

## WHAT IS A•L•A?

The Academic Leadership Alliance (A•L•A) is a partnership created by the McAllen Economic Development Corporation, the Region One Education Service Center, and Tech Prep of the Rio Grande Valley (now known as RGV LEAD), to strengthen the employer/educator connection to achieve the ultimate goal of providing more productive and functional employees for businesses.

The A•L•A Summer Educator Externships began in Summer 2003, with 15 educators from one Hidalgo County school district and a corresponding number of employers participating. By Summer 2014, participants included 47 educators from eight school districts, plus the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce, Brownsville Economic Development Council, Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce, and Harlingen Economic Development Corporation as well as numerous individual employers. All participants recognize the value of A•L•A in helping our region develop the workforce that it needs.

### From the Leadership Team:

**Keith Patridge, CEO, McAllen Economic Development Corporation:** “We’ve got to focus on our workforce! A skilled and competitive workforce is crucial to regional economic development.”

**Dr. Cornelio Gonzales, Executive Director, Region One Education Service Center:** “The A•L•A Educator Externships help equip our students with 21st Century Skills!”

**Rene Capistran, Principal Regional Director, Noble General Contractors:** “A•L•A gives employers a meaningful opportunity to work with educators and help prepare the workforce of tomorrow!”

## MISSION STATEMENTS OF A•L•A’S FOUNDING MEMBERS

**The McAllen Economic Development Corporation** is a not-for-profit corporation that works with the City of McAllen to attract new industry and help existing companies to expand. MEDC is the grantee and operator of the McAllen Foreign Trade Zone.

**The Region One Education Service Center** exists to assist school districts in improving student performance, to assist school districts to operate more efficiently and effectively, and to implement initiatives assigned by the Legislature or the Commissioner of Education.

**Rio Grande Valley Linking Economic and Academic Development (RGV LEAD –formerly Tech Prep RGV)** is in the business of education, partnering to engage students in college-and-career-focused learning opportunities to achieve a higher level of competence in the workforce.

### Statement of Equal Opportunity:

Participation in A•L•A programs is offered to all parties without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability.

### Statement of Funding:

Funding for the A•L•A Summer Educator Externship program has been provided through in-kind and cash support of the McAllen EDC, Region One ESC, RGV LEAD, and participating school districts. A•L•A initiatives are also supported through funds provided to RGV LEAD by the Brownsville Economic Development Council, Harlingen Economic Development Corporation, and Mission Economic Development Corporation; by school districts, colleges, and universities utilizing a variety of funding sources; by employers who host externs; and from other sources.



Working to Improve the Skills of the Rio Grande Valley's Workforce

## 2015 A•L•A Summer Education Externship

*Strengthening the employer/educator connection to achieve the ultimate goal of providing more productive and functional employees for businesses.*



Upper Valley Employers from Summer 2014

**Employers, make plans now to participate in Summer 2015!**

## THE A•L•A PARTNERING EMPLOYER'S COMMITMENT

1. Participate in a short training session provided by the A•L•A leadership team and hosted by an experienced A•L•A business partner.
2. Host an educator-extern at the employer's place of business for two or three weeks in the summer.
3. Review the instructional materials developed by the educator-extern and endorse them (assuming the materials developed accurately reflect the extern's experiences at the business).
4. Participate in an A•L•A closing luncheon on the date scheduled.
5. Make a cash contribution (\$650) to sponsor each A•L•A educator-extern hosted.

### Quotes from 2014 employer participants:

- "A•L•A was great; being able to share knowledge, experience, and skills with the educator externs is valuable."
- "A•L•A was a great experience, knowing that our teachers will be able to take back to the classroom the skills they learned from our workplace."

### From the 2014 externs, themselves:

- "I am truly grateful for this opportunity. I really enjoyed the experience and the knowledge that I gained. But most of all, the ability to use this information and take back to our students and make a difference in our school, and in our community."
- "This was an eye-opening experience. It will help me better serve my students and prepare them for careers, and help them make the right decisions at an early age."

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

### TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

#### A•L•A Upper Valley Leadership Team

- **Jill Williams**, A•L•A Regional Coordinator, 956.343.0419 ([jrwms43@att.net](mailto:jrwms43@att.net))
- **Joyce Dean**, Executive Vice President, MEDC, 956.682.2875 ([joyce@mcallenedc.org](mailto:joyce@mcallenedc.org))
- **Dr. Norma Salaiz**, Director; **Martha Gutierrez**, Worksite Learning Specialist; or **Eliza Groff**, A•L•A Secretary, RGV LEAD, 956.364.4509



### TO BECOME INVOLVED:

**Please complete the 2015 A•L•A Employer Participation Response Form that is included in your packet.**

#### For more information contact:

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## 2015 EXTERNSHIP TIMELINE

### May 2015

A•L•A Employer Orientation  
A•L•A District Coordinator Orientation  
A•L•A Educator Extern Orientation

**\*June 1-4, 8-11, 15-18, 2015 (Mon-Thurs)**  
Educators at Worksites

**\*\*Fridays, June 5, 12 & 19, 2015**  
Extern Debriefing Sessions at Districts

### Last Week, June 22-25, 2015

Product Development/Employer Endorsements

### June 26, 2015

Closing Luncheon for Externs and Employers  
12 noon to 1:00 p.m.

\*Different dates apply for two- and three-week placements (Two-week externs start on June 8)



2014 A•L•A Educator Externs