

Texas Rural Leadership Journal:

TRLP Salutes Collegiate Edu – Nation: An Innovative Approach to Rural Public Schools

By: Keelie Wendt

COLLEGE STATION, TX – The Texas Rural Leadership Program (TRLP) would like to highlight Collegiate Edu-Nation (CEN). Collegiate Edu – Nation is a rural model for public education, developed in Roscoe, Texas, with a focus on college readiness by 9th grade. Moving to greater replication across rural Texas, CEN provides a cost-effective way to provide higher education for ALL students, breaking the generational poverty cycle and addressing critical STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) workforce shortages in Texas. The CEN Model is a schoolwide Early College/STEM Academy (PTECH).

Collegiate Edu-Nation recognizes that the economic future of rural Texas is through education, transforming the opportunities for students right where they are from. CEN's adult education program provides students who have historically been underrepresented in higher education with a strong support system, much like high school support, through completion of the Bachelor and Graduate Degrees. What sets CEN apart from traditional models is that students earn an associate degree by the time they graduate high school or are trade certified. The unique feature is that this is "school-wide" and not a subset of the entire student population.

The revolutionary educational program model is being replicated in a number of rural communities, with the intent of scaling across rural Texas by 2036.

The mission of the Collegiate Edu-Nation model is to transform public education for ALL students, especially for those in small, rural schools, to provide affordable access to college ready, career-ready preparation leading to higher education and industry-recognized certifications and to serve as a state and national resource for such efforts.

To learn more about this innovative model for rural public education, contact Dr. Kim Alexander, CEO, Collegiate Edu-Nation: (325) 236-5427; kalexander@edu-nation.org.