

Gary Edens, Ed.D.

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Committed to serving students in higher education for over twenty five years
- Progressive responsibility in university administration and leadership
- Thorough knowledge of peer mentoring, student development, leadership and retention theories
- Comprehensive experience in the design and facilitation of peer mentor and leadership programming
- Broad based understanding and application of higher education recruitment, retention, and enrollment management strategies
- Institutional representative to numerous community college, university and K-12 initiatives to streamline enrollment processes, articulate credits and address college access and preparedness
- Participation in state, regional and national organizations for the transfer and articulation of students, student services, and the first year experience
- Knowledge of higher education accreditation processes, academic and student service program review and outcomes assessment
- Expertise in assisting university students in the selection, planning, implementation, and evaluation of artistic, entertainment, and leadership programming.

EDUCATION

Doctorate of Education

May 2007

The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)

Dissertation: *Student Involvement at a Majority Hispanic, Border Institution:
A Study of Undergraduate Student Experiences*

Masters of Public Administration

May 1994

The University of Texas at El Paso

Bachelors of Business Administration

May 1990

The University of Texas at El Paso

WORK EXPERIENCE

Vice President for Student Affairs

2011 -- Present

The University of Texas at El Paso

- Provide administrative leadership and administration to the Division of Student Affairs. The Division consists of the following departments: Dean of Students, Counseling Services, Scholarships, New Student Orientation, Career Services, Student Development Center, Student Government Association, Undergraduate Recruitment and Admissions, University Registrar, Financial Aid, Student Assessment and Testing, Cheerleading, Office of International Programs, Disabled Student Services, Residence Life, Recreational Sports, Upward Bound, Talent Search, High School Equivalency Program, GEAR UP, College Assistance Migrant Program and the Student Support Services Program.
- Serve on the President's Cabinet as the institution's Chief Student Affairs Officer.
- Oversee the Division of Student Affairs' external funding/grant writing projects with a total portfolio of over \$24 million in awarded funding.
- Oversee a staff of 300+ full-time employees and over 400 student employees.

Associate Vice President and Dean of Students**2008 – 2011****The University of Texas at El Paso**

- Supervise the planning, management and evaluation of six university outreach and access initiatives (Upward Bound, Gear Up, Student Support Services Program, College Assistance Migrant Program, Educational Talent Search, High School Equivalency Program) and three student service operations (University Union, University Career Center, University Counseling).
- Serve as a permanent member of the university's Entering Student, Early College High School, Human Resource Advisory, Strategic Enrollment and Campus Life committees.
- Coordinate the College Connection Program. The College Connection grant, funded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and AmeriCorps, is a comprehensive initiative to expand the college-going culture in the El Paso area by providing enrollment services and transition assistance to students in area high schools.
- Lead collaborative efforts to promote student success. Examples of recent initiatives include: Project MOVE (a day of service involving 850 students), the production of a financial literacy program, and the development of several K-12 outreach programs.
- Assess the impact of student services on student success. Analyze data and prepare reports.
- Teach a freshman seminar course, *University 1301 – Seminar in Critical Inquiry*.

Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs**2007 - 2008****The University of Texas at El Paso**

- Supervised the management of the University Union, Career Services, Office of Disabled Student Services and six university outreach initiatives.
- Developed division-wide initiatives to increase student involvement in campus activities and leadership.
- Oversaw a \$1 million renovation of the University Career Center.
- Collaborated with the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies in the management of a variety of services and programs to include: Welcome Back Miner, GoArmy.edu, and Tuition Assistance.

Assistant Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies**2005-2007****Director of Student Success Programs****2003-2005****The University of Texas at El Paso**

- Supervised the Office of Student Success Programs, including staff and student selection, training and development, evaluation, resource management, budgeting, and other administratively related duties.
- Coordinated and implemented all programs associated with the University Honors Program, Student Leadership Institute, Visitor's Center, New Student Orientation, Junior Scholars Program and National Student Exchange.
- Oversaw the enrollment functions of UTEP's "one-stop" Enrollment Services Center.
- Served as a permanent member of UTEP's Entering Student Program, which is responsible for retention issues on campus.

Director, New Student Orientation and Student Leadership Institute**1999-2003****The University of Texas at El Paso**

- Supervised the Office of New Student Orientation, including staff and student selection, training and development, evaluation, resource management, budgeting, and other administratively related duties.
- Coordinated the development of all Student Leadership Institute activities – a component of a five-year, Department of Education, Title V grant awarded to UTEP.
- Served as a permanent member of UTEP's Entering Student Program, which is responsible for retention issues on campus.

**Director, Student Development Center
The University of Texas at El Paso**

1996-1999

- Supervised a department overseeing 115 student organizations, campus leadership and involvement programs, the UTEP Wellness program, New Student Orientation, Greek Affairs, and other traditional student activities and programs.
- Managed the Student Development Center, including staff selection, assignment, training and development, supervision, evaluation, resource management, budgeting, and other administratively related duties.
- Implemented a comprehensive student development model utilized extensively by the Student Development Center.
- Served on a variety of UTEP and Division of Student Affairs' committees.

**Assistant Director for Union Programs
The University of Texas at El Paso**

1994-1996

- Served as advisor and staff resource person to the Union Programs Office Student Board.
- Implemented student development and leadership training programs for volunteer students involved in the Union Programs Office.
- Negotiated contracts with prospective entertainers that performed on the UTEP campus.

**Leadership Coordinator, Student Activities Center
The University of Texas at El Paso**

1992-1994

- Coordinated the Women's Leadership Institute, Advanced Leaders, Emerging Leaders, Organizational Leadership Experiences, and Peer Facilitation programs.
- Advised the Spirit and Traditions committee.
- Worked with the Director of the Student Activities Center to oversee advisement of student organizations.
- Served on a variety of UTEP and Division of Student Affairs' committees.

**Acting Director, Student Activities Center
The University of Texas at El Paso**

1991-1992

- Organized the creation of the Student Activities Center and the Spirit and Traditions committee.
- Coordinated the Leadership Development Programs, 125 student organizations, and Greek activities.
- Developed and designed a UTEP Student Handbook and Calendar of Events.
- Managed the Student Activities Center budget and accounts.

**Leadership Assistant/Student Development Specialist
The University of Texas at El Paso**

1988-1991

- Coordinated the Leadership Development programs, Special Programs and Activities committee, Peer Training program, Noon Leadership Series, and Leadership Consultation services.
- Developed specific marketing and promotional campaigns to foster an increase in program attendance and committee membership.
- Coordinated UTEP Homecoming festivities, in collaboration with the Alumni Association.

PUBLICATIONS

Edens, G. (2005). [Review of the book *Intersection of Cultures*]. *Multicultural Education*, June 22, 2005.

Satterfield, J.W., Rincones, R., Stein, K., & **Edens, G.** (2009). An Evolving Curriculum: The Technical Core of Hispanic-Serving Institutions in the State of Texas. *College Quarterly* 11(4).

GRANTS (Gary Edens, Primary Investigator)

- United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission: Peer Career Advisor Program (2007-2011), \$100,000
- Upper Rio Grande Workforce Development Board: Youth Summer Enrichment (2007-2008), \$81,549
- TG Foundation: College Survival Skills for the Freshman Year (2007-2008), \$110,000
- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: G-Force and Financial Literacy (2008-2011), \$320,000
- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: College Connections (2008-2010), \$180,000
- One Star National Service Commission: Americorps (2009-2010), \$68,000
- National Science Foundation (subgrant w/New Mexico State University): Robotic Competition Preparation: RASEM (2009-2012), \$27,000
- Department of Health and Human Services (subgrant w/New Mexico State University): Graduate Psychology Education Program (2011), \$10,000

PEER LEADERSHIP-RELATED PRESENTATIONS

Building the Foundation for First-Year Student Success in a Public, Urban University. Melbourne, Australia: Consulting visit to Victoria University (2008).

Access and Excellence as a Task Environment. Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education Conference: Austin, Texas (2005). Co-presentation with James Satterfield.

An Evolving Curriculum: The Technical Core of Hispanic Serving Institutions. American Educational Research Association (AERA): Montreal, Canada (2005). Co-presentation with James Satterfield and Kathy Stein.

Promoting Successful Teaching: Supporting Seminar and Learning Community Instructors. International Conference on the First-Year Experience: Maui, Hawaii (2004). Co-presentation with Sunay Palsole, Maggy Smith and Dorothy Ward.

Design for Success: UTEP's Entering Student Program. First Year Experience Conference – West: San Francisco, California (2000). Co-presentation with Meg Murray, Irma Rubio, Maggy Smith and Dorothy Ward.

Improving Services to Students in Times of Budget Shortfalls. International Conference on the First-Year Experience: Maui, Hawaii (2004). Co-presentation with Maggy Smith and Dorothy Ward.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNIV 1301: Seminar in Critical Inquiry (Course Theme – Student Leadership and Success)	2000, 2002, 2004, 2005
UNIV 1301: Seminar in Critical Inquiry (Course Theme – Leadership on the Border)	2008
Student Leadership Institute (120-contact hours over two semesters)	2000, 2001, 2002, 2003

UNIVERSITY RECOGNITION

- UTEP Office of Research and Sponsored Projects, Outstanding Performance Award
- UTEP Distinguished Achievement Award in Service to Students
- UTEP Outstanding Advocate for Entering Students
- UTEP Top Ten Senior Award