

January 18, 2009

Southeast Texas
Closing the Gaps
P16-Council

<http://SETXP16.org>

Dear Superintendent ,

Without a lot of input from you, your educators and staff, the Southeast Texas P-16 Council cannot do what our mission calls us to accomplish. We are targeted on “**fostering a college-going and career-ready culture in Southeast Texas,**” and would like to propose short program of mutual listening that will have real value for your schools and the P-16 Council.

To do this, the *Southeast Texas P-16 Council* has decided to put off its P-16 conference until the fall or early next year.

In its stead, we feel we should engage schools in the region in a conversation about P-16 and education topics. We are looking to broaden our understanding of the issues at schools at the same time as we give information about the council’s vision and work.

We would like to hold a **P-16 Roundtable** with your staff. The *Roundtables* target principals, district staff, curriculum coordinators, department heads, counselors, teachers and even business input from the local area.

The session can be as long/short as will *fit your schedule*. Times are flexible. It could be a 2-hour meeting during the noon hours. We could schedule it late, 3 p.m. for instance, or -- a breakfast session.

We would like to meet with you soon for about ½ hour to discuss this in further detail.

We have attached our current **Roundtable Topics Card**. Each *Roundtable* should cover 1 to 3 of the topics. We would prefer that the topics have your own spin. You may modify any of these, or insert your own topic. Our resource team of educators, professors, economic developers, Chamber of Commerce execs, workforce pros, business and industry leaders and more, can flexibly cover most topic.

We will call in the next few days to set up a time.

Thanks,

We look forward to working with **XXXXXX ISD**.

Steve Buser

Southeast Texas P-16 Schools Roundtables

NOTE This smorgasbord of topics is for schools to choose from for a P-16 Roundtable -- or (preferably) suggest one of their own. (We have assembled a team of experts that should be able to handle any school related topic.)

The presenters are samples based on availability. If you have any questions contact our conference and roundtable chair Cindy Westfall (409) 833-3860) with Junior Achievement, or Steve Buser (409-880-7639) with the Southeast Texas P-16 Council.

topics sheet				
	Topics	Sample presenters (may be similar expert)	Description	Feedback sought from the school
1	Junior Achievement	Cindy Westfall -- JA	Financial management courses available. How the program works. Successes.	How are financial management courses received? What more is needed to make them relevant to students?
2	College and Career Readiness Standards	Candyce Tompkins Region 5	How do the CCRS interface with the TEKS and the other elements of Texas's Closing the Gaps Plan.	What are the teachers concerns about CCRS?
3	Workforce Development	Mark Viator, Marilyn Smith, chair Workforce Solutions board... Facilitator	How does Southeast Texas keep track of workforce needs?	Are these resources available to teachers and counselors? Are they useful to them? What tweaks are needed?
4	Workforce Development 2	Chambers of Commerce, EDC, Entergy ED	What is the economy of SETX and what are the jobs.	What are concerns teachers and counselors are hearing?
5	Bridging the Hispanic Culture Gap	Jesus Abrego, Tom Noyola, or Ileana Oseguera (LU), Raul Garcia, Norma Zarzosa, Joseph Cantu or others	Perhaps the immigration video. Why do some Hispanics have a difficult time with cultural and language barriers?	What are the concerns at the school level of the influx of Hispanics and the demand that places on resources?

6	Dev Ed -- what students need to know	Daniel Bartlett, LU Lyn Brown, LIT	Why students are taking development ed – what we find at the university	What are the barriers that schools see in bringing students to a level that they do not need Dev Ed?
7	STEM	Joe Krueger, Peggy Doerschuck	STAIRSTEP Grant at LU – With \$1 million over 5 years to get under-represented populations into STEM careers, how Lamar program is working and what it needs to do.	Include a discussion with teachers about why it's hard to get these populations interested in STEM.
8	Careers	Business presenters - facilitator	From a business perspective, what do you see needs to be done to get more focus on education?	What do teacher and counselors hear from students about difficulties or barriers in learning about careers?
9	Achieve Texas	Candyce Tompkins with Region 5	The 101 on AchieveTexas... the clusters, the law, how to make it work.	Teachers and counselors concerns on implementing the program and what effects will the program have at their school?
10	Achieve Texas 2	Steve Buser, Jim Rich, Karen Bourdier	What are the AchieveTexas clusters that pertain to Southeast Texas and what career paths should we focus on.	Are teachers, counselors and administrators tuned into the specifics of the Southeast Texas Economy?
11	CTE changes	Pat Calhoun, Nancy Hooker, Candyce Tompkins	What the redesign of 650 CTE courses to 195 means. Also an update on Advanced Technical Credit	Concerns from the school about implementing the changes. What additional resources does the school need?
12	Community Resources	SETRPC -- 211, Shaun Davis	What resources are out there to help students be ready to learn in the classroom	Do teachers feel they have the support they need to teach at the highest level?
13	The route to college	Lamar colleges and LU recruiters	Following up on our brochures on going to college for each year of high school, have recruiters layout a plan of action in each year with timelines.	What support do teachers and counselors need to impress on students that the path to college must begin early?

14	P16 – the Vision and elements of the plan	Steve Buser, facilitator	The vision of Southeast Texas’s Council. The elements of the overall state plan and how they fit together.	How can we make the P-16 vision a vital part of the school’s vision?
15	P-16 what is SETX goals and progress	Steve Buser, facilitator	Include colleges and Lamar U goals with SETX P16 council goals.	Do the goals make sense at the campus level. What resources do teachers and counselors need to infuse them in the campus plan?
16	P-16 progress at the college	P-16 coordinator from one or two college – MaryE Wilkerson etc	Avid, Wings, what local colleges are doing to increase persistence and retention	Let’s talk. HS teachers are developing future college students. What linkages can be made here?
17	Industry needs	Industry leaders, Steve Buser or Karen Bourdier facilitates	Panel discussion on the needs of industry in the Golden Triangle. Discussion of how far out those needs can be forecast and how accurately.	How can teachers plug into the data sources? Are those sources and data adequate to help students investigate careers?
18	Discussion -- a STEM Academy for Southeast Texas	P-16 staff	General discussion on the need for a STEM Academy and what it would bring to the table.	What is the view of teachers, counselors and administrators? What linkages can we make?
19	Rural Schools – unique problems and solutions	Steve Hyden , ESC 5	The special problems and special resources for rural schools	How accessible do rural schools feel that resources are? Are their issues that we have not yet heard about.
20	Closing the Gaps	Steve Buser or invited guest.	All the reforms that focus on closing the gaps, what is the status and aim of each -- timelines	Does the school staff and teachers have concerns about changes and the timelines?
21	Transition Issues for Students with Disabilities	Callie Trahan, Lamar University	Similarities and differences in secondary/postsecondary policies, and procedures for students with disabilities to consider when preparing to transition into higher education.	How we can get more information to high school students with disabilities to ease the transition.