

## Closing

Congratulations, you did it! You made it through the Texas Online College and Career Readiness Resource Center. You have absorbed an incredible amount of information; some of it you may have already known, and some of it you may have heard for the first time, but hopefully it all applies to your practice and to your overall thinking about the students you work with and the kind of school experience you want for them.

In addition to providing concrete information about college and career readiness, we hope these lessons captured the message that it's not just what information you share with students, but how they feel about being in school that influences their prospects for the future. Making school a place where students feel safe and cared about and where their identities, families, and personal circumstances matter can be the difference between a young person perceiving education as a benefit and a gift versus seeing it as a discouraging experience. Contributing to a positive school culture that incentivizes learning and generates excitement for the future is an important part of building a college and career readiness culture. It's not easy, but by implementing and sharing the information you learned in this course, you *can* be part of building a college-going, career-ready culture.

Most educators truly have their students' best interests at heart, and we hope these lessons have given you plenty of food for thought about why preparing *all* students for college and careers really *is* in their best interests — and in the best interests of the school and community at large. A culture of achievement lifts up everyone who resides within it. Thank you for all you do to contribute to that rising tide.