

INITIATIVE BRIEF

URBAN EDUCATION INSTITUTE



Finding solutions for San Antonio's urban education challenges.

INITIATIVE LAUNCH January 2019

THE CHALLENGE

San Antonio is home to many efforts focused on raising the educational attainment levels of its residents. These efforts have often been led or supported by business leaders who struggle with overcoming skills gaps of our local workforce. These collective efforts to improve education in San Antonio have lacked a trusted partner to support a data-driven approach to education investment decisions, operations and policy agenda setting. For too long, San Antonio's education ecosystem has not benefited from the tremendous advances in data collection, computation and analysis.

THE IMPACT

The Institute will meet our city's demand for rigorous and highly relevant education research. When education philanthropists or our local governments decided to invest millions in an education initiative, the Institute will be present to ensure they have access to the best evidence our modern data systems and data science can provide. More of our schools will benefit from having a data partner who can help them integrate data into systems of continuous improvement. And, our policymakers from our school boards to the state legislature will have a place to turn to learn about what is working to improve student achievement in San Antonio. Innovative partnerships with local educational organizations and laboratory schools are planting the seeds for the institute's future development.

OVERVIEW

UTSA is establishing an Urban Education Institute to serve as a hub to prepare future educators, strengthen community partnerships and raise the educational attainment levels and earnings of economically disadvantaged students. Based on the UTSA Downtown Campus within the College of Education and Human Development, the institute will produce applied and conceptual research connecting theory to practice. The Raise Your Hand Texas Foundation has committed to providing \$1.1 million in seed funding to support the institute.

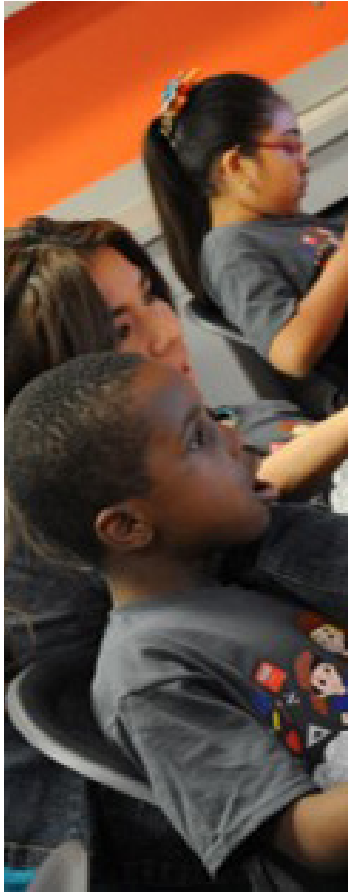
FOR MORE INFORMATION

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COMPONENTS

- » Location in San Antonio's urban core, accessible to community leaders and stakeholders invested in K-12 education
- » Full-time research team working to meet partners' education data needs, providing:
 - Policy briefs on what works in education in San Antonio
 - Data visualization tools illustrating San Antonio's progress in raising educational attainment levels and wages
 - Biennial conference connecting educational issues with social challenges
- » UTSA students working alongside the nation's top education experts

PARTNERSHIPS

- » Raise Your Hand Texas Foundation
- » San Antonio Area Foundation
- » City of San Antonio
- » Prekindergarten for San Antonio
- » San Antonio Education Partnership
- » Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio
- » P16-Plus Counsel

BENEFITS TO SAN ANTONIO AND THE STATE OF TEXAS

- » Increased level of postsecondary award attainment
- » Closing of skills gaps
- » Increased productivity and wage growth

PHILANTHROPIC OPPORTUNITIES

- » Institute naming opportunities
- » Foundation partnerships
- » Endowed directorship
- » Endowed graduate fellowships

