

Press Release
January 24th 2019

New Digital Learning Initiative First Event Launched at the Laredo Texas US Port of Entry

Dateline - Laredo, Texas

Calculus Roundtable has teamed up with academic partners at Texas A&M International University's College of Education and our Industry Partner, the Outlet Shoppes at Laredo (Horizon Properties) to host a fun, educational event at the shopping center. The Digital Ports of Entry Initiative launches its maiden event to align with the United Nations' International Day of Education (January 24th, 2019), in response to the UN's call to action to provide inclusive and quality education for ALL children on this day and every day.

The Digital Port of Entry Initiative will bring industry knowledge to students, teachers, and parents focused on careers found at various US Ports of Entry. Through the delivery of Community Learning Modules, Calculus Roundtable bridges the STEM gaps between middle school to high school, and again between high school to community college or technical schools, by empowering students with great opportunities to understand interesting technical careers they might not ever have known about. Modules contain fun content, training and relationships with industry partners that explain complicated math and science concepts in a project based environment.

From CR's Google Community Accelerator Office in San Francisco, the TAMIU's College of Education graduate students group called, the Professional Opportunities Supporting Scholarly Engagement (POSSE) Learning Ambassadors will connect directly with CR's professional development and content modules and standby support helping to guide teaching and model engaging content with children on the ground in Texas. The Outlet Shoppes of Laredo Education Port/Puerto Educativo. They invite pre-primary through grade 3 students and their families to participate in English and Spanish.

Beginning Saturday, January 26 at 2 p.m. and in the upcoming months, students will be invited to engage in educational activities such as creating autobiographies and stories of self, writing biographies of historical figures and cultural innovators, pen-pal activities with children from communities near and far away, and self-portraits in words and images. While the students will take their materials home with them, their creations will be displayed electronically at the shopping center and online.

According to Dr. Tonya Huber, TAMIU professor of Education, "The teaching-learning engagement should be one of interdependent reciprocity -- more 'we' than 'me' actions. TAMIU undergraduate and graduate teacher candidates and teachers learn with the students they are teaching in quality learning experiences. When family members are included, such teaching-learning experiences have even greater impact."

Lorena P. Cestou, a recent M.S. in Bilingual Education graduate of TAMIU, will serve as the coordinator of the POSSE Learning Ambassadors. Cestou not only has experience teaching in local classrooms, but has been team leader of education for children in learning programs in the plantations of the Dominican Republic, an orphanage in India, and at a local detainee processing center. Professor Huber commended Cestou's passion and commitment to the United Nation's goal of lifelong learning for all.

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The partnership between TAMIU's College of Education and The Outlet Shoppes at Laredo is called BEATS, an acronym for Business, Education, Activity, Theater, and Science.

"Calculus Roundtable is just the partner we needed to connect the research with engaging online student activities. Their community engagement approach allow young learners and their families to have access to a University experience with content that meets students where they are." said Dr. James O'Meara, dean of TAMIU's College of Education.

" It gives us a safe and stimulating standards based surrounding to mentor both students and their families."

"This is an ongoing partnership with TAMIU," said Jim Hollis, Executive Director of Calculus Roundtable, "Our mission with TAMIU is to promote the continuous educational growth for educators and practitioners set of STEM influenced, project-based activities that help students learn and help teachers teach for betterment in use of technology, progress in numeracy, and an understanding of literacy."

About The Outlet Shoppes

The Outlet Shoppes at Laredo is a 358,000-square foot, two-level outlet shopping center on the banks of the majestic Rio Grande river in downtown Laredo, TX.