

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

The Island University

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Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Offers Free Summer Institute for 180 At-Risk Students Training for Academic Readiness

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The College of Education at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will host the GEAR UP/STAR Program's Summer Bridge Institute, where 180 at-risk students from surrounding school districts will participate in math, science and English/language arts hands-on learning activities.

The two-week institute will be held Monday, June 15, through Friday, June 26, on the University campus. Participants are ninth grade students from Alice, Brooks County, Corpus Christi, Kingsville, Mathis and Odem School Districts transitioning into high school. The GEAR UP/STAR (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness in Undergraduate Programs/ Students Training for Academic Readiness) program is a federally-funded, six-year project awarded through the Texas Education Agency.

This year's funding of \$1 million covers the summer institute as well as the rest of the year's programming.

Institute activities will include collecting samples of life at University Beach; dissecting fish, owl pellets and earthworms; studying astronomy, chemistry and biology; using GPS to find a hidden treasure; calculating velocity through a potato shoot activity; and a virtual tour from Spain to Texas to study the Spanish language. Prior to attending the Summer Bridge Institute at the University, the students will have participated in a two-week Leadership Institute at their school district sites.

On June 26, parents of the students will be invited to tour the University campus and view presentations that the students have developed during their summer institute.

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The GEAR UP/STAR Pre-College Outreach Program on campus works with the six STAR school districts to prepare students for post-secondary opportunities. The connection between Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and the districts' middle and high school staff and students is enhanced through a Faculty Fellows and University Student Ambassador program. Areas of academic emphasis are math, science, English/Language Arts and Spanish.

As a Hispanic Serving Institution, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi is dedicated to excellence in teaching, research, creative activity and service through programs that support underprepared and/or low-income, first-generation Hispanics and other minority students in South Texas. The University is also dedicated to closing the historical educational gap within the strategic location on the Gulf of Mexico and on the cultural border with Latin America.

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