

A PROPOSAL FOR A HIDALGO COUNTY COMMUNITY K-12 HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY
PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN in PARTNERSHIP with
The MUSEUM OF SOUTH TEXAS HISTORY and
The PUBLIC SCHOOLS of HIDALGO COUNTY

Submitted by Van A. Reidhead
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For
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BACKGROUND

Since 2005 the University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA) has explored the feasibility and advantages for establishing a Hidalgo County Community Historic Archaeology Program for the Schools (CHAPS) in Hidalgo County, which would be grounded in a UTPA, K-12 schools, and Museum of South Texas History partnership. By mutual agreement, exclusively by prior bookings made by UTPA and the schools, Museum exhibits and events will be available to support CHAPS programs. The Museum's operational role will be determined going forward, in accord with its mission and goals, and may include submission with other CHAPS partners of grants for external funding that is mutually beneficial to the missions and operations of each partner. Supported by UTPA's academic and physical infrastructure, the purpose of CHAPS is to engage K-12 teachers and students in the discovery and preservation of Hidalgo County archaeology, from the Spanish discovery of the Americas through the 20th century. CHAPS will construct investigation-based curriculum (excavation, analysis, preservation, reporting, and exhibition), using the research discovery process to teach skills in math, science, reading, writing, group communication, and technology. While reconstructing the lost history of Hidalgo County, students will develop passion for learning and the skills needed to succeed in college. Sustained community archaeology programs of this kind exist in Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois and other places. Dr. Van Reidhead, Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, is a published archaeologist who has led the development of sustained K-12 curricular projects that include archaeology. Mr. John Milford, Lecturer in Public Administration, is a seasoned public servant in Hidalgo County, with broad governmental management and partnering experience.

The University of Texas-Pan American has the knowledge, administrative, and physical infrastructure to guarantee that the proposed program is a success.

The mission of UTPA, as approved the University of Texas System, is that it

"Serves the higher education needs of a rapidly growing, international, multicultural population in the South Texas Region. The University preserves, transmits and creates knowledge to serve the cultural, civic, and economic advancement of the region and the state. The University provides students advanced instruction in academic programs offered through innovative delivery systems that lead to professional certification, and baccalaureate, masters and doctoral degrees. Through teaching, research, creative activity and public service, UTPA prepares students for lifelong learning and leadership roles in the state, nation and world community."

The financial support of Hidalgo County is needed to match UTPA commitments to assure *that the full* scope of this K-12 community archaeology program is achieved. UTPA proposes a 3-year commitment by all parties to pilot this project, laying a strong foundation for success.

SCOPE OF K-12 UTPA COMMUNITY HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM

Programs successfully piloted in each year will be sustained and expanded in subsequent years of the pilot project. Year-2 deliverables will include sustaining achievements made in year-1. Year-3 deliverables will include sustaining achievements of years 1-2.

Fiscal Year 2009 (January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009) Action Plan:

Year-1 Deliverables:

1. Assemble a CHAPS community Advisory Board, in collaboration with Hidalgo County, Museum of South Texas History, participating school districts, and other stakeholders.
2. Recruit K-12 teachers for the program from 1 each public elementary, middle, and high school.
3. Produce curriculum, in collaboration with K-12 teachers, College of Education faculty, and the Texas Education Agency to assure best practice and K-16 curricular alignment.
4. Introduce a Community Archaeology Class at UTPA to recruit and prepare university students to work as assistants to K-12 teachers in archaeology field, laboratory, and preservation work.
5. Conduct pilot K-12 archaeology field investigations (library, survey, mapping, and analysis) to pre-test curriculum; report findings in writing and at a conference, and exhibit artifacts in appropriate public venues.
6. Submit grant proposals for funds to develop program.
7. Work with UTPA Development Office to raise funds to sustain and expand the program toward maximum public access.
8. Evaluate first year student learning outcomes and community engagement effectiveness; apply findings to improve the program in all deliverable areas.

Fiscal Year 2010 (January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010) Action Plan:

Year-2 Deliverables:

1. Expand K-12 teacher and student participation to additional schools under guidance of the CHAPS Advisory Board.
2. Recruit expert community volunteers to play leadership roles assisting UTPA-public school team to engage larger numbers of students.
3. Expand trained UTPA student assistant base through class, internships, and volunteer organization.
4. Expand field, laboratory, reporting, and exhibition activities; conduct first scientific excavations on a pilot basis.
5. Evaluate second year student learning outcomes and community engagement effectiveness and apply findings to design best practice model for implementation in year-3.

Fiscal Year 2011 (January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011) Action Plan:

Year-3 Deliverables:

1. Implement best practices as identified in years 1-2 to implement the program throughout Hidalgo County schools, with the number of schools participating commensurate with funding, in consultation with the Advisory Board.

SUSTAINABILITY

Year 4 and Beyond:

Build the quality and impact of CHAPS; begin replicating it throughout the Region 1 counties of South Texas.

FUNDING REQUEST AND COMMITMENTS

Year-1 Budget

	UTPA	Hidalgo County	Participating Schools	TOTAL
Director (12 months, full time)	12,000	68,000		80,000
Graduate Assistant (12 months, 50% time)	15,000			15,000
Secretarial Support (12 months, 50% time)		10,000		10,000
Staff Benefits		21,840		21,840
Curriculum, Communication, Management		9,000		9,000
Computer Systems (2)	4,000			4,000
Field and Laboratory Research Fees			TBA	
Teacher Participation			TBA	
Laboratory Space, Furniture, Equipment	TBA			
Total Direct		108,840		
Indirect (15%)		16,326		16,326
Total	31,000	125,166		156,166

Year-2 Budget

Will request continuation at 3% increase for salaries and benefits: \$111,835 + 16,775 (indirect)= 128,610.

Year-3 Budget

Will request continuation at 3% increase for salaries and benefits: \$114,920 + 17,238 (indirect) = 132,158.