Teachers and instructional leaders participated in a professional development seminar entitled, “A New Era: Unleashing the Curriculum Designer in You” on June 24, 2013. This dynamic session facilitated the process of taking stock of current instructional practices, discovering elements of exemplary lessons, dissecting TEKS to understand cognitive and content rigor expected, planning for success with powerful learning, and fostering empowerment in the instructional classroom.
The Center for Accelerated Schools hosted two three-day institutes this summer entitled, “Powerful Learning in the Digital Age: Differentiation with Technology”. The first institute targeted the needs of our Texas Title I Priority Schools (TTIPS) partners and was held June 17-19. The second institute was held on Aug. 12-14 for a partnering consortium of schools involved in a Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) project. These institutes focused on differentiation in an inquiry-based classroom through the use of technology. Participants had opportunities to learn the needs of digital age learners and explored current technology resources and apps that support learning expectations and foster engagement. CAS coaches supported teachers and instructional leaders in the design of interdisciplinary units showcasing the use of technology, from online research tools to iPad apps that allow for creation of e-learning experiences. CPE and GT credit was awarded for attendance.

Center for Accelerated Schools and ECE 6363

Join Hand-in-Hand

The Center for Accelerated Schools collaborated with Dr. Maria Arreguin-Anderson’s ECE 6363 class; Differentiated Instruction in a Diverse Classroom this fall. Based on the course outline, our staff presented professional development experiences in “Understanding Teaching and Learning Styles through True Colors” and “Powerful Learning in the Differentiated Classroom.” Students were engaged in authentic hands-on minds-on activities that could be taken immediately back to their classrooms or course work for implementation. These fun and fulfilling experiences benefited our Center and Dr. Arreguin-Anderson’s students by strengthening ties and broadening support networks. Accelerated Schools looks forward to additional partnerships with UTSA COEHD classes.

Highlighted Accelerated Schools

Higgs, Carter, King Gifted and Talented Charter Academy are the movers and shakers in the area of writing. This campus has come together to focus on developing a strategic and concise plan for addressing writing across the curriculum. Community Involvement is also “A Go” for HCK Seniors who are focusing on various community efforts.

Congratulations to Shekinah West Columbia for getting their parents involved through the creation of a “Shared Vision” and the hosting of a fantastic Parent Night.

EEP campuses: Por Vida Cesar Chavez is to be commended on “Putting Kids First” in everything they do by holding true to their beliefs of helping ALL children succeed. SW Preparatory campuses have excelled with a successful first year of Accelerated Schools and the extraordinary climate and high expectations of their campuses. Applause goes out to GG Tech for the many activities and clubs they have created to build the “whole child.”