

Key Beneficiary #2 : LULING ISD

Outcomes: DROPOUT REDUCTION; IMPROVED SCORES & RATINGS; AT-RISK STUDENTS RECEIVING RELEVANT, ENGAGING INSTRUCTION; EXTENSIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TEACHER SUPPORT; COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT; IMPROVED PERCEPTION OF SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

By creating an in-school program that offers traditionally disengaged students an opportunity to learn market driven skills through internships and community development projects, Upstarts addresses many of the challenges facing failing schools. Through this Upstarts/ALC partnership, the school's most at risk students are engaged and excited about their learning because it is meaningful to their lives. By giving kids a "reason to care" about school, they are motivated to succeed academically, as well. *Their* newfound individual success, along with the community-wide system of school and teacher support inherent to the Upstarts project, simultaneously addresses many of the issues that have caused schools to struggle in the past.

In addition, through its professional development and teacher support, Upstarts has offers Luling educators proven strategies to incorporate real world skills into existing classroom instruction and TAKS prep. Over the last nine months, **Upstarts staff has trained, motivated and supported more than 85 of LISD's secondary educators and brought in thousands of dollars worth of classroom materials and volunteer support for your teachers and administrators.**

Key Beneficiary #3: LULING ECONOMY and LULING BUSINESSES

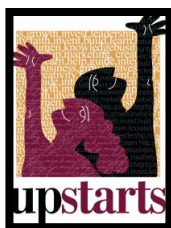
Outcomes: BUSINESS GROWTH; NEW JOBS; IMPROVED PERCEPTION OF SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY; STRONGER, CUSTOM DESIGNED WORKFORCE; REDUCTION IN LOCAL POVERTY; ONLINE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING PROGRAM FOR BUSINESSES

The beauty of the Upstarts model is that it is not just a "kid saving" project, but one that *empowers* at risk kids to be the driving force behind local economic growth. Since Upstarts began its project in Luling more than **55 local businesses** and agencies have contributed their support to the effort. Over the next 12 months, **at least 25 Luling businesses will have the opportunity to develop their own custom trained future workforce by providing internships to these Upstarts supported youth.** Businesses will also benefit from the online "Luling Marketplace" community development project that is used to train participating students. In that project, the Upstarts students research, design and create a web based promotional technology platform that offers broad based marketing opportunities to Luling businesses that were previously out of their reach. Finally, by contributing to the improved quality of local schools, the Upstarts project will encourage businesses and families to move to the area, directly impacting economic growth.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES developed by Upstarts for the Luling Project have brought in over \$400,000.00 that has directly benefited Luling schools, kids and the local economy: KDK Harman Foundation / Texas Pioneer Foundation / Luling Economic Development Corporation /The City of Luling / Luling ISD / The Texas Workforce Commission / This also includes Individual Donations, Corporate Contributions and In-Kind Support totaling over \$75,000 in just the past 9 months! An additional \$200,000+ is anticipated for Luling for the next phase of the project.



Watermelon Shop Intern



What people are saying about Upstarts in Luling!



Upstarts at City Council

"I believe this program helps kids with grades and getting them into whatever they need to be successful. It helps them work as hard as they can instead of being a nobody and dropping out and living with your parents the rest of your life. This internship was my first job ever and I have learned new and important things that you need to be a success in life."

Darion/Upstarts Summer Intern

"Having this internship has shown me what it is like to have a job and has shown me the responsibility it takes to do your work efficiently. It has shown me that I have the ability to do anything in the world as long as I put my mind to it."

Carley/Upstarts Summer Intern



Community Focus Group

"With so many of our youth 'falling through the cracks' in our society, all of us in Luling need to be creative in implementing programs that will help prepare our young people for successful futures. The Upstarts Program is just the kind of innovative initiative that will help us begin to address this pervasive situation and allow ALL of our young people to contribute to Luling's future."

Trey Bailey Executive Director, Luling EDC

"Upstarts asked what my future goals were and when I said I wanted to get into the medical field they set up an internship for me at Seton Hospital. That's unbelievably amazing! Upstarts is a program that states a purpose, and sees that purpose through very successfully. If you feel like you are unprepared for the world after high school.... Upstarts is the group to join!"

Ramon/Upstarts Summer Intern



Upstarts as Community Volunteers

"Huge thanks for everything! I really appreciate it all, and hope we can make you proud of us as we work together to increase student success in many aspects. Y'all are GREAT!!!!"

Alison Marrow / LHS Math Educator about Teacher Training & Donated Upstarts Classroom Tools



Summer Interns meet Dr.Seabolt

"The Upstarts project in Luling brings together a variety of community stakeholders to work together to prepare every student for success. I applaud the work of this outstanding organization, the community leaders who support it and the local businesses, teachers and students who make this program exceptional."

Texas State Representative Patrick Rose



Luling Business Panel with Teachers

"This was one of the two best workshops that I have attended in 23 years of teaching. Your vision and presentation takes us back to the reason for education: to make a difference with kids and to perpetuate a society of good citizens! You guys do really good work! "

Mike Barnett, LHS Science Teacher/Coach



Interns at Magnolia T's & Suzanne's



Luling Math/Science Teacher Training

"Upstarts helps kids get a look into life that most people have to wait for. It helps you think how it's going to be in the big world and helps you meet people you would never know otherwise. When you know people where you live you really get a head start in life!"

Anthony/Upstarts Summer Intern