

## AVID Testimonials

As they wind up their AVID-driven Freshman Seminar class, four UTPB students reflect upon the benefits they will take away from that class.

Summer Flodstrum, a graduate of Bridgeport High School in the town near Weatherford, said that the AVID strategies of sitting at the front of the class and talking to her professor represented a change from her previous classroom behavior. The eldest in her family, she learned about UTPB from a friend, and while her major is undecided, she plans to complete more college than anyone else in her family.

Jonathan Wilson's story is a little different because he's a sophomore repeating freshman seminar. He missed an assignment last year and consequently, didn't pass. However, now he's really using the Cornell note-taking system that AVID endorses, especially in his history class. This graduate of Sealy High School outside of Houston chose UTPB because it was far enough from home and he could afford it by living on campus and working at Best Buy. He's the first one in his family to attend college.

Tiana Townsend was one of the lucky ones to encounter AVID in middle school in El Paso. However, this year she was reacquainted with the Cornell note system, which confines note taking to the left half of the page, leaving the right half for questions and/or more detailed explanations. This Burges High School graduate hopes to go to medical school one day and specialize in sports medicine. Her mom is also enrolled in a community college now, and the men in her family have been in the Army.

Logan Greenberg from Chino Hills High School in the Los Angeles-area of California, chose UTPB for its swim team. As a student-athlete, he has to manage his time carefully, a tool AVID teaches. Although his high school had an AVID program, he said he wasn't in it. The freshman seminar has taught him how to study his notes effectively. He looks them over the night after class, then a week later, and gives them another review at two weeks. He is the last member of his family to attend college.

If it takes three weeks to create a habit, then the AVID-trained freshmen at UTPB now have these skills and behaviors ingrained as the semester winds down. Next year, more freshmen will benefit from AVID's tools at The University of Texas of the Permian Basin. It is another building block that faculty at UTPB can offer students to help them be successful in their college careers, and ultimately, lead productive lives, explains Lanita Akins, one of the first two AVID instructors.