

WHAT IS A•L•A?

The Academic Leadership Alliance (A•L•A) is a partnership created by the McAllen Economic Development Corporation, the Region One Education Service Center, and Tech Prep of the Rio Grande Valley (now known as RGV LEAD), to strengthen the employer/educator connection to achieve the ultimate goal of providing more productive and functional employees for businesses.

The A•L•A Summer Educator Externships began in Summer 2003, with 15 educators from one Hidalgo County school district and a corresponding number of employers participating. By Summer 2012, participants included 53 educators from eight school districts, plus the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce, Brownsville Economic Development Council, Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce, and Harlingen Economic Development Corporation as well as numerous individual employers. All participants recognize the value of A•L•A in helping our region develop the workforce that it needs.

From the Leadership Team:

Keith Patridge, CEO, McAllen Economic Development Corporation: "We've got to focus on our workforce! A skilled and competitive workforce is crucial to regional economic development."

Jack Damron, Executive Director, Region One Education Service Center: "The A•L•A Educator Externships help equip our students with 21st Century Skills!"

Rene Capistran, President-South Texas Region, SpawGlass Contractors: "SpawGlass has sponsored A•L•A Educator Externs for the past three years. A•L•A gives employers a meaningful opportunity to work with educators and help prepare the workforce of tomorrow!"

MISSION STATEMENTS OF A•L•A'S FOUNDING MEMBERS

The McAllen Economic Development Corporation is a not-for-profit corporation that works with the City of McAllen to attract new industry and help existing companies to expand. MEDC is the grantee and operator of the McAllen Foreign Trade Zone.

The Region One Education Service Center exists to assist school districts in improving student performance, to assist school districts to operate more efficiently and effectively, and to implement initiatives assigned by the Legislature or the Commissioner of Education.

Rio Grande Valley Linking Economic and Academic Development (RGV LEAD –formerly Tech Prep RGV) is in the business of education, partnering to engage students in college-and-career-focused learning opportunities to achieve a higher level of competence in the workplace.

Statement of Equal Opportunity:

Participation in A•L•A programs is offered to all parties without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability.

Statement of Funding:

Funding for the A•L•A Summer Educator Externship program has been provided through in-kind and cash support of the McAllen EDC, Region One ESC, RGV LEAD, and participating school districts. A•L•A initiatives are also supported through funds provided to RGV LEAD by the Brownsville Economic Development Council, Harlingen Economic Development Corporation, and Mission Economic Development Corporation; by school districts, colleges, and universities utilizing a variety of funding sources; by employers who host externs; and from other sources.



Working to Improve the Skills of the Rio Grande Valley's Workforce

2013 A•L•A Summer Education Externship

Strengthening the employer/educator connection to achieve the ultimate goal of providing more productive and functional employees for businesses.



Upper Valley Employers from Summer 2012

Employers, make plans now to participate in Summer 2013!

THE A•L•A PARTNERING EMPLOYER'S COMMITMENT

1. Participate in a short training session provided by the A•L•A leadership team and hosted by an experienced A•L•A business partner.
2. Host an educator-extern at the employer's place of business for two or three weeks in the summer.
3. Review the instructional materials developed by the educator-extern and endorse them (assuming the materials developed accurately reflect the extern's experiences at the business).
4. Participate in an A•L•A closing luncheon on the date scheduled.
5. Make a cash contribution (\$650) to sponsor each A•L•A educator-extern hosted.

Quotes from 2012 employer participants:

- "A•L•A was great; being able to share knowledge, experience, and skills with the educator externs is valuable."
- "A•L•A was a great experience, knowing that our teachers will be able to take back to the classroom the skills they learned from our workplace."

From the 2012 externs, themselves:

- "I am thankful for the A•L•A program, I understand now that as educators we need to be aligned with employer's needs, to provide skilled and well prepared workforce."
- "I was able to see how the skills being taught to students will be applied in the workplace. Skills are important to be mastered at the high school level as employers are seeking basic soft skills for the job market."

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

A•L•A Upper Valley Leadership Team

- **Dr. Gloria J. Crum**, A•L•A Regional Coordinator, 956.821.4659
- **Joyce Dean**, Executive Vice President, MEDC, 956.682.2875
- **Patricia G. (Pat) Bubb**, Executive Director; **Martha Gutierrez**, Worksite Learning Specialist; or **Eliza Groff**, A•L•A Secretary, RGV LEAD, 956.364.4509



TO BECOME INVOLVED:

Please complete the 2013 A•L•A Employer Participation Response Form that is included in your packet.

For more information contact:

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