

Newsletter --

Southeast Texas P-16 Council

Volume 1, Issue 2

September 22, 2009

Editor: Steve Buser 409-880-7639

Southeast Texas P-16 Gets Major Funding

Southeast Texas P-16 Council (SETX P-16) has been awarded \$42,000 in funding for the 2009-2010 year from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. This is a significant jump from last year's funding of \$5,000.

It signifies a hard push by the State and THECB to increase the efficacy of the work of P-16 councils' in the state -- helping the local education pipelines get more students into college and garner a degree or certificate, said Steve Buser, director of SETX P-16.

This year's program of work, supported by that grant, involves more outreach to parents, and especially to parents in the Hispanic community. A recent report by THECB staff found that the state cannot meet its college education goals without significantly improving Hispanic results.

The Hispanic population of Southeast Texas, for years was a small percentage in this region, has been increase rapidly.

The funding also allows SETX P-16 to hold a regional conference on "closing the gaps" to intensify the dialogue among educators at all levels.

450+ Web Tools and Guides for Teachers on Our Web Site

Educators, parents and students have a new resource to find online resources for learning, with the introduction this week of a "technology tools for teachers" web site – it details 450 Web 2.0 tools, tutorials, and treasures for educational technology

The site : "Connected Class" <http://setxP16.org/wt.php> , was developed by the Southeast Texas P-16 Council.

After attending a conference on technology hosted by the Region 5 Education Service Center we were excited and we wanted to do something to help increase the technology integration in education in the Golden Triangle.

Because of other web programs we were working on, we felt we had the resources to build a program such as this, quickly and efficiently. We will be adding improvements as we go

through the year, but the site is fully functional. We invite you to try it and tell us what you think about it. We encourage your ideas on improvements.

First Ever P-16 Conference for P-16 Planned

Cindy Westfall, director of Junior Achievement in Southeast Texas has agreed to head up this year's inaugural P-16 Conference for Southeast Texas. (stay tuned for more details on the conference in month's newsletter).

What is P-16?

Want to keep up with what the Southeast Texas P-16 Council is doing? New pages on our web site give 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>

And more.

Better yet, go to our homepage <http://setxP16.org> and choose "SETX P16 Plan of Action"

AchieveTexas Toolkit

SETX P-16 is currently lining up partners for the implementation of the **AchieveTexas Toolkit**. (stay tuned)

TEA News :

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) frequently asked questions <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/edex/docs/FAQsVII.pdf>

Watch a live webcast of the **State Board of Education meeting** (If you missed this week's meeting, you can catch up here, also). <http://www.texasadmin.com/cgi-bin/tea.cgi>

Higher ED News

THECB -- Committee on Closing the Gaps meets in AUSTIN, TEXAS 10:00 A.M., September 22, 2009 – the agenda:

<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/events/committeemeetings/CTG/CTGagendaSept09.pdf>

THECB lists Lamar University's BAAS program as a tool for persons who did not complete a bachelor's degree to complete from where they left off. Contacts are:

Ms. Kena Richardson 409-880-7546 Luap-baas@lamar.edu

Mr. Tony Sarda 409-880-7679 Luap-baas@lamar.edu

LUAP BAAS Program website: http://www.academicpartnership.com/lamar/as_baas.asp

The Federal Reserve

The Southeast Texas P-16 Council put together a meeting with **Susan Kizer** and **James Colunga** of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas (Houston Branch) and various organizations in the Golden Triangle this week. The meeting was to discuss the Fed's financial literacy services – printed material, lessons, meetings etc. We focused in on reaching out to several groups: College-going students, teachers, parents, Hispanics, small businesses, college student organizations and more. We will be working on putting together the proper connections to make that all happen.

Want to be part?

We are currently seeking volunteers to work on the various P-16 program if you are interested call us a 409-880-7639 or email steve.buser@lamar.edu

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.

You can mail us at P.O. Box 10008, Beaumont, TX 77710.

If you received this email by mistake, please email us at info@setxP16.org and ask to unsubscribe. Or call us at 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 with "Subscribe" and their contact information in the email.

Lagniappe

Want to see a amazing use of social media. 1. Create a Twitter Account (if you haven't done so already) 2. Go to <http://twitter.com/twisst> and click the follow button. You will get a direct tweet, each time the International Space Station travels directly over your location.