1. Outcome: Assist Royal ISD in making Royal High School to be a high performing school.

2. Strategies: Multi-pronged strategy -
   a. Co-tutor the students during the “Accelerated Week” - week of preparation for TAKS Test.
   b. Arrange for RHS students to “shadow” classes at PVAMU.
   c. Train the teachers to provide a more interactive approach to classroom instruction.
   d. Provide professional training to teachers - targeted technical training in their areas of instruction; include them in developing proposals for funding; and include them in conference presentations.

3a. First Measure: State reported scores in TAKS Test.

3b. Results/Findings: Scores increased significantly in ELA and Science. During the fourth year, Royal High School (RHS) advanced to an “Acceptable Level.” Over the past three years (2007-2009), the TAKS Test scores (percent who met the standard) in science have increased from 72% (2007) to 76% (2008) to 87% (2009), and English scores increased from 85% (2007) to 86% (2008) to 88% (2009). The math scores have however decreased from 78% in 2008 to 68% in 2009.

3c. Use of Results:
   Additionally, targeted assistance was provided to the students in terms of tutorial sessions, especially for the Benchmark tests and during the “Accelerated Week” - the week of preparation before the TAKS Test.

4a. Second Measure: Success in regional competitions.
4b. Results/Findings: Royal High School participated in the Sealy Invitational UIL Academic Meet in 2008. There were 36 schools at the meet. Teams participating were Angleton, Barbers Hill, Bay City, Bellville, Blanco, Bellville, Blanco, Boling, Brazos, Bridge City, Brookeland, Calhoun, Centerville, Challenge, Columbia, Dawson, Dickinson, El Campo, Gonzales, Hardin Jefferson, Industrial, Iola, LaGrange, La Vernia, Livingston, Morton Ranch, Navasota, Needville, North Shore, Robinson, Royal Sealy, Shepherd, Shiner, Stafford, Waller, and West Hardin. The Royal science team finished first scoring 488 points. The Number Sense Team placed 2nd. The Calculator Applications team placed 4th. The Mathematics Team was also 4th. The RHS Team also placed 4th in accounting and 6th in Computer Applications.

In another Science Contest in the District 24AAA UIL Academic Meet in 2008 (54 Participants) Royal Science Team scored the highest score of 418 and became the District 24AAA Champions. The next highest score was 340.

About three quarters of the students participating in these competitions are enrolled at various universities in Texas currently, including PVAMU.

4c. Use of Results: These results were used to publicize the successes as well as to encourage more students to participate in 2009.

5a. Third Measure: Professional Development of Teachers

5b. During the second year of the project (2007), intense observations were made in the RHS classrooms, especially in chemistry, physics and English. Specific challenges were identified with respect to teacher preparation (education, training) as well as actual performance in class. Targeted/individualized training sessions were then set up for RHS teachers on RHS campus and PVAMU campus. These sessions consisted of designing classroom experiments, providing equipment for the same, providing teachers with hands-on training in equipment (such as Pasco/GLS Explorer). Classroom observations were continued during the third year to ensure that these changes in curriculum were being integrated into the lesson plans.

During the fourth year, professional training of the teachers has been expanded to include their participation in proposal development for additional funds and collaborating on conference presentations. Presentations made at various meetings and the Annual SACS Conference in San Antonio (December 2008) can be found at the websites: http://www.pvamu.edu/pages/3901.asp and http://www.pvamu.edu/pages/5474.asp.

5c. Two minor proposals written to ING Unsung Heroes and Teaching Tolerance were not selected for funding however, the experience gained in these efforts was valuable in the development and submission of a recent proposal to the National Science Foundation’s Mathematics and Science Partnership Initiative. This proposal, when funded, will bring in funds in excess of $10M over five years, and was designed, developed and submitted with the collaboration of RISD teachers and
administrators, along with two other school districts, the University of Houston-Downtown, three community colleges, the Houston Museum of Natural Science, and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. Another proposal to NSF - Discovery Research K-12 - is under preparation and will be developed with partnership with Royal Middles and High Schools.

Sealy Invitational UIL Academic Meet