



GREATER TEXAS FOUNDATION

# A Regional Approach to Early College and Degree Pathways

## Abstract

In 2011, Greater Texas Foundation awarded grant funding to four universities in Texas with the intent of designing scholarship programs to support the timely completion of baccalaureate degrees by graduates of early college high schools. Of the four, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley's robust regional approach warranted a more in-depth review. The descriptive case study detailed herein explores the region's collaborative approach to creating access to postsecondary education for historically underrepresented students, with early college high schools serving as a significant tool for achieving desired outcomes. This study is based on programmatic data in addition to semi-structured interviews with participants representing multiple facets of the regional community. Findings revealed the importance of student-centered approaches, innovation with intentionality, and data-sharing as keys to building regional baccalaureate pathways.

## Authors

### Michael E. Aldape, Ed.D.

Associate Vice Provost for Secondary Educational Partnerships  
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

### Kim Stezala

Senior Partner, Design Group International  
GTF Scholars Evaluator