Recent Arlington Independent School District student survey showed that 20 percent of graduating seniors did not apply to college, a number that included as many as 27 percent of Hispanic grads. A new partnership between The University of Texas at Arlington and area school districts hopes to reverse this trend.

Bound for Success is an early admissions initiative aimed at increasing the number of high-achieving high school scholars who ultimately earn college degrees. The collaborative program will identify high school students ranked in the top 20 percent of their class at the end of their sophomore year for pre-admittance to UT Arlington, contingent on completing the requirements for high school graduation.

The University and the AISD pioneered the program last fall; similar programs are in the works at other school districts.

“We know that there are students who excel throughout their high school years but for a variety of reasons do not pursue a college education,” says Marcelo Cavazos, Arlington school district superintendent. “With this program, we are reaffirming that these students are prepared for success and that we are going to help guide them along their path to a college degree.”

Luis Leroy, a junior at Sam Houston High School, says his early acceptance letter from UT Arlington opened up his future after graduation. Now, UTA is one of his top choices after graduation.

“I didn’t even expect to go to college,” he says.

President Vistasp Karbhari notes that the program is “directly aimed at not just increasing the number of students at UT Arlington but making sure that they are successful.” University admissions counselors will be available weekly at each of the high school campuses to counsel Bound for Success students. They will work to help students maximize opportunities to earn college credit through advanced high school courses and will guide them to take classes that will prepare them well for college work in the fields of their choice. Many students, through dual-enrollment and online courses, will also be able to receive college credit while they are still in high school.

UT Arlington will provide specially focused financial aid workshops and college preparation workshops for students and their families through the initiative. Participants will also be invited to attend special receptions, lectures, athletic events, and other campus activities to assist them in a smooth transition into college life.

In his Dallas Morning News education blog, Bill McKenzie called Bound for Success “a master stroke.” The new program, he continued, “gets more students thinking early about college and will increase the flow of college-educated workers for employers in Arlington and North Texas.”

“A college education can alter an individual’s life, but the impact of ensuring that more well-prepared high school scholars advance through the University has the power to transform our communities,” President Karbhari says. “Bound for Success will strengthen our workforce and mean that more young people will be prepared to create the knowledge, technologies, and innovation needed to fuel the local and state economies for the future.”
**Top Honors**

**UT Arlington ranks nationally as “Best for Veterans”**

UT Arlington placed No. 70 of 120 institutions named to the “Best for Vets: Colleges 2014” list by Military Times, an organization that comprises Army Times, Navy Times, Air Force Times, and Marine Corps Times. The comprehensive evaluation factored in academic rigor, veteran enrollment, percentage of tuition covered by the GI Bill, and availability of specific programs to help veterans.

UT Arlington has a long tradition of preparing cadets for military service, dating back to the University’s founding in 1895 and the establishment of the Carlisle Military Academy in 1902. In the last four years, UT Arlington boasted cadets who were ranked in the top 20 nationally. The new “Best for Vets” designation by Military Times spotlighted the fact that veterans are a valued and vital component of the campus community, and that the University is committed to providing a full range of services for veterans to adapt and succeed in their academic pursuits.

Nearly 1,500 of UT Arlington’s 38,000 students are veterans. Information and services for service men and women are located in the new Students Veterans Assistance Center, which offers a central hub for advising, tutoring, vocational counseling, and assistance with completing college, financial aid, and GI Bill applications.

Other notable efforts by the University to assist veterans include several research and programming initiatives supported by federal and private grants. The College of Nursing, for instance, is working toward increasing enrollment and graduation rates for veterans to address the nationwide shortage of nurses. A new School of Social Work program is dedicated to better serving veterans and active members in the military with mental health needs. And the UTA wheelchair basketball team, the Movin’ Mavs, is providing disabled vets with opportunities for enhanced sports programming.

“UT Arlington has a rich history of educating service men and women and a modern appeal for veterans who want to pursue degrees in a wide range of academic and research disciplines,” President Vistasp Karbhari says. “While we are thrilled by this national recognition, we also are challenged to continue pursuing new models of supporting service men and women transitioning from military life to the university and beyond.”

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**Community Snapshot**

**Assess your health and fitness with MavFIT**

Whether you are a triathlete, a weekend walker, or are looking for a new exercise plan, you need to have a good understanding of your current levels of physical fitness and health. A new program at UT Arlington can help.

MavFIT offers a variety of assessments to measure your fitness level, including muscular strengths and weaknesses, body fat percentage, aerobic capacity, whole body fat percentage, and nutritional condition.

Offered by the UT Arlington Department of Kinesiology, MavFIT provides community members with quality fitness testing performed by staff exercise physiologists, kinesiology graduates, and undergraduate exercise science students.

MavFIT assessments employ state-of-the-art technology and equipment, including a treadmill to measure maximum oxygen uptake, a DEXA Scan to determine body composition, and the Wingate Anaerobic Power Testing with a 30-second cycling test.

UTA’s MavFIT strives to help individuals build healthier lifestyles. If you are interested in learning more about the program, email mavfit@uta.edu for pricing and a schedule or call 817-272-3669. MavFIT assessments are conducted at the Maverick Activities Center (MAC) on 500 W. Nedderman Drive.

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**Tastes of the Town**

College Town UTA and several of the College Park District restaurants participated in the annual Taste of Arlington charity fundraiser, which had the theme “Taste University.” Here, UTA cheerleaders pose with Ronnie Graves, Arlington State College class of ’59.

**Government in Action**

Lt. Governor David Dewhurst discussed the Texas legislative process during a recent visit to one of Professor Allan Saxe’s political science classes at UT Arlington.

**Rocking the (Early) Vote**

UTA Student Congress Vice President Loan Ho, University President Vistasp Karbhari, and Lisa Karbhari took advantage of early voting on campus in March.

**Night Gathering**

UT Arlington President Vistasp Karbhari and Arlington Mayor Robert Clark visited several neighborhood gatherings during National Night Out in the fall.

**Homecoming Spirit on Display**

Maverick pride came alive when thousands of community members, students, faculty, staff, and alumni packed the College Park District for UT Arlington’s annual Homecoming parade and basketball game.

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SPORTS TIME
Maverick softball and baseball teams get a major facilities upgrade

University will recognize the generosity and contribution of alumnus Roy D. Wilson and his wife, Patti, longtime Maverick baseball supporters, with a matching gift from Lockheed Martin Aeronautics in Fort Worth. The indoor practice facility for the baseball team will be named in honor of their son.

Tickets for baseball home games are only $5, while admission for all home softball games this season is free. Visit utamavs.com for information and schedules for both teams. Go to utickets.com to order your tickets for all UT Arlington athletic match-ups.

MUSIC AND ART BONANZA
MAIN ST. Fort Worth Arts Festival

When you make plans to attend the 29th annual MAIN ST. Fort Worth Arts Festival on April 10-13, be sure to make time to stop by UTA’s booth and listen to the live music on the UT Arlington Main Stage.

The festival is the largest four-day event and highest-rated arts festival in the southwestern United States. Attendees will have the chance to hear hundreds of musical acts on the three music stages, ranging from alternative rock to folk to cool jazz. On April 12, several UTA jazz ensembles will perform. The UTA booth will provide giveaways and info about University programs and activities, and will give visitors a chance to win an original piece of art.

In addition to live music, the MAIN ST. Fort Worth Arts Festival showcases the work of nationally recognized fine artists and craftsmen. More than $4 million of world-class art is sold during the festival annually, from quality reproductions to one-of-a-kind treasures.

Admission is free. Food and beverages, plus select event access, will be available for purchase. Visit the festival’s website, mainstreetartsfest.org, for more info.

ON THE WEB
The DNA of UTA

The DNA of UTA is the largest one-day, student-run service project in the country, and is hosted by more than 70 universities nationwide. Community members are invited to join students, faculty, and staff at the 50-plus project sites across North Texas. Service projects take place from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, visit uta.edu/thelbigevent.

EXPLORE College Town
MARCH
MARCH 11: BASEBALL: Maverick vs Oklahoma
Globe Life Park in Arlington
MARCH 18: Maverick Speaker Series: Dr. Sanjay Gupta
College Park Center
MARCH 20: DOCUMENTARY SCREENING: WONDER WOMAN! THE UNTOLD STORY OF AMERICAN SUPERHEROINES
University Hall, Room H8
MARCH 24: Pulitzer-Prize Winning Author Geraldine Brooks
Central Library, 6th Floor Auditorium
MARCH 29: UTA Wind Symphony Concert
Iron Recital Hall
MARCH 31: Downtown Arlington Arlington Music Mondays
First Baptist Church, Arlington Sanctuary
APRIL
APRIL 1: Baseball: Maverick vs TCU
Clay Gould Ballpark
APRIL 4: World Glass Art Sale
Studio A Center
APRIL 4: Preview Day for Prospective Students and Parents
Various Locations
APRIL 8: Maverick Speaker Series: Nina Totenberg
Texas Hall
APRIL 10-13: Main St. Fort Worth Arts Festival
Downtown Fort Worth
APRIL 11: Opening Reception for Masters of Fine Arts Exhibition
The Gallery at UTA
APRIL 11: UTA Symphony Orchestra Concert
Iron Recital Hall
APRIL 12: Engineering Saturday
APRIL 12: The Big Event Community Service Day
Various Locations
APRIL 14: UTA Arlington Night at the Rangers
Globe Life Park in Arlington
APRIL 15-27: MavPlays One Act Theatre Festival
Studio Theatre, Fine Arts Building
APRIL 17: Spring Jazz Concert
Texas Hall
APRIL 24: UTA Bands Concerts
Iron Recital Hall
MAY
MAY 3: Opening Reception for Fine Arts Exhibition
The Gallery at UTA
MAY 9-11: Baseball: Mavericks vs Western Kentucky University
City Discount Ballpark
MAY 9-11: UTA Arlington Commencement
College Park Center
MAY 24-26: Center Stage Music Festival
Loft Pavilion
ONGOING
College Park Center
Continuing Education
www.uta.edu/cpd
The Planetarium at UTA Arlington
www.uta.edu/planetarium
Athletics
www.uta.edu/athletics
Summer Camps
www.uta.edu/summercamps

Don’t miss a thing in College Town UTA! Here’s a sampling of the wide range of activities, exhibitions, plays, concerts, lectures, athletics, and more.