Improving overall grade performance and increasing student retention rates for economically disadvantaged students in Austin schools is at the heart of the Neighborhood Longhorns Program (NLP) in the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement at The University of Texas at Austin.

Started in 1991 by the UT Athletics Department as a way to introduce children to the college environment, NLP inspires AISD students to do their best and offers them opportunities to experience the university firsthand. It remains the official service arm of UT Athletics, serving approximately 6,500 elementary and middle school students each year and encouraging them to put their lives on an educational track through tutoring, incentives, scholarships and campus visits.

On average, NLP annually provides students with 25 opportunities to visit The University of Texas at Austin campus with such events as Spring Jam, an all-day event that attracts approximately 2,675 students, and monthly lunches with athletic coaches. One-on-one tutoring provided by UT students and student athletes is also key to helping the younger students succeed.

During the 2013-14 school year, UT Austin students provided mentoring and tutoring at 14 schools, learning valuable lessons alongside the younger students. Whether they are helping with homework or helping to build self-esteem, these UT role models learn firsthand how a little time and a few kind words can change a child’s life.

“We work with principals and teachers at each school to understand their specific educational goals and how NLP can help. We don’t tell schools what to do or dictate standards. We’re there to help, not reinvent the wheel.”

— Patrick Patterson
Assistant Vice President for School Partnerships

FOR THE 2013-14 SCHOOL YEAR

94% of NLP students increased their overall grade average.
84% of NLP students received awards for academic achievement.
89% of NLP students had excellent attendance, defined as no more than six absences.
87% of students tutored through NLP increased their grade average in mathematics.
90% of students tutored through NLP increased their grade average in language arts, and 87% increased their grade average in mathematics.
85% of students tutored through NLP increased their reading scores.
1,084 UT Austin students contributed 9,214 volunteer hours.
How can you help?

Help economically disadvantaged students in Austin realize a college education is within their reach! By supporting Neighborhood Longhorns you make a real difference in a child’s life by helping to provide them with tutoring, scholarship opportunities and incentives such as visits to the university campus. NLP’s wide reach is dependent on the generosity of our supporters. Help us by:

- Sponsoring a team at the annual NFL Bowling Challenge
- Becoming a sponsor of the annual Celebrity Golf Challenge
- Joining the Bevo Fan Club at: http://ddce.utexas.edu/bevo/
- Donating online at: http://ddce.utexas.edu/neighborhoodlonghorns/donate/

For more information or to learn how to support the Neighborhood Longhorns Program:

Patrick Patterson, Assistant Vice President for School Partnerships and NLP Executive Director

Celina E. Ruiz-Snowden, Program Director

P.O. Box 7999 • Austin, TX 78713
(512) 232-4650

www.neighborhoodlonghorns.org

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