

# Developmental Summer Bridge Programs AND College Readiness Partnerships

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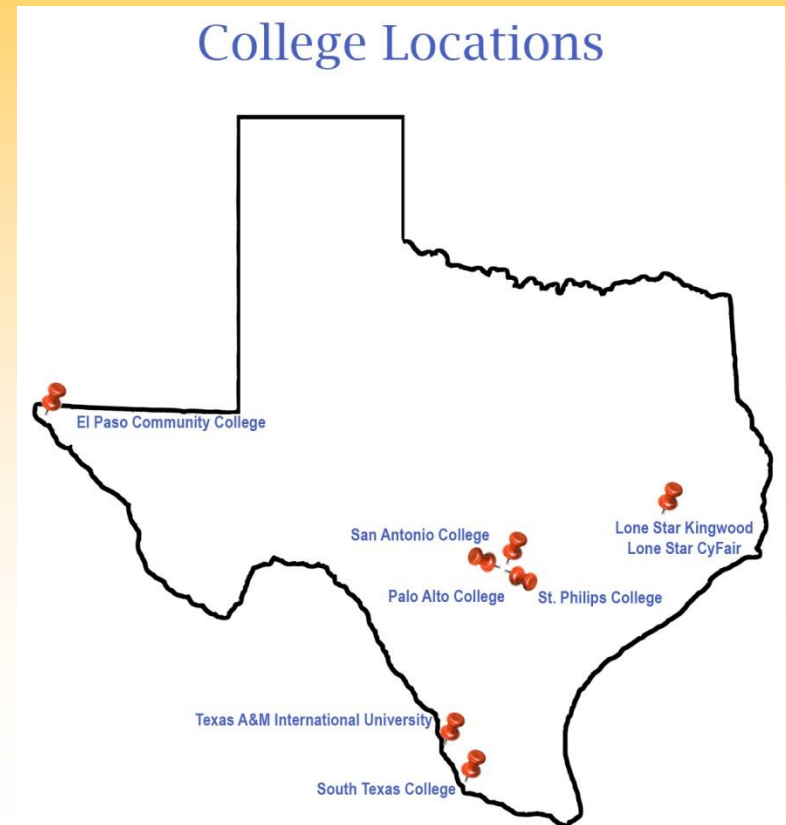
National Center for Postsecondary Research  
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# Developmental Summer Bridge Study

- Eight colleges and universities around Texas
  - Some programs funded in part by THECB grants
  - Programs offered in the summer of 2009
- Students
  - Just completed high school
  - Needed remediation

Project done with IES and Houston Endowment funding, in partnership with THECB



# Programs in the Texas DSB Study

- Student cohorts of recent high school graduates
- Four to five weeks (64 -100 hours)
- Accelerated instruction in developmental math, English, and/or reading at the college
- Academic and student services support
- “College knowledge” component
- Student stipend of up to \$400 for completers



# Texas Developmental Summer Bridge Study

- Purpose: Assess the effectiveness of a summer bridge model in improving college preparation and success for students in need of remediation



# The Research

## Implementation

- What do the programs and students look like?
- What are the challenges in implementation?
- What program design elements show promise?

## Cost Study

- What are the costs of developmental summer bridge programs?

## Early Impacts

- Do summer bridge programs reduce the need for developmental education, and improve college outcomes *over and above* how students perform without these programs?



# Selected Student Characteristics

- 84% Hispanic, 8.7% White, 6.6% African American
- 50% Speak English only at home
- 62% Female
- 95% Age 19 and below
- 41% First in family to attend college
- 61% qualified for free/reduced lunch in high school



# Participation and Attrition

College	Students in Program Sample	Control	Number of Students Who Ever Attended Program	Number of Students Who Completed Program	Percentage of Starters Enrolled at End of Program
El Paso	165	108	139	138	99%
Lone Star-CyFair	75	48	65	64	98%
Lone Star-Kingwood	51	35	51	41	80%
Palo Alto	52	35	52	35	67%
San Antonio	89	58	58	47	81%
St. Phillips	153	102	146	139	95%
South Texas	83	54	72	63	88%
TAMIU	126	85	113	111	98%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>93%</b>



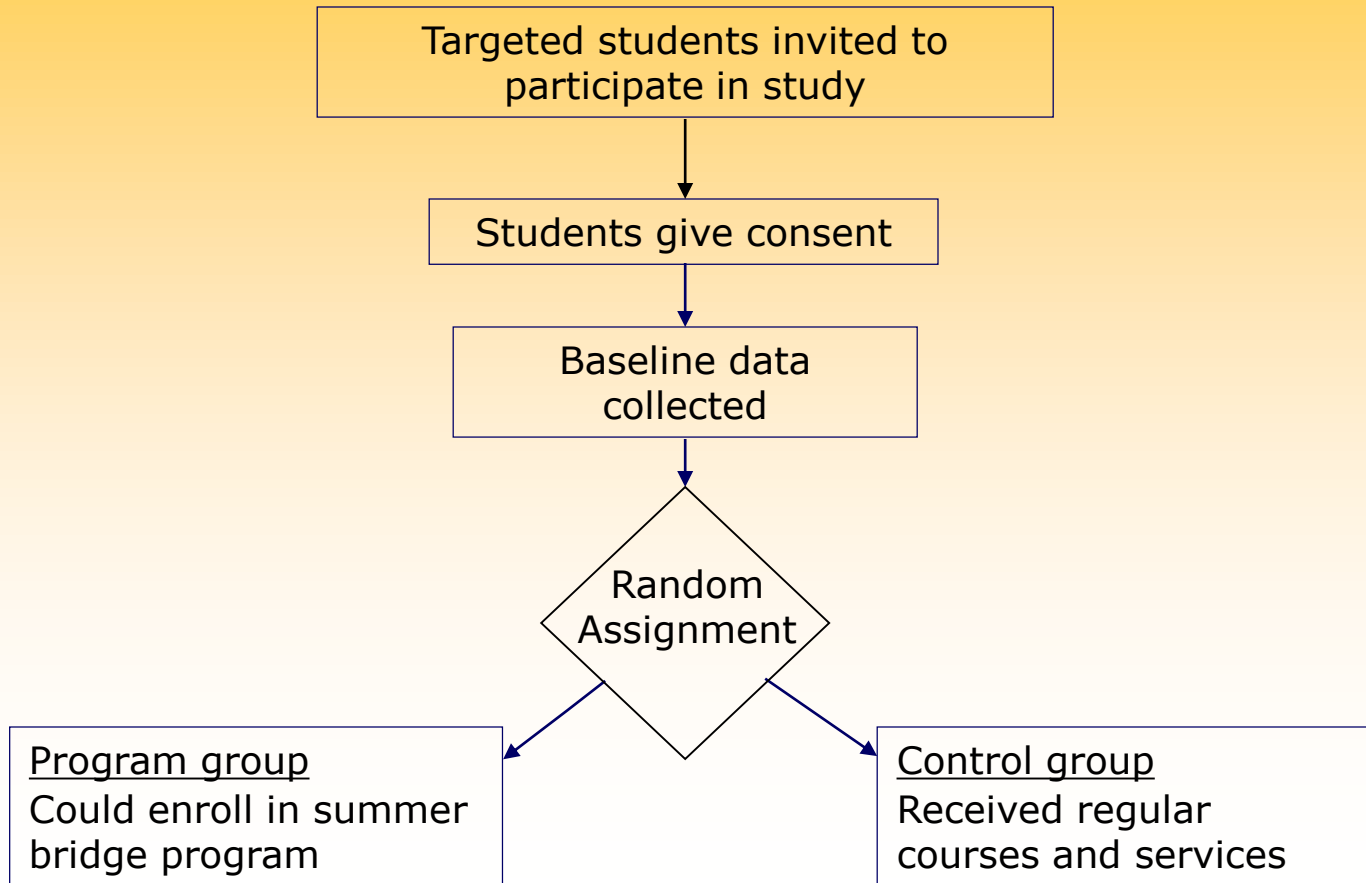
# Program costs

- Four cost ingredients
  - Staffing
  - Other costs
  - Student resources
  - Overhead
- Average program cost = \$123,160
- Average cost per student = \$1,319
  - ranged from \$840 - \$2,349 per student





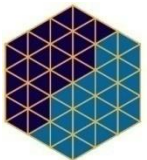
# Random Assignment Design



# Impact Findings

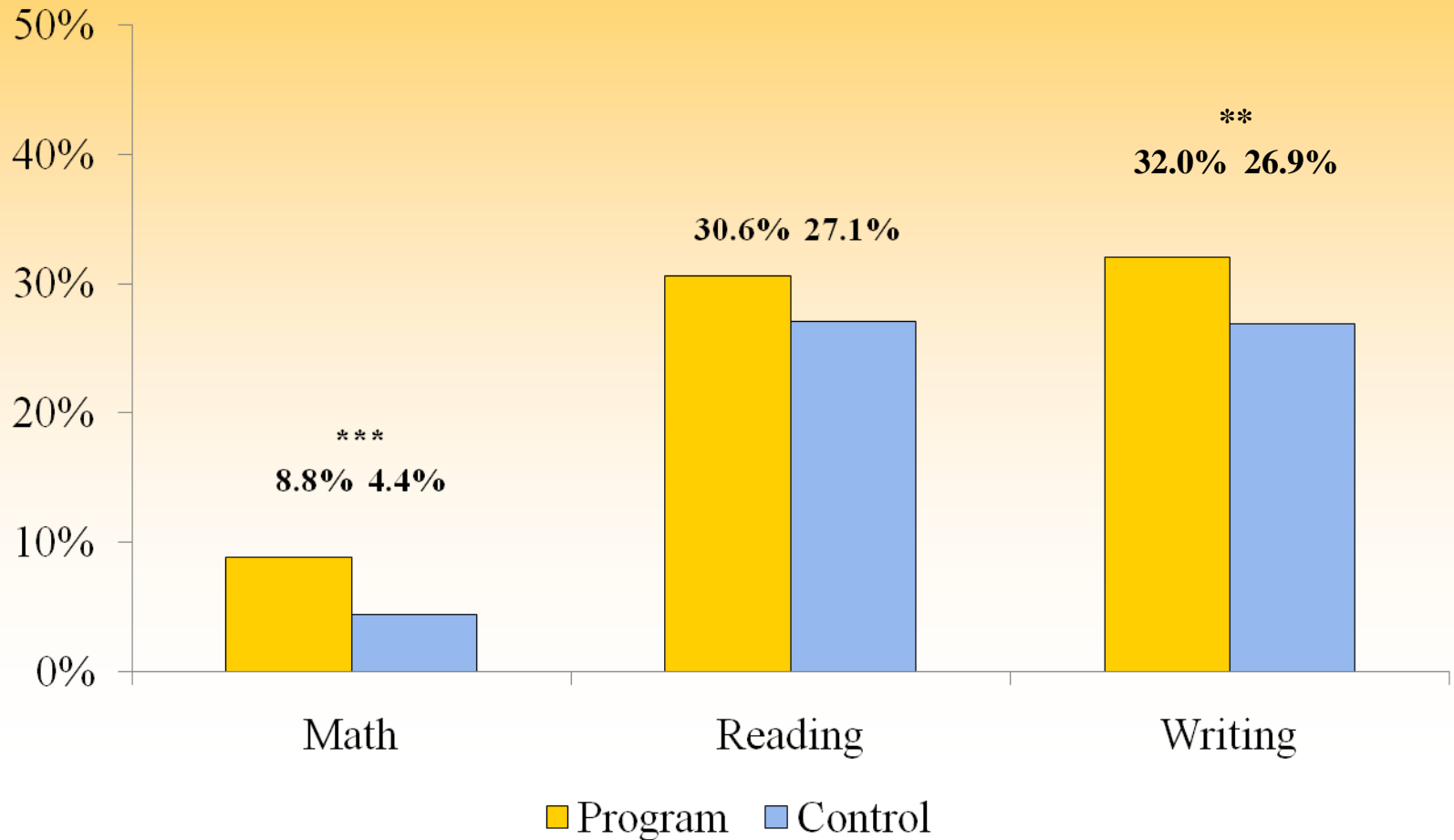
Texas Developmental Summer Bridge programs:

- Did not impact college enrollment.
- Did not impact credits earned over 2 years.
- Accelerated students' initial progress through the developmental course sequence in the first year.



# Passed First College-Level Course Fall 2009

Programs accelerated students' initial progress through the developmental course sequence



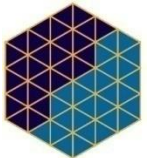
Significance: \* = 10%; \*\* = 5%; \*\*\* = 1%



# Where to go next?

- Summer bridge programs hold some promise BUT:
  - They don't have clear, predictable funding streams.
  - They reach only small numbers of students.
  - They're dependent on "champions."

SO WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE.....



# College Readiness Partnerships

- Partnerships of K-12 and higher education
- Focused on college readiness
- Co-sponsoring programs for high school students
- In Texas.



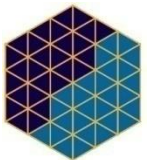
# Our Research

## QUESTIONS

1. What partnerships exist?
2. What programs exist?
3. [What holds potential?]

## ACTIVITIES

- Review of literature
- An online scan
- Site visits to Houston & Dallas Ft. Worth



# What we found (from scan)

Program Category	Total
<b>Federal programs</b>	<b>96</b>
Talent Search	21
Upward Bound	56
GEAR UP	19
<b>State programs</b>	<b>21</b>
GO Centers	12
College Connection	4
Summer bridge	5
<b>Local programs</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>



# Findings – Programs

- CRP programs are relatively rare.
- CRPs usually have a primary focus on improving *academics* or improving *college knowledge*, although many programs incorporate both.
- There is limited evidence of success of these programs as a group.





# Examples of Academic-Focused Programs

- Summer bridges
- School year transition programs
- Senior year transition courses
- Early assessment/intervention programs



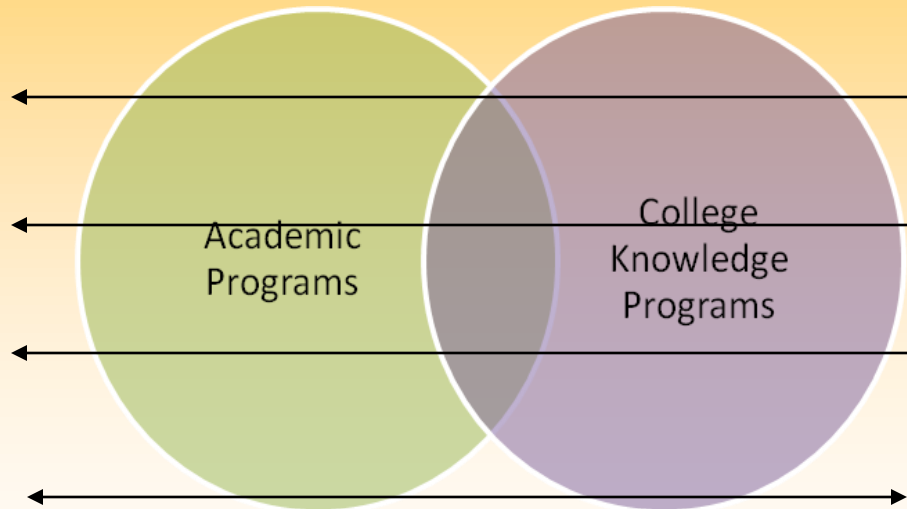
# Examples of College-Knowledge Focused Programs

- Targeted outreach
- Multi-year college readiness programs
- Embedded college counseling
- College-readiness lessons



# Program Typology

- Intensive
- Short-term
- Small groups & targeted students
- More direct experience of college



- Light touch
- Long-term
- Many students & not/loosely targeted
- Little direct experience of college



# Future potential:

- We looked for CRP programs with—
  - college readiness content
  - clear, predictable funding streams
  - reaching significant numbers of students
  - not overly dependent on “champions.”



# AN EMERGING INTEREST

- TRANSITIONS COURSES
- For example:
  - Virginia Capstone Courses
  - Florida College Academies
  - Kentucky Senior Courses



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