

Team Project XLR8

Faculty - Biology

Dawn Richardson, Katy Thomas, Al Burrs

Faculty - Chemistry

Alan Kaster, Tamiko Porter

Faculty - English/Language Arts

Traci Toler, Marcella Schomburg, Stella Thompson

Faculty - Mathematics

Trudy Durham, Sandra Brown, Cynthia Gorton, Natalia Hritonenko, Laurette Foster

Faculty - Physics

Sion Mitchell, Premkumar Saganti, Brian Cudnik, A. Anil Kumar

Faculty - Social Sciences

Amanda Day, Stan Kitzman, Kacie Theusen, Artemesia Stanberry

Administrators

M. Paul Mehta, Project Director

A. Anil Kumar, Co-Project Director

Edward L. Mason, Department Head

Nathaniel Richardson, Principal

Rick Storey, Assistant Principal

Cheryl Fenn, Counselor

Joyce Byars, Counselor

Walter Fenn, Superintendent

Lawrence Brandyburg, School Board Member

Joy McMahan, Community Representative



Contact Information

Prairie View A&M University

(A Member of the Texas A&M University System)

M. Paul Mehta, Project Director

Dean, College of Education

Tel: 936-261-3600

E-mail: mpmehta@pvamu.edu

A. Anil Kumar, Co-Project Director

Head, Physics

Professor, Electrical Engineering

Tel: 936-261-3130

E-mail: aakumar@pvamu.edu

Royal High School

Nathaniel Richardson, Principal

Tel: 281-934-2215

E-mail: nrichardson@royal.isd.esc4.net



Thurgood Marshall College Fund

Eve M. Hall, Vice President of Programs

E-mail: ehall@tmsfmidwest.org

Jasmin Carter, Program Assistant

E-mail: jcarter@tmsfmidwest.org

Tel: 414-273-5245

PROJECT XLR8 (ACCELERATE)

A High School Redesign Project

A Partnership Between
Royal High School and
Prairie View A&M University

Mission:

“To provide an environment that facilitates graduation from high school and prepares every student for college, career and life. Every student. No exceptions!”



Royal High School



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“Nearly everything needs to change in struggling secondary schools: curriculum, instruction, structure, relationships, culture and leadership.” - All Students College-ready: Findings from The Foundation’s Education Work 2000-2006

How is Project XLR8 addressing these complex issues?

- Customizing learning environments to individual student’s preparatory needs and goals.
- Empowering the teachers to go beyond minimal standards in designing and implementing a relevant curriculum.
- Setting and implementing uniform rigor in science and mathematics requirements. For example, consumer math cannot be a substitute for calculus or technology for physics.
- Involving students, parents and community in the redesign process.



“Our high schools were designed fifty years ago to meet the needs of another age. Until we redesign them to meet the needs of the 21st century, we will keep limiting - even ruining - the lives of millions of Americans every year.” - Bill Gates

What are the specific activities of Project XLR8??

Enhancing the Environment

Redesigning classroom interaction, making the interface more conducive for learning, with university faculty in each discipline teaching at high school at least one day every week, and with laboratories designed for enhanced, hands-on experience.

Enhancing the Rigor

Jointly developing lesson plans that increase the depth of topics covered, incorporate more independent and team projects for concept- and activity-based learning designed to integrate ideas and knowledge from diverse disciplines, including experience with report writing.

Enhancing the Relevance

Exposing the students to careers of the future, assisting with career plans, demonstrating connections of class material and the real world, incorporating technology.

Enhancing the Relationships

Establishing and sustaining a mentoring program for students involving school and university faculty, staff and students.



“In many other industrial countries, by the end of eighth grade students are two years ahead of American students: That’s why Europeans view the first two years of our university system as basic high school catch-up” - Annual Winter Meeting of the National Governors’ Association, 2007

Why is Project XLR8 Unique?

The Project:

- Addresses the student’s educational preparation in a “systemic” manner .
- Builds the curriculum from the “bottom-up” while meeting the “top down” standards and requirements.
- Incorporates elements of globalization at increasing levels.
- Provides explicit classroom training and professional development opportunities to school faculty and involves university faculty in the school’s redesign process.

What are the Elements That Make Project XLR8 Successful?

- Passionate and dedicated faculty committed to a common goal.
- Outstanding support from administration: school board, principal, superintendent, community and university.
- Peer Mentoring through the G-Force and other groups.
- Excellent oversight and support from the sponsors.

