



## **NORTH LAMAR ISD**

3201 Lewis Lane, Paris, Texas 75460

[www.northlamar.net](http://www.northlamar.net)

Phone: 903.737.2000

Fax: 903.669.0129

# **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Carla Coleman or Roxan DeRosier

Office: 903.737.2003 x 5014 or 5030

Fax: 903.669.0159

[ccoleman@northlamar.net](mailto:ccoleman@northlamar.net) or [rderosier@northlamar.net](mailto:rderosier@northlamar.net)

Photo Included: None

## **AVID Program Aims for Successful Learners**

**By NLHS Journalism Instructor Cheryl LaRue**

Paris, TX, September 2, 2009 – Call them academic coaches, a team of teaching cadre with schemes to embed academic rigor into typically B and C-level students.

In the classroom, the playbooks read of historical events, classic literature, and scientific methods.

For the players, their skills and talents are merged with learning strategies that the AVID students will tackle with the goal in mind to attend college.

“While most schools do a good job of addressing the needs of students,” North Lamar High School Principal Paul said. “That group of students that is sometimes forgotten is the students that are in the middle.”



## **NORTH LAMAR ISD**

3201 Lewis Lane, Paris, Texas 75460

[www.northlamar.net](http://www.northlamar.net)

Phone: 903.737.2000

Fax: 903.669.0129

# PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Carla Coleman or Roxan DeRosier

Office: 903.737.2003 x 5014 or 5030

Fax: 903.669.0159

[ccoleman@northlamar.net](mailto:ccoleman@northlamar.net) or [rderosier@northlamar.net](mailto:rderosier@northlamar.net)

AVID links this often overlooked group with potential to time management, study, and organizational skills along with specially-trained tutors and a support system of teachers.

“What a great program to have here where over 30,000 kids are involved in it nationwide and has a 95 percent college attendance rate,” Allen said of his dream fulfilled after months of research for a college preparatory curriculum.

Through a small-world connection, assistant superintendent Shelley McDowell became aware of AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, following a conference presentation by Keith Moore.

“The best part about that was Keith Moore was an ex-baseball player of mine when I coached in Corsicana,” Allen said, “so I began to pick his brain and make visits with him to find out more about the AVID program.”

Allen views this latest move as another step toward stressing the rigor that should take place in every classroom, not just in AVID.



## **NORTH LAMAR ISD**

3201 Lewis Lane, Paris, Texas 75460

[www.northlamar.net](http://www.northlamar.net)

Phone: 903.737.2000

Fax: 903.669.0129

# PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Carla Coleman or Roxan DeRosier

Office: 903.737.2003 x 5014 or 5030

Fax: 903.669.0159

[ccoleman@northlamar.net](mailto:ccoleman@northlamar.net) or [rderosier@northlamar.net](mailto:rderosier@northlamar.net)

“We want quality, not quantity,” Allen said, whose campus emerged as the only recognized high school in the county. “More work does not mean success; but, the depth you take in learning is what is going to make a successful learner.”

In addition to the district’s financial commitment to support AVID, a team was assembled to internalize the AVID mission. District director is Carla Moffitt with support from elective teachers Cheryl LaRue and Janet Partridge and counselor Kathy Barker. Site team members representing core subjects include Christie Rhea, Jeff Jones, Shannon Ausmus and Kevan Bennett. Following training in Dallas this summer, this team was prepared with academic strategies and primed by stories of hopelessness turned into college dreams.

“I think that I became sold on the AVID program after hearing from students who feel strongly that participating in the program gave them the skills and resources that they needed to attend and be successful in college,” Ausmus said. “The students that I



## **NORTH LAMAR ISD**

3201 Lewis Lane, Paris, Texas 75460

[www.northlamar.net](http://www.northlamar.net)

Phone: 903.737.2000

Fax: 903.669.0129

# **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Carla Coleman or Roxan DeRosier

Office: 903.737.2003 x 5014 or 5030

Fax: 903.669.0159

[ccoleman@northlamar.net](mailto:ccoleman@northlamar.net) or [rderosier@northlamar.net](mailto:rderosier@northlamar.net)

heard speak said that without AVID they would most likely not have attended college at all.”

Rhea echoed the value of the strategies for in the classroom but also said the student speakers alleviated any doubts.

“They were students who had a lot of potential, but in one way or another, the cards they were dealt in life were not stacked in their favor,” Rhea said. “They sang the praises of AVID and bragged about how they were accepted into this college and are majoring in that and their faces beamed.”

Taking to the field as the first class of AVID students at North Lamar are 60 freshmen who were selected following written and oral interviews as well as considerations for socio-economic and family situations. Opportunities to remain in AVID as an elective continue throughout high school with future efforts focusing on SAT prep, scholarships and acceptance into a college or university.



## **NORTH LAMAR ISD**

3201 Lewis Lane, Paris, Texas 75460

[www.northlamar.net](http://www.northlamar.net)

Phone: 903.737.2000

Fax: 903.669.0129

# PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Carla Coleman or Roxan DeRosier

Office: 903.737.2003 x 5014 or 5030

Fax: 903.669.0159

[ccoleman@northlamar.net](mailto:ccoleman@northlamar.net) or [rderosier@northlamar.net](mailto:rderosier@northlamar.net)

“The AVID program uses a systemic approach to build a support base for the students in the program,” McDowell said. “I firmly believe that students who participate in the program will become strong students with a more academic focus, will be more well-rounded in their activities and will have become productive citizens.”

XXX