Cristina Villalobos* (mcvilla@utpa.edu), Department of Mathematics, University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, TX 78539, and Olga Ramirez and Sakshi Puri. Integrating South Texas Efforts in STEM Education. Preliminary report.

The Center of Excellence in STEM Education at the University of Texas-Pan American integrates South Texas efforts in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Its goals focus on strengthening STEM academic programs and in increasing the number of STEM graduates, particularly those from underrepresented groups, through activities focused on faculty professional development, the development of curricular materials in pre-college student outreach activities and undergraduate programs, undergraduate research, and the establishment of a student-faculty resource program. In this talk, the Center’s activities will be discussed along with initiatives that inform, encourage, and retain students in the STEM fields and to pursue graduate studies. The Center is one of three centers funded externally over a four-year period. The University is a predominately Hispanic Serving Institution. (Received September 17, 2013)