



Agenda

December 11, 2020

Advisory Board with UTEP representative Gabby Gandara and Marathon Petroleum representative VJ Smith.

Others in attendance: Martin Armendariz, Julio Velez, Leticia Rodriguez, Julie Rodriguez, Ramon Benavides, Yvette Garcia, Isabel Hamilton, Hugo Martinez, Daniel Gutierrez, Valerie Chavez, Gabby Gandara, VJ Smith, and Ysidro De La O

This meeting was held on Zoom.

Introductions:

Ysidro De La O (STEM Lead teacher)

The T-STEM Academy shall establish an Advisory Board who meets regularly and includes representatives from a variety of stakeholders such as; school board, community, higher education, business and industry to **provide support and guidance to the T-STEM academy in resource acquisition, curriculum development, work-based learning and student/community outreach to ensure a successful academic and career pipeline**

VJ Smith (Marathon Petroleum Government and Public Affairs Manager)

- Changes to Marathons grant focus
- Sponsorships
- Traveling exhibits

Gabby Gandara (UTEP Assistant Dean for Engineering Student Success)

- “I would simply like to get feedback on what they pulse is out there. meaning, what are people feeling and what are they wanting (from UTEP)”.

DVHS Mission Statement: Teachers, administrators and staff of Del Valle High School will ensure that all students learn in a positive, supportive, and safe environment enabling students to graduate in four or less years surpassing state and national standards.



Notes:

VJ Smith talked about the foundation for marathon petroleum going forward this coming year to continue their support of programs like ours. The grant process will be similar, but it will focus on CTE or vocational tech. VJ said we could meet with him at the beginning of the new year to talk about the grant process. VJ talked about the mobile lab that marathon petroleum purchased for UTEP and that will be used to recruit students who are in stem programs throughout the city. Marathon petroleum hires engineers from UTEP and they hope that this mobile stem lab will also help UTEP to recruit future engineers from the high schools. VJ Smith Hopes that Gabby Gandara from UTEP has outfitted the trailer with equipment that the high schools need for first robotics and or other projects CTE related.

Gabby Gandara, works with K-12 partners and is in the business of graduating more engineers. He helps help students get internships and make sure the future engineers are ready for jobs in the real world. Gabby talked about the importance of not only finding students who are interested in engineering but also helping those kids who need a technical CTE education. Gabby believes that preparing our students for a well-rounded education is the key to making sure that more students are successful in life. Gabby also feels that first robotics is a program that teaches students not just about building a robot but that it takes other disciplines such as history, business, writing skills, and a host of other activities students participate in during the FRC season.

Hugo Martinez, talked about certification for this school year and how they are worried about the number of students who will be able to earn a certification given the circumstances. he wants our schools to push the teachers or law enforcement and business to make sure that their kids get a certification. Given that they use Certiport, it allows the teachers to be able to prepare the kids given that they are working from home and on Chromebooks. It is also possible that our engineering/computer science students can get certified in OSHA or through Microsoft.