

CITY OF TUCSON – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CONTRACT #18651

ANNUAL REPORT: JULY 1, 2018 – JUNE 30, 2019

METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION

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

Key Measures of Performance

	FY 19 Proposed	Actual 6/30/2019
Education Advocacy Functions		
Number of MEC monthly meetings	10	8
Number of Education Advocacy Activities or Collaborations	2	14
Youth Leadership & Civic Engagement: MEC Youth Advisory Council		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teen Town Hall November 9, 2018 		
Number of student participants	225	261
Number of area leaders present	30	45
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic Engagement Day at AZ State Capitol March 11, 2019 		
Number of student participants	25	17
Youth Workforce Development: MEC Key to Employment Symposium February 7, 2019		
Number of student participants at annual Symposium	450	545
Percentage of students who obtain career advice at the symposium	90%	94.5%
Percentage of students whose interest increases in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) Careers	80%	90.4%
Higher Education Pathways: MEC Regional College Access Center		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Website Technology: Number of unique visits to the MEC College Access Center website. 	10,000	10,300

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	FY 19 Proposed	Actual 6/30/2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> College Knowledge Training: Number of students, parents/guardians, school personnel, and community members trained on college planning through individual, small group, and large group activities. 	3,500	4362
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advising Appointments: Number of unduplicated (first-time appointments) with students or parents/guardians conducted by MEC staff and high school college coaches. 	1100	1874
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> College Admission: Number of unduplicated participants who report they completed an admissions application to an in-state or out-of-state college or university. 	800	1303
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAFSA Completion: Number of unduplicated participants who report they completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid Application (FAFSA) 	800	791
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer-to-Peer College Coach Program Number of High School Seniors who serve as AmeriCorps Members & RCAC Peer College Coaches 	30	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of High School sites with High School College Coaches 	13	14
Community Engagement:		
MEC Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon		
April 27, 2019		
Number of participating school districts	8	8
Number of youth participants i.e., volunteers and awardees	18	18
Number of participating elected officials	6	8
Number of awards presented	9	8
Leveraged Funds		

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	FY 19 Proposed	Actual 6/30/2019
Other municipal, foundation and federal funds Leveraged	\$336,000	\$437,039
FY18-19 Breakdown of Leveraged Funds		
<u>Cash Value Revenue – Grants, Fundraising & Donations:</u>		
City of Tucson-Econ Development-MEC/RCAC	19,570.00	
City of Tucson-Human Services-RCAC	50,695.00	
County Outside Agencies-MEC	70,000.00	
County Outside Agencies-RCAC	52,000.00	
Helios Education Foundation-RCAC	77,200.00	
NCAN FAFSA Challenge-MEC/TUSD	40,000.00	
Crystal Apple Fundraising	36,766.00	
Key to Employment Fundraising	25,555.00	
Kaimas Foundation	2,500.00	
Cash Donations	3,123.00	
Total Cash Value Revenue for Personnel, Operations & Programs	\$377,409.00	
<u>Value of In-Kind Contributions:</u>		
AmeriCorps AZ Serve Education Award	31,500.00	
Value of \$1260 for 25 High School Peer College Coaches		
City of Tucson – Office Space	6,720.00	
Volunteer Hours	18,673.00	
Rental Fees covered by UA Partners	2,737.00	
Total In-Kind Contributions	\$59,630.00	
 Total Cash Value & In-Kind Contributions = \$437,039.00		

Section 4: Responsibility for Open Records

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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.

Administrative Functions

Key Measure: Number of MEC Monthly Meetings

The 34-member Commission has an opportunity to meet over a 10-month period each fiscal year. This year we had members who finished their term; therefore, we had two occasions where we did not have a quorum; therefore, had two occasions where we had to cancel meetings. For the eight official meetings, we had presentations on the following topics: Proposition 407 (City of Tucson Park Bond); The National Alliance of Mental Health (NAMI) of Southern Arizona presented on youth mental health issues, resources, and initiatives to decrease the stigma of mental illness; MEC Commissioner Debbi Embry, CEO of the Tucson Urban League, presented on the state of African American student achievement by sharing statistics for TUSD African American Students; MEC Commissioner Dr. Daisy Rodriguez Pitel, Administrator for Pima Community College, provided information on the educational, social and emotion needs of Pan Asian students; Michael Guymon of the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce provided updates on Chamber activities and discussed ways that MEC and the Chamber can work together to intentionally include high school students in the conversations about economic and workforce development; and finally, the year ended with an MEC Retreat that included our front line partners in strategic planning discussions.

Number of Education Advocacy Activities or Collaborations

The core function of the MEC is to advocate for all levels of education from pre-kindergarten to post-secondary education (Pre-K to 16). This is accomplished through MEC-led projects and collaborations with City of Tucson, Pima County, and Statewide partners. At the local level, the MEC Executive Director and Board Members participated in the Cradle to Career Leadership Council and Policy Taskforce; the Pima County Interfaith Council's Advocacy Seminars, and the Early Childhood Education Taskforce. This year the MEC had two advocacy partnerships that resulted in the creation of a Resolution on Pre-K to Post-secondary Education Funding and a proposal for a Pima County Pre-School Program Initiative. See *Attachments 1 and 2* provide an example of the two outcomes.

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In addition to the two advocacy projects mentioned above, the MEC Executive Director was intentional about participating in statewide initiatives led by key education advocacy partners such as Expect More Arizona, Achieve 60 AZ and College Success Arizona. This participation was important to ensure representation from the City of Tucson and Pima County. These collaborations included monthly meetings to discuss education funding in Arizona; Post-secondary attainment through various pathways and workforce development; and FAFSA completion efforts to increase college attendance. Finally, through the MEC's partnership with College Success Arizona and the National College Access Network, four Youth Advisory Council members, the MEC Executive Director, and one Commissioner, prepared for and participated in a national advocacy effort that involved going to Washington, D.C., and meeting with Arizona Congress and Senate Representatives to discuss the need for making college accessible through the simplification of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and promoting the idea of Arizona establishing a state-based financial aid option.

The MEC youth programs are also an example of the MEC's advocacy work in action and the organization's commitment to the youth in the City of Tucson and Pima County. Below are highlights of outcomes for our programs that provide direct services in the areas of youth leadership and civic engagement; youth workforce development; and post-secondary access.

Youth Advisory Council (YAC)

The Youth Advisory Council consisted of 25 high school students who participated in monthly meetings and the annual activities. Topics covered during monthly meetings included learning more about issues affecting education in Arizona; meeting with City and County Elected Officials; School District Governing Board Members; and Community-based Organizations who work with youth. Annual event participation included: Five YAC members representing the City of Tucson at the League of Cities and Towns Conference (August) with over 200 youth throughout Arizona; the YAC Executive Committee helping with the facilitation of the annual Teen Town Hall which consisted of 261 youth and 45 community leaders; and 17 YAC members preparing for and participating in Civic Engagement Day where students meet with Arizona Legislators to discuss topics that are affecting their schools and communities.

This year, four of our YAC students had a unique opportunity to advocate for the affordability of college by meeting with federal level legislators in Washington, D.C.

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This trip was made possible through our partnership with College Success Arizona and the National College Access Network. The expenses for the trip were paid for by these two organizations. The students went through advocacy training provided the leadership of College Success Arizona and they attended a workshop while in Washington, D.C. provided by staff members of the National College Access Network.

MEC Teen Town Hall

The 2018 Teen Town Hall held on November 9, 2018 was a big success! This annual event coordinated by the MEC and facilitated by YAC members draws youth from all over Pima County. The event participants for 2018 included 261 youth, 25 chaperones, 45 community leaders, and 36 dialogue facilitators. The event format was changed to dialogue circles which provided an opportunity for high school students to voice concerns directly with elected officials, school superintendents, law enforcement representatives, and various community leaders. The Center for Community Dialogue & Training conducted concurrent Dialogue Circles on specific topics of interest chosen by students from across the Tucson region. The Center staff created a comprehensive report, see *Attachment 3*, for the topics discussed between youth and adults and their joint recommendations.

YAC Civic Engagement Day

From the issues brought forth at the MEC's Annual Teen Town Hall, priorities were set by the YAC members to determine the topics to be addressed with Arizona Legislators during Civic Engagement Day at the Arizona State Capital on March 11, 2019. Examples of priority issues included teacher retention and recruitment; school counselor shortage; safety in schools; mental health, and school program cuts resulting from the lack of education funding. To prepare for this day, the YAC researches the topics carefully by reviewing pending legislation and current legislator's stance on the topics, and they participate in a training session with 3-4 southern Arizona legislators before meeting with Arizona state legislators in order to discuss these issues. The students met with House and Senate leadership, as well as with members of the Southern Arizona Legislative Delegation, and attended a legislative session

The Key to Employment for the 21st Century Symposium

The 2019 Key to Employment Symposium was held on February 7, 2019 at the University of Arizona. Approximately 545 students, chaperones, and educators attended the event. A total of 85 exhibitors participated consisting of 26 academic

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programs, 44 businesses, 8 government agencies, and 7 military entities. The participation from exhibitors was substantially higher than in previous years. Many exhibitors participated for the first time, and at the end of the event made a commitment to return next year. Refer to *Attachment 4* for the event report.

Regional College Access Center (RCAC)

The RCAC experienced the most change in 2018-2019. It began when the Program Manager resigned in November 2018 to pursue a promotion with another organization. Although this was a difficult adjustment, it was also an opportunity. We reached out to the UA College of Education Higher Education Program to recruit graduate level college students to help provide RCAC outreach services to high school students. These services included creating Education & Career Action Plans; assisting with completion of college applications for admission, financial aid, and scholarships; and preparing for the ACT college exam. Using the salary savings from the RCAC Program Manager position, we were able to pay up to 8 college students to visit high schools, participate in school events, and we created and tested a Virtual College Advising service.

We also continued to work with our AmeriCorps partner to manage the high school peer-to-peer college coaches who are high school seniors that assist with college activities (listed above) at their individual high schools. The high school seniors who serve as Peer-to-Peer College Coaches benefit substantially from participating in the AmeriCorps / MEC RCAC partnership. We ended the academic with 25 students completing the program which qualifies them for a \$1260 education award from the federal AmeriCorps agency. In addition, several students applied for and received scholarships from Arizona colleges and universities; out-of-state colleges; and community-based organizations due to their increased awareness of various financial aid opportunities and assistance with the application processes.

Between MEC Staff and the RCAC AmeriCorps Peer College Coaches, we promoted the RCAC website resources and we had 10,300 unique visitors; provided information on college planning for 4,362 people; conducted 1,874 individual advising appointments; assisted with the completion of 1,303 college admission applications; and helped 791 students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

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A new project was also established with the National College Access Network that involved a \$40,000 grant to work with the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) to promote FAFSA completion, which is considered an important gateway to college for high school seniors, especially those from low-income families. The majority of the grant funds were used for school site coordinators stipends, college intern wages, school site event supplies, and expenses related to required training and meetings led by the National College Access Network.

Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon

The 29th Annual Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon took place on April 26, 2019 at the Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel, 7350 S. Nogales Highway. A total of 329 people attended. The Honorees were: Crystal Apple Lifetime Achievement Award - Dr. Dolores Durán-Cerda; Teacher Award - Rachel Lodge, Flowing Wells High School; Counselor Award - Ann Corden, Indian Oasis Middle & High School (Baboquivari Unified School District); Corporate Award - Tucson Federal Credit Union, and Youth Award - Jon Davis, Amphitheater High School. In addition, 10 Outstanding Teen Citizens and three Goal One: Graduate! Poster Contest Winners were honored.

Attachments:

1. MEC Education Funding Resolution
2. Pima County Pre-School Investment Program Proposal
3. Teen Town Hall Report
4. Key to Employment Symposium Report
5. Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon Program