

Hidalgo Early College District Toolkit

HIDALGO ISD STUDENT VOICES

THE EARLY COLLEGE DESIGN

“Without a doubt, the Early College Initiative has brought out the best in all students. . . It has demanded a high level of independence, a tremendous amount of perseverance, and a lot of responsibility. . . . This program has helped me greatly in getting a significant head start for an undergraduate degree, and will trim my time in school down by more than two years.”

—*Fernando, HECHS, Class of 2010*

“At my old school it was TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills exam) worksheets, worksheets, worksheets. At HECHS, they actually teach you. I noticed real quick, they want you to learn the material and prepare you for college instead of for the TAKS.”

—*Robert, HECHS, Class of 2010*

COLLEGE AND CAREER READY

“As participants of this program, we are tested and proven; we have endured a multitude of challenges and made the most of our opportunities. . . . We will enter the university full-time following graduation next year knowing that college will be no road block, and will not be impossible to complete.”

—*Fernando, HECHS, Class of 2010*

“Taking a college course is a great experience. Many people fear college. They think it’s going to be a completely different level and that you’re not going to be able to do it. At HECHS, we learned that we can do it—that it’s not impossible. At first, it was difficult to adjust. But you adjust and you realize you can do it. . . . My first semester as an HECHS student at University of Texas, Pan American, I took chemistry in one of those lecture halls where they fit in hundreds of students. I was thrown into college classes where I was hearing all these new terms, new concepts. It was very difficult, but I did exceptionally well. I got an A in the class. If I could do that, I knew I could pass any college class. That experience taught me how to pass a college class. Like, I figured college out.”

—*Robert, HECHS, Class of 2010*

GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

“One thing I’m really proud of is that I actually got my Certified Nursing Assistant license after six months in the CNA program and after going through the state examination. So after I turn 18 and I have my high school diploma I can apply to any hospital or nursing home to start my career. I want to go to college part-time while I am working.”

—*Jesenia, HECHS, Class of 2010*