan Education Commission Regional College Access Center (MEC RCAC) has served Pima County since 2008 focused on the goal of college access and degree attainment. Over this period of time a great number of students and their families have been assisted with the most difficult aspects of college planning such as; college admissions assistance, financial aid planning and assistance, scholarship search and follow through advising. Our Target Schools, which are considered "At Risk" schools, are populated with students with the greatest need for this kind of help. The obstacles that once prevented students from achieving their goals of completing a higher education are now being addressed through one on one peer advising sessions conducted by trained MEC RCAC Student Ambassadors and RCAC Staff. Without their help, many of Tucson's best and brightest would fall through the cracks. One example can be seen in the extraordinary change at Sunnyside Unified School District's Desert View High School.

Over the last 3 years, while partnering with the MEC RCAC, Desert View High School has steadily increased its scholarship amounts. The 2014-2015 academic year produced

extraordinary results. Desert View students doubled their scholarship amount from the previous year. They went from \$2.8 million to \$4.7 million dollars shattering any previous records and setting an all-time mark for the District. One of those scholarship students was Itzel Torres. Itzel is the daughter of immigrant parents from Mexico. Her life's dream had been to graduate with honors from high school and attend the University of Arizona. However, in February 2015 she was told by counselors and other college professionals that she would not be eligible for financial aid and scholarships because of her parent's immigration status. She came to the MEC RCAC out of desperation and almost hopeless. Upon meeting with her and learning about her situation it was evident that Itzel had been misinformed. The MEC RCAC helped Itzel work through the difficult details of her university financial aid process and today she is preparing to begin her college experience on full scholarship at the University of Arizona. Like many others, Itzel's dream has been realized!

Today many of our students are presently attending Ivy League, Private Elite Colleges, Public Universities and Community Colleges. Our successes are too numerous to count. Despite all of the positive outcomes there is still a desperate need to increase our services due to the reduced numbers of high school counselors within our school districts. It is for this reason that we turn to our community members for financial support of our programming.