

## **Texas A&M University-Commerce Federal Initiatives Requests FY 2011**

**Title:** Early College High School (ECHS) at Texas A&M University-Commerce

**Description:** Our vision of an ECHS would prepare thousands of at risk, culturally diverse students focusing on science, technology, engineering and math careers at the high school level to be well prepared to attend a university and become more “job ready” in the community. Additionally, we know this effort will result in a much more highly trained rural population.

The W. W. Samuell High School (HS) / Texas A&M University-Commerce ECHS will be a partnership that will follow the general format of other Texas based early college programs. We will start the first year with a freshman class of 100 students (selected from minority and economically disadvantaged students) and add 100 new students each year until we have a 4 year high school. Students can earn up to 60 university credits during their high school years and many will graduate with a high school diploma and an associate of arts degree. By the end of the second year of the ECHS we will be able to sustain the program on state reimbursement from the average daily attendance of the students.

**Targeted Audience:** Our setting and target population for an ECHS is the minority and disadvantaged (we are a rural university) population, the first generation college bound student, an extremely diverse population underrepresented and highly needed students studying Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). W. W. Samuell HS is composed of 98.2% minority and 81.1% economically disadvantaged students (TX AEIS data 2009).

**Relevance and Background:** Early College High Schools (ECHS) are becoming more popular in Texas and across the United States due to the success of the students graduating from these schools. The concept of ECHS was initiated a number of years ago and schools have received substantial funding from influential individuals and groups, such as The Gates Foundation, to start these programs. The ECHS model promotes the inclusion of the “at risk” student with the stated purpose of providing these young people with high school preparation that will lead to college entrance, college degrees and ultimately more university trained professionals who will support and enrich our society.

Texas A&M University-Commerce has a long and rich history of preparing top level school personnel including teachers, counselors, principals, superintendents and others for over 100 years. Our program innovation, including our STEM programs; which foster interest in elementary and secondary students to pursue STEM education and careers, and preparation of school professionals are well known throughout Texas and the Southwest. We can say without a doubt that partnering with one or more independent school districts to build an ECHS is clearly possible given all of the expertise and relationships we have at A&M-Commerce and in the communities that we touch.

**Amount Requested:** \$1,375,000

**Budget/Cost:**

	Year 1	Year 2
Professional Contracts	\$700,000	\$925,000
Contractual Services	\$325,000	\$525,000
Supplies	\$75,000	\$150,000
Operating Expenses	\$150,000	\$325,000
Capital Expenses	\$125,000	350,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,375,000</b>	<b>\$2,275,000</b>

**Agency/Agencies Targeted**

National Science Foundation  
Department of Education

**Investigator Information**

Dr. Brent Mangus, College of Education and Human Services  
[Brent\\_Mangus@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:Brent_Mangus@tamu-commerce.edu), 903-886-5180

Dr. Christine Evans, Arts & Sciences  
Dr. Harry Fullwood, Education & Human Services