

Robert H. Vela, Jr., Ed.D., LPC, NCC
Adjunct Professor
Educational Leadership & Counseling
College of Education

Degrees Earned

Texas A&M University-Kingsville *B.A. – 1994*
Kingsville, TX 78363

Psychology, Sociology, minor: Spanish

Texas A&M University-Kingsville *M.S. – 1998*
Kingsville, TX 78363

Counseling and Guidance

Texas A&M University-Kingsville *Ed.D. – 2003*
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Joint Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership

Professional Licensure and Certifications

Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors
Licensed Professional Counselor – License No. 58451

The National Board for Certified Counselors
National Certified Counselor – Certification No. 234878

Peer-Review Publications and Artistic Performances/Exhibitions

Articles

Vela, R. H. (2006). Emotional Intelligence: An Education-Based Approach to Improve Student Achievement. *National Forum of Applied Educational Research Journal*, 20(1).

Published Dissertation/Record of Study

Vela, R. H. (2004). The Role of Emotional Intelligence in the Academic Achievement of First Year College Students. Texas A&M University – Kingsville & Corpus Christi.

Vela, R. H., Nelson, D., & Low, G. (2003). Emotional Skills Assessment Process: Interpretation and Intervention Guide. Texas A&M University System, Institute for School-University Partnerships.

Funded External Grants

2002-2004. Project EMPOWER. United Way of the Coastal Bend. \$126,000.

2004. Personal Wellness Program: Developing Healthy Eating and Weight Management Skills. CHRISTUS Health Fund. \$50,000.

2003. First Year Student Achievement and Retention at Texas A&M University-Kingsville: A Research-derived Intervention Process and Guide. Texas A&M University System, Institute for School-University Partnerships. \$10,916.

2001-2003. Project IMPACT – Intensive Substance Abuse Out-Patient Program. Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. \$337,421.

2001-2003. FACES/Caritas (Family and Children Enrichment Services) Prevention Program. Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. \$294,000.

2003. FACES/Caritas (Family and Children Enrichment Services) Intervention Program. Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. \$316,443.

2002-2003. Jim Wells County Healthy Families Project on Domestic Violence. CHRISTUS Health Fund. \$100,000.

Peer-Review Presentations/Posters

“Emotional Intelligence: A Skills-Based Model for Student Success and Institutional Effectiveness”
October 18-21, 2006, 25th Annual Conference: College Reading and Learning Association/College Academic Support Program, Austin, TX.

“Exploring and Developing Emotional Intelligence: An Education-Based Model for Student Success”
February 23-25, 2006, 59th Annual Convention: The Future Community College: You Are Here, Texas Community College Teachers Association, Houston, TX.

“Project I Can: A Collaborative Developmental Education Model in Higher Education”
June 19-22, 2005, Closing the Gaps: 21st Annual Recruitment and Retention Conference, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Austin, TX.

“Emotional Intelligence and College Success” February 17-18, 2005, Emotional Intelligence Conference, Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Kingsville, TX.

“The Javelina EI Program” February 17-18, 2005, Emotional Intelligence Conference, Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Kingsville, TX.

“Project I Can: A Collaborative Retention Model for Hispanic Serving Institutions of Higher Education in South Texas” January 26-28, 2005, Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education 2005 Conference, Austin, TX.

- “Emotional Intelligence: An Education-Based Model for Student Success” October 6-8, 2004, CASP 2004 Conference on College Academic Support Programs, South Padre Island, TX.
- “Project I Can: A Collaborative Model in Higher Education” October 6-8, 2004, CASP 2004 Conference on College Academic Support Programs, South Padre Island, TX.
- “Identifying and Developing Emotional Intelligence Skills: A Research-Derived Retention Model” July 14-17, 2004, Noel Levitz 2004 National Conference on Student Retention, New Orleans, LA.
- “Bridging the Gap from Community College to University” February 26-27, 2004, Emotional Intelligence Conference, Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Kingsville, TX.
- “The Javelina EI Program” February 26-27, 2004, Emotional Intelligence Conference, Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Kingsville, TX.
- “Emotional Intelligence: An Education-Based Learning System” September 28-30, 2003, Seventh Annual Conference on School-University Partnerships, Texas A&M University System. San Antonio, TX.
- “Emotional Intelligence: Academic Achievement” August 14, 2003, Staff Development for Teachers, Counselors, and Administrators San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated ISD, Del Rio, TX.
- “Emotional Intelligence: An Education-Based Learning System” June 12-14, 2003, Fourth Annual Chancellor’s Invitational Conference, Texas A&M University System, Institute for School-University Partnerships, Houston, TX.

Work or Professional Experiences

Teaching Experience

Capella University – Minneapolis, MN April, 2007 to Present
 School of Human Services
 Graduate: Foundations of Addictive and Compulsive Behavior, Integrative Research Project (Online-WebCT Vista)

Sam Houston State University – Huntsville, TX January, 2006 to Present
 Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling
 Graduate: Methods of Research (Online-BlackBoard)

Prairie View A&M University – Prairie View, TX August, 2005 to Spring, 2007
 Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling
 Graduate: Professional Orientation and Development in Counseling, School Curriculum Leadership, Cross-Cultural Issues (ITV)

Texas A&M University - Kingsville, TX January, 2000 to Dec., 2006
 Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling
 Undergraduate: Teaching as a Profession & Computer Literacy

Graduate: Personality Theories, Abnormal Human Behavior, Multicultural Education (Online-WebCT), Educational Research

University of Texas Pan American - Edinburg, TX July, 2004 to July, 2005
Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling
Graduate: Counseling Practicum II, Personality Theories, Multicultural Counseling, Assessment in Counseling and Development.

Professional Experience

San Jacinto College – North Campus August, 2005 to Present
Houston, TX 77049

Dean of Student Development

Duties: Provide visionary and facilitative leadership to the Student Development Division in becoming learner-centered. Model a commitment to student success, to successful collaborative efforts within the college community, and to quality service rendered to the larger community. Encourage creativity, innovation, and the development of technologically enhanced student support services. Lead Student Development Division staff toward personal and professional growth. Work in collaboration with all Student Services management team to coordinate and effectively deliver all student services functions. Establish, facilitate, and maintain an atmosphere of trust and confidence among all college constituents. Serve as the principal advisor to the VP of Student Development on all matters related to student retention and engagement. Manage Student Development Division functions including supervising, training and development, evaluating, motivating, and mediating. Implement policies, procedures, and schedules that ensure effective and efficient operations in all areas of the Student Development Division. Provide leadership, planning and implementation in the areas of counseling, advising, career/transfer center, career and employment center, orientation, student success center, peer programs, international initiatives, enrollment efforts, recruitment strategies regulatory compliance, student activities, and community projects. Oversee and manage the Upward Bound Program and the Student Support Services (PASE) Program; both programs are federally funded TRIO programs from the U.S. Department of Education. Serve as the campus administrator of students' rights and responsibilities, regulations, and grievance procedures to ensure a fair, equitable and legal process for students are published, understood, and followed. Serve as the initial administrator charged with crisis intervention & chief student discipline officer. Collaborate with students, faculty, staff and other administrative personnel in creating, planning, and implementing co-curricular student success projects. Act as the community liaison for the college. Serve on the Campus Executive Council Team.

Coastal Bend College May, 2004 to August, 2005
Kingsville, TX 78363

Coordinator/Counselor

Duties: Coordinated and facilitated all functions within the Coastal Bend College(CBC) and Texas A&M University-Kingsville(TAMUK) counseling and advising center to include academic advising, career counseling/development, job development, recruitment programs, interpretation of

assessment results, new student orientation, personal counseling, and transfer services. In addition, I was responsible for all student services at Coastal Bend College-Kingsville Campus to include counseling, advising, recruitment, testing/assessment, student organizations, student discipline, Texas Success Initiative and retention activities; served as a liaison with CBC administration, college prep faculty, and TAMUK administrative teams. Managed CBC-TAMUK counseling/advising center functions implementing policies, procedures, and schedules that ensure effective and efficient operations of counseling/advising services. Maintained computerized educational plans for all students, track student progress, and work cooperatively with other student services personnel to develop appropriate and timely interventions. Provided direction to the preparation and management of CBC-TAMUK counseling/advising center budget to include monitoring status of accounts. Provided direction to all CBC-TAMUK counseling/advising center functions associated with transfer services, including university articulation and computerized degree audit; participated in the development and maintenance of professional relationships with high school, CBC, and TAMUK administrators, counselors, and teaching staff; fulfilled a regular counseling/advising function providing admissions, academic, vocational, career, transfer, and personal counseling. Supervised, evaluated, trained, and developed instructors and support personnel.

Alice Counseling Center
Alice, TX 78332

September, 2001 to May, 2004

Executive Director

Duties: Developed and administered all programs and activities of the Alice Counseling Center in accordance with its stated purpose and within the general policies formulated by the Board of Directors; assured operational, fiscal, and administrative compliance with federal, state, professional, and local regulations and guidelines; responsible for the administration and management of Human Resources, to include staff recruitment, development, and evaluation. Represented the agency in professional organizations and served as the Center's liaison with other entities including federal, state, local, public, and private funding sources; implemented all policy decisions from the Board of Directors; maintained the appropriate accounting software to manage all the Center's funds; assured that funds were expended in accordance with adopted budgets and in compliance with federal, state, and local guidelines, regulations, and practices. Developed and submitted budgets, grant applications, and other fund requests, with Board approval. Assured the implementation of the Center's policies regarding procurement and inventory.

Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Kingsville, TX 78363

October, 2003 to May, 2004

Director, Teacher Development Center

Planned, coordinated, and provided leadership for the Teacher Development Center with Coastal Bend College; worked with students, faculty, administration and staff. Coordinated new articulation agreements and promoted those already in place; promoted the University by planning and participating in recruitment activities with Coastal Bend College to encourage enrollment at Texas A&M University-Kingsville; made frequent visits to Coastal Bend College campuses and high schools to develop working relationships with administrators, counselors, teachers, parents, and students; provided counseling and mentoring to students, faculty and staff on admission policies, teacher education, and related matters. Maintained a database and

compiled monthly reports on all Center related activities and programs; made presentations on teacher education and educational opportunities; provided pre-service professional development experiences for participating students; coordinated professional development opportunities for faculty and staff with focus on teacher preparation standards and course alignment. Advised and supported student success and matriculation from school to community college to university.

Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Kingsville, TX 78363

October, 2002 to September 2003

Director of TexasTEACH & Coordinator of New Teacher Recruitment

Planned, implemented, and managed the TexasTEACH program with area school districts, administrators, counselors, and teachers. Coordinated new articulation agreements with school districts and promoted those already in place; coordinated teacher recruitment for the College of Education with university personnel and school districts; visited South Texas school districts to develop working relationships with administration, counselors, teachers, parents, and students. Hosted programs and events for students and their parents to provide information about financial aid, admissions, teacher education, and other services offered at the university; provided counseling and assistance to students, faculty, and staff on admission policies, advising, and related matters; served on an advising team that advises students about university admissions and teacher preparation program requirement; provided pre-service professional development to university faculty and staff, participating schools, teachers, parents, and students. Compiled monthly reports on all recruiting activities and made presentations regarding recruitment activities and articulation agreements to the Texas A&M University System.

Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Kingsville, TX 78363

September, 1999 to January, 2001

Assistant Director, Upward Bound Math & Science Center

Duties: Implemented all components of the Upward Bound Math & Science Center; including daily operations, ensuring compliance with federal regulations and meeting set goals and objectives; coordinated all aspects of the summer residential program, including developing a research-based curriculum, hiring and supervising staff, ensuring appropriate documentation, and counseling students; recruited and selected program participants from South Texas. Developed and implemented an individual educational plan for participants; served as a liaison with administrators and counselors from twelve target high schools, three universities, and two community colleges in South Texas; provided staff training. Monitored and supervised an academic advisor and an office clerk during the academic year. Monitored and supervised a residential supervisor, 10 residential assistants/mentors, 2 instructors, and 19 research assistants/mentors during the summer component; conducted employee evaluations on all part-time and full-time employees. Recruited and selected faculty and graduate assistants to participate in the mentoring program during the summer component; conducted workshops and instructional lessons on a variety of topics; conducted presentations to area high schools, universities, and colleges promoting the Math and Science Center as well as recruitment. Administered and interpreted standardized assessment instruments; provided individual and group counseling in the areas of education, personal, career development, substance abuse, emotional and psychological; maintained program documentation as required by the U.S. Department of Education. Prepared and submitted ongoing performance reports; assisted the

Director in grant writing and departmental matters. Monitored and assisted the Upward Bound Program.

Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Kingsville, TX 78363

December, 1997 to August, 1999

Upward Bound Program Coordinator

Duties: Implemented all components of the Upward Bound program including daily operations, ensuring compliance and meeting set goals and objectives; coordinated all aspects of the summer residential program, including developing a curriculum, hiring and supervising staff, ensuring appropriate documentation, and counseling students. Recruited and selected program participants. Developed and implemented educational plans for participants; served as a liaison with administrators from ten target high schools; oriented and trained hired staff; monitored and supervised three instructors, four tutors, two field counselors, an office clerk, and an administrative assistant during the academic year. During the summer residential program, monitored and supervised a curriculum coordinator, a counselor, nine instructors, a head resident, seven residential peer mentors, two office clerks, and five tutors. Scheduled and implemented Saturday on campus activities; conducted workshops and instructional lessons on a variety of topics. Implemented a bridge student program to assist students with college admission/acceptance, financial aid applications, academic advisement, career exploration, and study skills development. Administered and interpreted standardized assessment instruments; provided individual and group counseling in the areas of education, personal, career development, substance abuse, emotional and psychological; maintained program documentation as required by the U.S. Department of Education. Prepare and submitted ongoing performance reports; and assisted the Director in grant writing and departmental matters.

105th Judicial District Community Supervision and Corrections Department
Kingsville, TX 78363

May, 1995 to November, 1997

Community Supervision and Corrections Officer

Duties: Maintained a specialized caseload for the Sex Offender Program along with the Intensive Supervision Program; conducted individual counseling in reference to career development, education, substance abuse issues, family and marital problems, rehabilitation, and sexual issues. Tracked individuals on various programs and provided an activity report for each fiscal year. Administered and interpreted appropriate assessment instruments to identify problem areas. Maintained case records as required by statute and the Court. Compiled, analyzed, evaluated, and reported court information gathered during pretrial investigations. Enforced conditions of community supervision imposed by the court. Developed supervision and treatment plans to include identifiable problems and objectives; responsible for recommending bonds on all felony offenses and some misdemeanor offenses; conducted alcohol and drug screening reports; interpreted psychological evaluations; handled felony and misdemeanor plea and revocation hearings; developed forms, policies and procedures for the sex offender program; handled most installations of the Electronic Monitoring Program; cooperated with other supervision officers, counselors, therapists, various law enforcement agencies, attorneys, and judges on a daily basis.

105th Judicial District Community Supervision and Corrections Department
Kingsville, TX 78363

September, 1994 to April, 1995

Pretrial Release and Diversion Officer

Duties: Responsible for recommending bonds on all felony offenses and some misdemeanor offenses; supervised adult felony and misdemeanor offenders on Pretrial Release Supervision pending disposition on their cases. Prepared alcohol, drug, and background screenings for individuals referred to the Pretrial Diversion Program; conducted Pre-Sentence Investigation Reports on offenders pending felony offenses; made final recommendations to the court on all Pre-Sentence Investigation Reports; and handled some electronic monitoring installations.

Honors and Awards

University of Texas - National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD), 2006. An Excellence Award recipient for outstanding contributions to teaching, leadership, and learning.

American College Personnel Association (ACPA), 2003. Javelina Emotional Intelligence Program. An award for an exemplary student development program committed to retention and student success.

CHRISTUS Spohn Health System, 2003. Jim Wells County Healthy Families Project. An award for practices and programs that represent "touchstones" in exemplifying excellence.