Improving overall grade performance and increasing student retention rates for economically disadvantaged students in Central Texas 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 Texas Athletics as a way to introduce children to the college environment, NLP inspires students to do their best and offers them opportunities to experience the university firsthand. It remains as Texas student-athletes’ main campus organization for service hours. Team members and coaching staff members work with approximately 5,500 elementary and middle school students each year, encouraging them to focus on and prioritize education through consistent study habits, tutoring, incentives, scholarships and campus visits.

On average, NLP annually provides students with 70 opportunities to visit The University of Texas at Austin campus with such events as Spring Jam, an all-day event that attracts approximately 3,000 students. One-on-one tutoring provided by UT students and student athletes is also key to helping the younger students succeed.

UT Austin students provide mentoring and tutoring in schools throughout the community, learning valuable lessons alongside the younger students. Whether they are helping with homework or helping to build self-esteem, these UT role models learn first-hand 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 assist them. We’re there to help, not reinvent the wheel.”

— Patrick Patterson
Assistant Vice President for School Partnerships

RESULTS MATTER

89% of NLP students increased their overall grade average.
89% of NLP students received awards for academic achievement.
96% average school attendance rate for NLP participants.
353 UT Austin students contributed 1,344 volunteer hours.
“The Neighborhood Longhorns Program inspires and incentivizes youngsters to establish the work ethic and discipline necessary to make the dream of a college education a reality.”

Christine Plonsky
Texas Athletics Chief of Staff

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Help economically disadvantaged students in Austin realize that a college education is within reach! By supporting Neighborhood Longhorns you can make a real difference in a child’s life by helping 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.

YOU CAN:

• Become a sponsor of the BEVO Celebrity Golf Tournament
• Join the BEVO Fan Club at: http://diversity.utexas.edu/bevo/
• Donate online at: http://diversity.utexas.edu/neighborhoodlonghorns/donate/

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

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