

Letter from the Mayor

Dear Greater Waco Residents:



In my letter that preceded the agenda for the First Annual Greater Waco Community Education Summit, I asked you to envision a community where everyone would understand the critical points of a child’s educational development and then work hard to realign and reconfigure how we interact as a community. I asked you to embrace a bold new vision for our children, their families, their futures, and their opportunities to build even better lives. And, I asked you to consider the extraordinary people who have been giving us “pockets of excellence” for many years and how we could deepen our partnerships, realign our priorities, educate ourselves to our own potential, and devise effective plans to ensure that all of our children succeed.

You exceeded my expectations! I thought I knew Waco so well, but the outpouring of people, the intensity of the engagements within the stakeholder groups, and the plans that are evolving from the summit are spectacular. Yes, we have a great deal to accomplish, but the energy and willingness to cooperate to address our eight summit assumptions are truly extraordinary. I tell people that seeing the summit actually happen was analogous to giving birth, and the “baby” is truly beautiful.

As the summit was being planned, it was known that the hard work would start after the summit, and it has begun in earnest. This document provides the start of a long journey, and I see the day when we become a beacon to others in the nation who also seek to provide bright futures for their young people.

This summit could not have been produced without the support of bedrock organizations that have believed in the future of the Greater Waco area for many years. Our presenting sponsors, Cooper Foundation, Baylor University, McLennan Community College, and Texas State Technical College, did not flinch when approached to create a focal point for the community in addressing our future. Many other organizations provided financial support, human support, and in-kind support, as shown in the report appendix. We are indeed blessed with tremendous people and resources in this community.

With the conclusion of the summit and with this report, I am pleased to inform you that I have renamed the body of work the Greater Waco Community Education Alliance. The annual summit will be one of the Alliance’s functions, but the magnitude of our efforts has created a new vantage point, a new call for partnership, and a new platform for our vision of the future—a new and bold Community Education Alliance.

Thank you for your organizational work, for your participation, and for your ongoing partnership development that will truly revolutionize the way we prepare our children for education, their futures, and our futures.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Virginia DuPuy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Virginia DuPuy, Mayor
City of Waco