

Austin Case Study

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CHRIS COXON: In partnership with Dell, the Career Launch program at Reagan Early College High School is an innovative academy that focuses on information and computer technology. Students have the opportunity to earn their high school diploma and their associates degree with the support of professional mentors and internship experiences.

KEVIN GARCIA: We reside in a community that's very deserving and a community that faces a lot of adversity. And it's one that, you know, we see the background of our students, we see the background of the families, and we know that a program like Career Launch is intended to provide them opportunity that they probably would have never heard of or been exposed to elsewhere.

JOHN FITZPATRICK: You know, we're giving kids opportunities to explore an area, like here at Reagan High School, in IT. Kids are also getting to earn one to two years of college credit. And that is a game changer for students to get to experience that.

SNOW WHITE: One of the things that I do when I'm working with the schools is make sure there's a sense of urgency of implementing skills, such as communication, collaboration, innovation, problem solving because they really are vital to being successful in today's workforce.

KEVIN GARCIA: We knew that we had this great opportunity to shift the paradigm in what traditional schooling looked like. You know, if you go out there into the workforce today and you go to a place like Dell, you go to Google, you go to any information technology companies, you don't see rows. You don't see desks. You don't see, you know, four walls. You see these innovative spaces.

SNOW WHITE: Our workplace now at Dell is very flexible. And that's what we wanted the Career Launch here at Reagan to be like. We are constantly looking for new talent. And this program is actually addressing that, where we can work with the students early on, get them excited about this type of field that they can join the workforce immediately, or they can continue their education.

KEVIN GARCIA: We know that no matter what path they pick, they're going to be successful. And it's going to be their own.

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