Quality Out-of-School Time Activities

• The need for quality out-of-school time activities continues to grow, as does the youth population of Texas. Current, there are approximately 7 million youth in Texas and 68% (4.75 million) live in households where both parents work outside the home.

• Public and not-for-profit agency managers and staff need access to empirically based information to improve youth program staff competencies, program design, and evaluation.

Extension’s Response

• The Sequor Youth Development Initiative (YDI) conducts collaborative, interdisciplinary research projects, provides ready access to youth development best practice and research information, and produces various trainings and train-the-trainer programs for youth development agencies.

• The Sequor YDI web has received over 10,500 visits since its launch in 2009. It has also produced 24 research briefs, 14 fact sheets, 3 volumes of research summaries, and 5 instructional videos.

• Sequor YDI training and education efforts have produced 5,675 educational contact hours across 3 conferences, 6 regional workshops, 9 webinars, and numerous other invited speaking engagements and trainings.

• Sequor YDI research and evaluation related efforts have attracted almost $840,000 in funding since 2009. Project sponsors and partners have included the Texas Department of State Health Services, the Public Lands Service Coalition, the Brazos Valley Obesity Prevention Network, and the University of Arizona.

Economic Impact
• Research has shown that every $1 invested in a quality afterschool program produces $3 worth of benefits to youth and the general public. This figure is generally viewed as conservative since only a partial list of benefits is included, often excluding crime reduction.

• Extrapolating each contact hour at the Texas minimum rate of $7.25, Sequor YDI has facilitated the investment of over $40K in youth programs through training and education efforts yielding over $120K in benefits and savings to Texas taxpayers.

• Savings cast on a national stage extend to companies who lose $50-$300B in healthcare and lost job productivity due to the stress that employed parents experience regarding their children’s out-of-school time arrangements.

• Similarly, research has shown that each high risk youth prevented from adopting a life of crime saves the country $1.7-$2.3M.

• Through close contact with Texas youth professionals, Sequor YDI will continue to develop resources and trainings that are responsive to our state’s unique needs.