

## **After Brain Injury, Teen Overcomes Short-Term Memory Loss**

### *Grapevine-Colleyville ISD's iUniversity Prep Gives Student Personalized Experience*

November 18, 2014 - **For Immediate Release - DRAFT**

Fort Worth – Short-term memory loss caused by an uncommon neurological malformation make it impossible for North Texas high school sophomore Kaitlynn Curtner to attend a traditional bricks-and-mortar school, but Grapevine-Colleyville ISD's iUniversity Prep Virtual Academy is helping her overcome her learning difficulties and earn high marks.

Today, 15-year-old Curtner is like most teenagers, but three years ago after a massive brain bleed led to a seizure, physicians discovered she had arteriovenous malformation (AVM), a rare congenital malformation between veins and an artery. According to the American Stroke Association, only 1 percent of all people have AVM.

Kaitlynn continues to deal with the lingering effects of her traumatic brain injury. "She needs to receive a message multiple times, multiple ways before she can transfer it from short-term to long-term memory, and it takes her longer than others to process information," said Wendy Curtner, Kaitlynn's mother.

Curtner, a certified teacher, home schooled Kaitlynn for most of her seventh grade year. She completed eighth grade at public school, but ninth grade brought greater challenges. "We tried sending her to a traditional public high school, but she wasn't able to keep up with the work load, navigate the hallways and manage the pace of the day," Curtner said. "iUniversity Prep provides an individualized style of learning, and gives students a voice and a choice in how they want to learn," she added.

Grapevine-Colleyville ISD's iUniversity Prep, a tuition-free, state-accredited virtual learning school, is a unique option for students who are unable to attend traditional schools. The online platform allows Kaitlynn to repeatedly watch her teachers' lessons and learn at her own pace. "She has all 'A's,' but it takes her three times longer than other students to complete an assignment," Curtner said.

"iUniversity Prep is a customized learning opportunity for students who need an alternative to traditional bricks-and-mortar schools, but want a college prep education from a recognized school district," said Kaye Rogers, Ph.D., Grapevine-Colleyville ISD Director of Virtual Education. iUniversity Prep began its second school year in August, and the public school has already received acclaim from the Texas Education Agency. "We're thrilled the Texas Education Agency rated iUniversity Prep as one of the highest performing public virtual schools in the state," Rogers said.

All students living in Texas who are in fifth through 12<sup>th</sup> grades are eligible to enroll in iUniversity Prep. Students can attend class, take tests and complete course work from any location as long as they have access to a mobile device and an internet connection. Those interested in enrolling a student for spring 2015 can call 855-779-7357 or visit [www.iuniversityprep.org](http://www.iuniversityprep.org).

#### *About iUniversity Prep*

*iUniversity Prep opened in August 2013 as GCISD's newest school. The academy is a tuition-free, state-accredited online public school operated by Grapevine-Colleyville ISD and is one of only a handful of public virtual education solutions in the state offering elementary, middle and high school programs. It provides rigorous academics under the guidance of engaging instructors all within a collaborative school community. iUniversity Prep offers an inspiring, flexible learning environment that encourages and prepares students to be college and career ready by supporting learning through technology, fostering citizenship, and teaching the importance of mutual respect in a virtual environment. Visit [iuniversityprep.org](http://iuniversityprep.org) for more details.*