

2007 ANNUAL REPORT



SKILLPOINT ALLIANCE ► COMMUNITY ► EDUCATION ► BUSINESS



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Skillpoint Alliance is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that builds partnerships among business, education and the community, leading to college and career success for Central Texans, while meeting employers' needs for a qualified workforce.

We have received national recognition for our ability to create allies and coordinate efforts across three key, interrelated groups:

Community, represented by government leaders, community-based organizations and philanthropic and civic leaders working to improve the quality of life and economic welfare of all;

Education, including educators and administrators from K-12, community colleges, universities and other educational institutions, who seek to improve opportunities and leverage resources to make education relevant to current and future employment needs; and

Business, a wide range of leaders from all fields of endeavor, working to increase workforce availability for their industries, create robust economic growth and fulfill the best aspects of corporate citizenship.

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Message from the CEO

Dear Friends,

The year 2007 was filled with exciting growth and positive change for Skillpoint Alliance. We relocated downtown to our own building that says Skillpoint Alliance prominently on the front door. We miss friends at ACC Highland Campus, but we've grown up and moved out. We are on our own in the heart of the great city of Austin and hope you'll visit our new home—it's terrific!

Skillpoint's achievements of 2007 are too many to list. Highlights include hosting two community briefings to report 2006 findings of the Student Futures Project, an innovative and celebrated collaboration with The University of Texas' Ray Marshall Center. We honored the community service of a very deserving John Stevens, former Executive Director of the Texas Business and Education Coalition, with the 2007 Workforce Edge Award, and Tony Bertucci, technology teacher with AISD's Liberal Arts and Science Academy, was recognized as our Educator of the Year because of his extraordinary accomplishments and devotion.

Our 11th Annual College & Career Fair served nearly 3,000 Central Texas students who learned about career opportunities and talked to representatives from institutions of higher education on how to achieve those goals. Our acclaimed Summer Educator Institutes again brought joy to the faces of more than 100 teachers with the opportunity to see real-world applications for the classroom. Velocity Prep high school participants received accolades from SXSW, which presented business issues for them to address. Students may not arrive motivated ("my mom signed me up for this"), but all leave with heightened self-esteem and a sense of the importance of continued education.

Skillpoint Alliance's Adult Workforce programs, Community Technology Training Centers (CTTC) and Construction Gateway, continue to shine. Award-winning CTTC is a model of extraordinary community service offering free computer training to anyone regardless of ability. Job readiness increases for many, others can help their children with homework, and for a darling octogenarian couple, impending nuptials were saved from doom. The bride-to-be insisted her intended learn to use email so he wouldn't complain when she spent time on the computer. Now married, they happily email back and forth.

The nationally recognized Gateway program proudly celebrated its 1000th graduate. With the right combination of "tough love," great teachers and industry partners offering real job opportunities, we



Skillpoint's CEO Margo Dover celebrates Capitol Metro's gift of free advertising on the sides of buses.

Skillpoint Alliance held two community briefings to disseminate Student Futures Project research findings to the business and education community.



deliver hope and relevance to the unemployed and underemployed by focusing on the future without judging their past. Congratulations and special thanks to Gateway partners, the City of Austin, Travis County and ACC.

Skillpoint continues to strengthen our team by adding accomplished new members. Karl Nichols, Chief Operating Officer, offers the strength of many years of service in the non-profit sector, and his talents make my job much easier as he serves as my capable right hand. We also welcomed other talented new members who have shown the ability to enhance the success of Skillpoint's programs: Sophia Nasher, Director of Marketing; Jessica Guerrero, Accounting Specialist; Karen Montgomery, Executive Assistant to the CEO; Naomi Williams, Research Associate; Johanna McLendon, Program Assistant; and Kristy Bowden, Director of DMC.

It is equally important to salute excellence, and we did so by promoting two valued team members. Carol Wright, with Skillpoint Alliance for 10-plus years, most deservedly was promoted to Vice President for Educational Services. The depth of her background gave us total confidence in her ability to take on challenges of this newly created position. Katie Kizziar, while continuing as Director of TEEC, adds to her title Senior Cluster Director. We will count on her leadership to guide us as we work with the City of Austin to collaborate in building new clusters. We are confident Katie will bring the same high level of vision and enthusiasm to this new position as she has demonstrated since her first day on the job.

I am proud of the entire Skillpoint family, which is what we are—family. The high level of dedication and enthusiasm this group exhibits daily is inspirational. Heartfelt thanks to all. When I'm representing Skillpoint Alliance, I'm never surprised when people comment on the passion I feel about our mission.

My sincere thanks to our partners, City of Austin, Travis County, ACC, and the Austin Chamber of Commerce, and grantors that have supported and believed in our mission. Special gratitude to the best board of directors ever, whose support and vision for this organization is invaluable. We salute your generosity of spirit!

We have much hard work ahead, but we are up to the task. We are eager to push ourselves to expect more, achieve more and share in the joy of bringing more hope and opportunities to the area's emerging and adult workforce and serving our business and community partners.

With much appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Margo Dover'.

Margo Dover
President and CEO

Stacy Bouwman, CTTC Managing Director, receives the City of Austin's Grant for Technology Opportunities (GTOPs) award presented by Chad Williams and Brewster McCracken.

Velocity Prep students practice working in teams for a mock company created by Skillpoint's TEEC program.

Programs

College & Career Fair

Skillpoint Alliance held its 11th Annual College & Career Fair in March at the Palmer Events Center. Nearly **3,000 students from 10 Central Texas school districts** eagerly explored a wide range of potential career paths and the higher education track to get there. Students interacted with 104 business, college and nonprofit exhibitors as well as watched robotics, multi-media displays and culinary demonstrations. More than 200 students worked on a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in the Financial Aid Plaza.



Student Futures Project

The Student Futures Project, formerly the High School Graduate Data Center, is a research partnership. The Ray Marshall Center, Skillpoint Alliance and a growing number of Central Texas independent school districts worked to document and analyze progress of regional high school students as they progress to colleges and careers. The Austin, Del Valle, Eanes, Hays, Leander, Manor, Pflugerville, Round Rock, and San Marcos districts are current project partners.



In 2007, Skillpoint held two community briefings to disseminate research findings to educators and the business community. One important finding was that **42 percent of high school seniors in 2006 were enrolled in postsecondary education** the following fall, with 60 percent attending a four-year university.

Quality Educator Development

The goal of Quality Educator Development is to strengthen education through programs that offer relevant experiences connected to “real-world” demands students will encounter in the 21st century. The centerpiece of this initiative is Skillpoint’s **Summer Educator Institutes (SEI)**, an industry-led professional development program designed to enhance the ability of teachers to improve student learning by exposing them to cutting-edge industry information and practices.

More than **100 teachers from nine ISDs** and a charter school attended the 2007 Summer Educator Institutes. Seventeen teachers attended more than one institute. Topics included air quality, digital production, video game development, green gardening, and more.

“Wow! I loved this style of professional development.”

-SEI participant

Central Texas high school students view Austin EMS up close at the 2007 fair.

SEI’s Green Gardening Institute involved time outdoors for participants to tour and learn about horticulture and resources for the classroom.



Technology & Education Executive Council (TEEC)

The Technology & Education Executive Council (TEEC) is a consortium of high-tech business executives and education leaders engaged in problem-solving for workforce and education issues. TEEC members include superintendents and career and technology directors from seven area school districts; representatives from Austin Community College, Texas State University, The University of Texas at Austin; and executives from AMD, Applied Materials, Applied Mechanical, Intel, SEMATECH, Samsung Austin Semiconductor, SEMI, Spansion, and Tokyo Electron.



In 2007 TEEC provided college and career awareness training to **more than 19,500 students** through support of programs such as Discover Engineering, Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, Capital BEST Robotics, Step Up, and Velocity Prep. Step Up was designed by TEEC to interest middle school students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (“STEM”) careers. Innovative problem-based learning such as building hovercrafts or a working scale-model roller coaster encourages students to explore and have fun while mastering challenging concepts.

Velocity Prep involved regional high schools students working together as a business answering tough questions for a real-life client, SXSW Film Festival. Students met with industry experts, toured studios and even conducted audio quality tests of the Austin Convention Center as research for their final report and presentation. Participants gained valuable work experience and information about future career opportunities. All agreed the experience increased their confidence in communication skills and gave them a better understanding of technology and related careers.

Digital Media Council (DMC)

The Digital Media Council (DMC) supports and creates industry-led collaborations with educators and community leaders to promote the growth of the digital media, creative technology and design industries of Central Texas. DMC members include superintendents and Career and Technology directors from seven area school districts, representatives from colleges and universities, and business leaders.

DMC initiatives provide knowledge, resources and skills relevant to educators and students from the middle school to the university level. The goal is to cultivate a prepared, successful workforce and ensure the continued security, expansion and innovation of these industries in our region.

A student experiences Newton's Laws by riding a “frictionless” hover-board, which was built during an afternoon Step Up activity.

A photo in Austin-based magazine TRIBEZA shows Del Valle students creating digital media projects for the Multi-Media Exchange, a DMC-sponsored event.

As part of its Digital Media for Youth program, supported by the Dell Foundation, the DMC is creating a high school video game development curriculum. The pilot program at Lehman High School began in 2007. For the Skillpoint Alliance's Summer Educator Institutes, DMC provides teacher training in digital media and game development.



Also in 2007, the Digital Media Council participated in the steering committee for the National Alliance for Media Arts and Culture Conference held in Austin that highlighted the current state of media and visual arts. Another high point was an article on the DMC in *Tribeza* magazine's issue on Austin's digital media and video game industries.



Community Technology Training Centers (CTTC)

Skillpoint Alliance's Community Technology Training Centers (CTTC) provide free computer classes to low-income and unemployed adults. Computer classes are offered at preparatory, beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels. Professional development classes also are offered in résumé writing, interviewing skills and financial management.

In 2007 CTTC served a total of 651 individual clients who took more than 2,300 classes at Reagan and Travis high schools. Classes also were available at Austin Community College's South Austin and Eastview campuses. Eighty-three percent of clients completed course work, and **unemployed and job-seeking clients attained a 33-percent rate of employment.**

“Construction Gateway gave me the hope and opportunity to expand my skills.”

-A graduate

Construction Gateway

The nationally recognized Construction Gateway program is a five-week adult training program in construction trades. Travis County residents who are unemployed, underemployed or transitioning from incarceration take classes at Austin Community College's Riverside campus.

Travis County, the City of Austin and WorkSource Austin provide funding and support for the program. Construction Gateway has continued to grow and serve the community and celebrated a milestone in 2007 with the **1000th graduate since its inception** in 1994. The program trained a total of 97 clients in 2007, with 80 percent obtaining employment. Check out Construction Gateway in action at www.youtube.com/skillpointalliance.org.

CTTC clients take advantage of a variety of free courses offered to the public.

Construction Gateway has helped people overcome barriers to be productive members of the workforce.

For more information on Skillpoint Alliance's programs, please visit www.skillpointalliance.org, or call (512) 323-6773.

Budget Summary



*“I thought the
College & Career
Fair was interesting
and very helpful.”*

-Student attendee

REVENUE

Item	Amount
Contributions	\$ 5,000
Grant Revenue	1,274,674
Sponsorship/Booth Fee	60,000
Membership Fees	182,000
Program Fees and Other Income	36,000
Undesignated Fundraising	390,482
Total Revenue	\$1,948,156

EXPENDITURES

Item	Amount
Personnel	\$1,227,816
General Operating Expenses (Insurance, Rent, etc.)	124,400
Direct Program Expenses	211,800
Consultants and Contract Labor	45,700
Contracts and Pass-Throughs	140,000
Computer and Communications	43,600
Facility Rental	26,500
Food and Beverages	29,000
Printing and Publications	8,820
Subscriptions/Memberships and Dues	2,300
Tuition	75,500
Total Expenditures	\$1,935,436

Net Revenues Over(Under) Expenditures \$ 12,720

Note: This budget summary presents financial information from the adjusted 2007 budget. This unaudited information is presented solely for descriptive purposes and should not be understood as an official statement of Skillpoint Alliances’s financial position. The audited 2007 financial statement is expected by August 2008.

Step Up students visited Hornsby Bend Research Center to learn about water quality.

Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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College for All Texans Foundation

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CMC Americas

YUNG TRAN, Treasurer
Senior Vice President
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University Federal Credit Union

ALISON BARNES
HR Partner
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RODNEY GIBBS
Executive Studio Director
Amaze Entertainment

LAWRENCE LYMAN
Planning Manager
Travis County Health & Human
Services

MICHAEL McDONALD
Assistant Police Chief/
Assistant City Manager
City of Austin

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Vice President of Marketing
Ticket City

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Del Valle Independent School District

AMY CORBIN
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Travis County Attorney
Travis County

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Freescale Semiconductor

RAYMOND HARTFIELD
Director of Education (PK-20)
Southwestern U.S.
AT&T – Texas

PAUL HOPINGARDNER
Deputy Chief Information Officer
City of Austin

BILL McLELLAN
Retired

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Vice President, Workforce
Education and Business
Development
Austin Community College

PERRY MOORE
Provost & Vice President for
Academic Affairs
Texas State University

GLENN L. NOLLY
Associate Superintendent of High
Schools
Austin Independent School District

JOSEPH PARKER
Senior Pastor
David Chapel Church

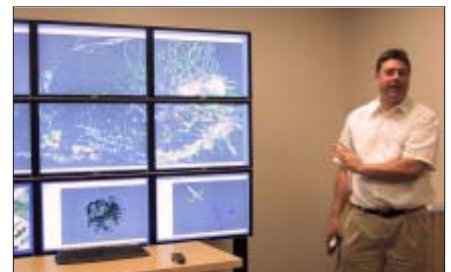
GERONIMO RODRIGUEZ
Vice President of Diversity
& Community Outreach
Seton Family of Hospitals

BOB RUTISHAUSER
Chair, Ready by 21
WorkSource - Greater Austin Area
Workforce Board

GREGORY J. VINCENT
Vice-President for Diversity
& Community Engagement
University of Texas – Austin

JAMES WALSH
General Manager
Barton Creek Resort & Club

MILTON WRIGHT
Retired



Students use a laptop to design roller coasters in TEEC's Step Up program.

Many Skillpoint programs feature cutting-edge technology.

Sponsors and Partners



Special thanks to Sponsors, who provided funding, and Partners, who donated time, goods and services, to make our programs possible:

SPONSORS

City of Austin
Travis County
Austin Chamber of Commerce

Advanced Micro Devices (AMD)
Samsung Austin Semiconductor
Applied Materials
Spansion
DELL Foundation
C4ALL (Connections for All)
Tokyo Electron America, Inc.
SEMATECH
Wincor Nixdorf International
Texas State University
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H-E-B
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University of Texas at Austin
Ticket City
Texas State Technical College
Texas Culinary Academy
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Austin American-Statesman
AT&T

PARTNERS

Business

Amaze Entertainment
Associated Builders and Contractors
Associated General Contractors
Austin School of Film
Austin-Travis County Health &
Human Services
C3 Presents

Capital Metro
FOX 7 News
GameCamp!
Gemini School of Visual Arts &
Communication
IBM
ILS Technology
Intel
Joint Apprenticeship Training
Committees
NCsoft
Texas Education Agency
TG
The Topfer Family Foundation
Titus Electrical Contracting, Inc.
WorkSource-Austin Area
Workforce Development Board

Colleges and Universities

Austin Community College
The University of Texas
Ray Marshall Center for the
Study of Human Resources
Texas State University – San
Marcos

Education

American Youthworks
Austin ISD
Bastrop ISD
Del Valle ISD
Eagle Academy
Eanes ISD
Elgin ISD
Georgetown ISD
Hays Consolidated ISD
Leander ISD
Liberty Hill ISD
Lockhart ISD
Manor ISD
Pflugerville ISD
Round Rock ISD
San Marcos ISD

Staff

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JANICE DRAKE
Chief Financial Officer

TOM SERAFIN
VP, Adult Workforce

CAROL WRIGHT
VP, Educational Services

JIM McCLURE
VP, Development

DAVID WILKINSON
VP, Research and Evaluation

STACY BOUWMAN
Managing Director, CTTC

KATIE KIZZIAR
Director, TEEC

KRISTY BOWDEN
Director, DMC (current)

BRITTANY DE VOS
Director, DMC (former)

SOPHIA NASHER
Director, Marketing

LAINIE DURO
Operations Manager, CTTC

KAREN MONTGOMERY
Executive Assistant

JESSICA GUERRERO
Accounting Assistant

SILVESTRE VILLARREAL
Program Coordinator, Gateway

FRANK LAROSA
Job Developer, Adult Workforce

SARAH CROCKER
Program Support
Specialist, Adult Workforce

BRITTANY CREAMER
Program Assistant, Workforce

CHRISTIAN BRASHEAR
Program Assistant, CTTC

JOHANNA McLENDON
Program Assistant, CTTC

NAOMI WILLIAMS
Research Associate



*“I’ll be more effective
at my job, and I’ll
have a better chance
to advance.”*

-A CTTC client

CTTC volunteer instructors assist clients in weekly evening computer technology training classes. Volunteers provided more than 4,500 hours in 2007.

DMC’s Multi-Media Exchange (MMX), sponsored by the Dell Foundation, featured students’ digital productions.



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