

## Newsletter

### Southeast Texas P-16 Council

Volume 2, Issue 1 Jan 29, 2009 Steve Buser 409-880-7639 [steve.buser@Lamar.edu](mailto:steve.buser@Lamar.edu)

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*There are a lot of changes happening in the Texas school systems – we dare say, too many to keep up with. This newsletter format won't let us keep up on all of them, but our newly designed web page will let us get more information out faster. We encourage you to take a look : <http://SETXP16.org> This new flexible web site is part of our mission to be a clearinghouse and information resource for educators and the community. If you have information that should be on the site, email us at [steve.buser@lamar.edu](mailto:steve.buser@lamar.edu)*

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#### Taking it to the Schools

The Southeast Texas P-16 Council has decided to forgo its planned conference until the Fall. i

In the meantime, we are focusing on a program that will maximize our outreach to schools in Hardin, Jefferson and Orange Counties. We are “taking it to the schools” with Roundtables that are meant to deepen the dialogue on subjects of importance to schools. The Roundtables are planned for 2 hours, but the timing and length are very flexible. The discussion can be held during the middle of the day, at breakfast or at 3 p.m. for instance.

The schools will choose the topics. We have compiled a list of 20 topics as suggestions (each includes suggested dialogue leaders – from a list of experts that we are still enlisting). *The schools have the final say on the agenda for the discussion.*

Want more information on how your school or school system can join the dialogue? We have the topics, and a letter that we have sent to the superintendents on our web site at <http://SETXP16.org>

If you are a subject matter expert that we have not yet had the time to contact, you can call us at 409-880-7639. We would love to have you join on one of the topics on the list, or on a topic of your own.

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#### Hispanic Outreach -- let the translation begin

We are beginning a new program for Hispanic Outreach. The SETX P16 Council received funds this year to hire three student translators to help schools and organizations convert their handout materials into Spanish. The goal is make it easier for Hispanic parents to understand the value of education for their students. It will also give them better insight into available resources and info in the schools and communities.

We expect to have the three students on board around February 2, actively working on the project.

**If your school, district, college or organization** has newsletters, resource material, handouts, etc., which our translators can help with, please call Danielle Congelliere at [\(409\) 880-7988](tel:4098807988) or by email at [Danielle.Barnard@lamar.edu](mailto:Danielle.Barnard@lamar.edu)

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#### Of note --

We receive this note from the Texas Counseling Association, which is suggesting its members get involved.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission is [accepting applications for membership on 12 Regional Advisory Committees on Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)](#). (There will be one based in **Beaumont**). Committees meet quarterly to provide recommendations related to Medicaid and CHIP. Members are not paid for participating or travel expenses. [Applications are due Feb. 26, 2010](#). They may be submitted by e-mail

to [occ@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:occ@hhsc.state.tx.us), fax to (713) 767-3126 or mail: Dr. David Arlen, HHSC-Office of Community Collaboration, 5425 Polk Avenue, Suite 230-D, Houston, TX 77023-1497.

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### Connected Classroom

We added a new site to the Connected Classroom this month that we think shows a new trend: Social media that is meant to accommodate and even strengthen the security needs of schools. Twiducate does this without losing the benefits social media brings to the classroom – increasing students interest in sharing, reading, writing and learning social media skills. <http://setxp16.org/wt.php>

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### Technical Education Courses Get the Big Makeover

If you've been paying attention to all the changes going on in High School education these days, you are probably very familiar with the Four by Four, the End of Course Exams, the College and Career Readiness Standards and a dozen or so more seismic shifts going on.

One area of very important high school studies that is in the process of a very large and important makeover is the Career and Technology Education (CTE).

It is the changes for Advanced Technical Credit courses that particularly perks our interest.

We suspect this change will have an even greater impact for industry in the Golden Triangle. (We were even more convinced of this when TEA officials talked about how AchieveTexas will build more career awareness in all students. This was at a telecast carried by Region 5 ESC)

The state has been redesigning technical education in four very critical ways.

1. Consolidating the 605 courses down into about 195. Some were eliminated, some combined – this makes the whole system more manageable for the next two changes.
2. **Adding rigor** (Making the courses cover new CTE TEKS material including more emphasis on science and math).
3. Aligning the Advanced Technical Courses (not all technical courses are advanced) with college courses so that you can get **statewide articulation credit** at colleges across the state that teach that field of study. This replaces the old one-high-school-to one-college agreements.
4. **Aligning** the courses up with one of **16 Career Clusters** that the state has used to focus career studies (and business needs) into groups. ( You can see those clusters here <http://AchieveTexas.org> )

The reason this is topical is that last month the TEA rolled out the new alignment for 2010-2011– they call it a crosswalk. These crosswalks have been advancing toward this for years. There's a big difference between this year's crosswalk and next year's. We think of this as taking smaller bytes to eat the whole elephant.

Let's take an example -- In last year's crosswalk under the Human Services cluster there were two courses in high school for advance credit,

1. Housing
2. Interior Design

In the current year's crosswalk there are

1. Lifetime Nutrition and Wellness
2. Child Guidance

In next year's crosswalk there will be

1. Child Care and Guidance, Management, and Services I
2. Early Childhood Professions I
3. Early Childhood Professions II

4. Child Development
5. Preparation for Parenting

Where did Interior Design go? This year it moved to the Architecture and Construction cluster, where it has more connections with other courses.

Here is a good introduction to all of this. <http://www.atctexas.org/articulation/aintro.htm>

We can recommend this powerpoint for even more information explaining what this is all about.  
[http://www.atctexas.org/articulation/ATC\\_PD.ppt](http://www.atctexas.org/articulation/ATC_PD.ppt)

At this point, we have your interest perked or else you have decided that this does not concern you. If you're interest **IS** perked, it's because you are

- a high school student in Advanced Technical Credit courses
- or a student interested in taking them,
- a parent,
- a teacher,
- a principal,
- a superintendent,
- a counselor,
- a curriculum coordinator
- a business person,
- a legislator,
- or just curious ,
- ... whew..... we will continue after the jump.

Get ready, because there is a vital step to all of this that is easy to miss. You can miss out if you are not on top of it.

**Go here** to read the rest ( <http://setxp16.org/wp/?p=117> )

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#### By the P-16 Numbers

**Economy.com** in [USA Today](#) predicts, looking ahead to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, that the Beaumont-Port Arthur metro area will be one of only two metro areas in Texas to lose jobs this year (-0.5%). The site predicts a 4.3% drop in manufacturing jobs here. (**Every metro area in Texas is predicted to lose manufacturing jobs** over last year's 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter except for a miniscule growth predicted for the Dallas area).

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#### Lagniappe

<http://www.bls.gov/opub/oog/2009/winter/winter2009oog.pdf>

The Labor Department's Occupational Outlook Quarterly notes changes expected in the workforce from 2008- 2018. Employment is expected to decline in manufacturing, natural resources and mining, and the other goods-producing sectors.

Construction is projected to gain about 1.3 million jobs from 2008 to 2018. Some of this growth will be recovering jobs lost between 2006 and 2008.

As the baby-boom generation ages, the **number of people in the labor force aged 65** and older is projected to grow very rapidly, by 78%-- probably a good thing because **additions to the workforce are expected to fall** by nearly 25 percent over this decade. (17 million from 1998 to 2008 to just 13 million from 2008 to 2018)

All of the growth in the workforce will be in the

- 25 to 34 (3.5 million )
- 55 to 64 (7.1 million) and
- 65+ (4.8 million -- the number of people in the labor force aged 65+ is expected to grow about 10 times faster than the total labor force.)

Job growth over the 2008–18 decade will be concentrated in service providing industries. In 2018, service-providing industries are expected to account for 131 million out of 154 million wage and salary jobs overall.

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### **Spread the word**

This newsletter was sent by the Southeast Texas P-16 Council to educators, school board members, elected officials, businesses and others interested in education in Southeast Texas.

Our mailing address is P.O. Box 10008, Beaumont, TX 77710.

If you received this email by mistake, please email [info@setxp16.org](mailto:info@setxp16.org) and ask to unsubscribe. Or call 409-880-7639.

If you know of someone who did not get the newsletter, forward them a copy. They can subscribe by emailing us at [info@setxp16.org](mailto:info@setxp16.org) with “Subscribe” and their contact information in the email.

Anyone can sign up for our newsletter online at <http://setxp16.org/NewsletterSignUp.php>

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### **What is P-16 ?**

Want to keep up with what the Southeast Texas P-16 Council is doing? Our web site gives you the plan and will keep you up-to-date.

**Strategic Plan** <http://setxp16.org/Documents/The%20Strategic%20Plan%20in%20short.pdf>

**Work Plan** [http://setxp16.org/Documents/OnePageProgram%20of%20Work%20\(2\).pdf](http://setxp16.org/Documents/OnePageProgram%20of%20Work%20(2).pdf)

**Work Plan Timeline** <http://setxp16.org/Documents/TimelinePhoto%20doc.pdf>

### **Want to be part?**

We are currently seeking volunteers to work on the various P-16 program if you are interested call us at 409-880-7639 or email [steve.buser@lamar.edu](mailto:steve.buser@lamar.edu)

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