

Blessing, Shawn

Page: Basic Information

Nominator Information

Please provide your information as the nominator of this partnership.

Your Name

Blessing, Shawn

Email Address

sblessing@irvingisd.net

Title

Director of Career and Technical Education

Employer

Irving ISD

Phone Number

972-600-5049

Your Relationship to the Partnership?

TEXO has been a primary partner in the development, expansion and sustainability of our School of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Construction program for 6 years. They are active participants and advocates for all aspects of the construction industry, particularly the skilled trades

The Partners: Business & Industry

Please provide basic information on the business and industry organizations involved in the partnership.

Business/Industry Partner 1

Business/Organization Name

TEXO Foundation/ Meloni McDaniel, President/CEO

Address

11101 North Stemmons Fwy
Dallas Texas 75229 US

Website

www.texoassociation.org

Main Career Clusters within Industry

Architecture & Construction, Business Management & Administration, Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

Point of Contact

Meloni McDaniel

Title

President/CEO

Email

meloni@texoassociation.org

Business/Industry Partner 2 (if applicable)**Business/Organization Name****Address****Website****Main Career Clusters within Industry****Point of Contact****Title**

Email

Business/Industry Partner 3 (if applicable)

Business/Organization Name

Address

Website

Main Career Clusters within Industry

Point of Contact

Title

Email

Provide information on any other additional business & industry partners not listed above. Also, please use this opportunity to briefly explain the unique roles of these businesses in the partnership (if there are more than one involved.)

The Partners: Educational Institutions & Programs

Please provide basic information on the educational institutions and/or programs involved in the partnership.

Education Partner 1

Educational Institution/Program Name

MacArthur High School- School of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Construction

Address

3700 N. MacArthur Blvd
Irving Texas 75062 US

Website

<https://www.irvingisd.net/Domain/9>

What type of institution is it? (If a program, where is it offered?)

High School

Point of Contact

Shawn Blessing

Title

Director of Career and Technical Education

Email

sblessing@irvingisd.net

Education Partner 2 (if applicable)

Educational Institution/Program Name

Address

2621 W Airport Freeway
PO Box 152637
Irving Texas 75015-2637

Website

What type of institution is it? (If a program, where is it offered?)

Point of Contact

Title

Email

Education Partner 3 (if applicable)

Educational Institution/Program Name

Address

Website

What type of institution is it? (If a program, where is it offered?)

Point of Contact

Title

Email

Provide information on any other education partners not listed above. Also, please use this opportunity to briefly explain the unique roles of these educational institutions/programs in the partnership (if there are more than one involved.)

Page: Support Information

1. What problem was this partnership developed to solve?

TEXO Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization supporting the construction members of TEXO, a joint chapter of Associated General Contractors and Associated Builders and Contractors serving the North and East counties of Texas. In 2017, the TEXO Foundation established a Board of Directors helping to set vision and begin tackling the current construction labor shortage and associated industry stigmas. Over the next two years, Texas will need to fill over 800,000 jobs to meet the projected demand and associated growth. The TEXO Foundation is encouraging the best and brightest students to pursue careers in construction.

Other organizations: Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD); Dallas Regional Chamber: Richardson Chamber; InterLink; Associated Schools of Construction Region 5; Topping Out; Construction Education Foundation (CEF); American Sub-Contractors (ASA), University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) Construction Management Advisory Board

2. What steps were taken to get the partnership started?

Over the past two years, TEXO Foundation has laid extensive ground work to educate, recruit, train and retain the next generation of construction professionals. TEXO believes the education process needs to start early to spark an interest in young kids and parents who may not know of available career opportunities. This is why the TEXO Foundation created a process for interaction with kids throughout their K-12 and undergraduate/graduate studies. Areas of engagement include:

KIDSBUILD (Construction event for kids ages 3-9)

High School Engagement (High school outreach focuses on creating pipelines within high schools via advisory councils, classroom presentations, construction awareness events and scholarships to encourage careers in construction and skilled trades)

College Engagement (supports colleges and universities with accredited construction programs through scholarships, grant, student competition events, and an annual conference for educators)

3. Describe how the partnership was designed to support high-quality CTE.

Students today have many choices to make. They decide who to hang out with, what extracurricular activities to participate in, and whether or not to get a summer job. One of the most life altering choices students are tasked with making, frequently as early as middle school, is what career path they plan to take and what they will study in college. Parents, teachers, and the community put a lot of pressure on students to make the right decision, and in many cases students don't ever hear all their options. It is essential as an industry that we provide the education and opportunities to connect these young people to construction and make it easy for them to picture themselves building a career in our industry. TEXO believes that it is their responsibility to teach the benefits and pay, training and educational opportunities, the use of technology and how to leave an impact on their city and country. TEXO programs empower students to pick the career path that is right for them and provide the necessary training and tools to ensure success. TEXO supports and advocates through their participation and leadership on advisory boards, through participation in multiple campus and community events and by working with government to change laws to allow students accessible training through apprenticeships and internships. TEXO clearly mirrors the High-quality framework necessary to build and sustain CTE programs and develop the skills necessary for a quality workforce.

4. What were the results of the partnership? What was innovative about the partnership or its output? How did it benefit students and the community?

These partnerships benefit the construction community and workforce by connecting hireable students to companies in need of skilled workers. TEXO makes a point to build the bridge of connection between talented graduates and companies looking to hire. "The 2018 TEXO/CEF/ASA Construction Job Fair allowed us to meet students from all over, including MacArthur High School in Irving. We will be interviewing and hope to hire 4 students from the event," commented Elvia Fernandez from McCarthy Building Companies of the most recent job fair. TEXO encouraged companies to participate in the campus Job Fairs for students and information sessions for parents. TEXO is the primary resource for educators looking for sponsorship, speakers and jobs within the construction industry. All opportunities are presented to students and their parents- from project management to the skilled crafts and architecture and interior design, TEXO highlights the many options available.

The "Signing Day" sponsored by TEXO not only provided students with a solid foundation in a career that they love, but was life-changing for many students in Irving ISD. Major construction firms hired students on-the-spot, provided additional opportunities for advanced training, college reimbursement and a full benefits package.

The partnership was innovative in the array of services offered to the campus. TEXO provided skilled craftsmen to teach lessons to students enrolled in Geometry in Construction classes on plumbing, electrical and carpentry, to name a few. The students were able to construct and sell their "tiny houses" and re-channel funds to sustain the program. Preregistration for the course increased from 70 students to 152 students for the 2018-2019 year as a result of the TEXO efforts.

5. What were the lessons learned during the process of building the partnership? What would you have done differently?

TEXO has learned many lessons while growing their educational partnerships:

1. Limiting the number of schools at the beginning to build solid relationships and programs making growth and sustainability more tangible.
2. Parents need more information on construction opportunities. Parents weigh very heavily on students career choices. By educating parents and community members on construction career opportunities, TEXO was able to attract more students into construction programs.
3. A career fair isn't always the best event. Many high school students don't understand how to network and because of this a career fair is just an opportunity to get free stuff. TEXO sponsors educational events that have much greater success when they include an industry panel, a creative hands on activity or job site visits.
4. Work within your area of need. Focus recruitment on the communities that will live and work within the area.

6. Is this partnership sustainable? How do you anticipate it will change in the coming year(s)?

Below is a list of TEXO's top priority schools. We visit our Tier 1 school, Wilmer Hutchins for approximately 6 hours every two weeks. We visit the other schools at least one a month.

We provide career planning information, soft skill development (resume writing, interview prep), technology demonstrations, team building activities, construction trade and career information. The plan will allow TEXO to continue to work with all schools, sustaining and growing current partnerships, while allowing room for additional partners from the more than 100 school districts in the area.

TEXO Foundation High School Outreach Partnerships:

Tier District School

Tier 1 DISD Wilmer-Hutchins High School

Tier 2 DISD WW Samuell High School; Irving ISD MacArthur; Birdville ISD; Richardson ISD, Lake Highlands and Richardson High; Garland ISD, Gilbreath-Reed Center

Tier 3 Arlington ISD, Arlington CTE Center; Denton ISD, Denton Advanced Technology Center

Carrollton-Farmers Branch, Newman Smith

7. How long did it take to create this partnership?

More than 2 years

8. How large of an investment did the businesses and other partner(s) involved make in this partnership (time and money)?

TEXO invests both time and financial resources into the CTE and educational programs. In 2017 TEXO Foundation and volunteers spent over 150 hours educating and recruiting the future workforce in North Central Texas- Dallas metro area.

TEXO Members companies support to the TEXO Foundation and operating costs in 2017 exceeded \$250,000

In addition, many TEXO member companies donated supplies, materials and tools to programs throughout the year.

Through the years, TEXO, and its associated members have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash and kind, as well as thousands of volunteer hours to promote the construction industry as a career choice to students, parents and communities in the North Central Texas area.

9. Would you or an associate be willing to present a session at an ACTE event about this partnership?

Yes