

Melinda Valdez-Ellis

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Melinda Valdez-Ellis is an Associate Program Director for Academic Planning and Policy at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and a senior postdoctoral fellow at The University of Texas at Austin, where she recently earned an Ed.D. in educational administration and was active on the P-16 Dialogues Committee and Education Council. While completing her doctoral studies, she interned with the U.S. Department of Education in the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, worked as an academic advisor at Austin Community College, consulted for the Coordinating Board, and served as a Graduate Research Assistant at The Center for Community College Student Engagement.

Valdez-Ellis began her career in K-12 in Houston, Texas and currently holds certifications in General Education, Special Education, English as a Second Language, and PK-12 Principal. She blended her background in K-12 and higher education by basing her final doctoral research on the role of early college high schools in P-16 success to champion the cause of student success at both educational levels.

Valdez-Ellis has been recognized as a Jesse H. Jones and Edmund J. Gleazer, Jr. Scholar; Teacher of the Year; presenter at numerous national and international conferences for both K-12 and higher education audiences; and has recently co-authored a book on community college best practices. Her upcoming activities include an invitation to participate in the U.S. Department of Education's 2011 Community College Regional Summit to share recommendations for local community college efforts.

In addition to holding a Doctorate of Education in Educational Administration from The University of Texas at Austin, Valdez-Ellis holds a Master of Science in Educational Administration from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Texas State University-San Marcos.