Through a CSREES (NIFA) grant, two community colleges and one university collaborated to create a path for Hispanic students to complete degrees in agriculture science to qualify for USDA jobs.

Created a Joint Admissions Process so that students interested in agriculture science could dually enroll at the college and university.

The investigators wanted to:
1. increase the number of graduates at the community college with successful transfer to the university;
2. develop early linkages with the university through classes, mentors, internships, scholarships, and field experiences;
3. increase the number of Hispanic students pursuing agriculture degrees at the university by 2% per year;
4. increase the technology in the agriculture department at TX State;
5. disseminate information on successes and best practices; and
6. prepare students for the rigors of agriculture courses by early exposure to agriculture studies.

Successes to Date: Joint Admissions, teleconferenced classes for 4 semesters, student visits to the university and Freedman Ranch. Four students have presented posters at the national conference of soil scientists, one high school student received a scholarship from NRCS, one graduate at the college transferring to Texas State University to pursue Agriculture Science Teaching degree, one student transferred successfully and will graduate from Texas A & M Kingsville. Forty high school graduates have applied for 2010 summer academy at LCC.

Success has been slow, but the project gains momentum and all objectives should be met.