

## Newsletter

### Southeast Texas P-16 Council

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Volume 2, Issue 3 Feb 18 , 2010 Steve Buser 409-880-7639

[steve.buser@Lamar.edu](mailto:steve.buser@Lamar.edu)

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*We usually do one monthly newsletter, but, since we have some breaking news, and, since we missed publishing a newsletter in December, we felt we would slip in a mid-month issue.*

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#### **Questions about financial aid for college? -- pick up your phone -1-888-311-8881**

Southeast Texans will learn more about financial aid for college in a telethon Tuesday, February 23, on Beaumont's KFDM Channel 6.

Bill Leger, anchor for the local station will be in Austin where the phones will be answered. The action from Austin will be fed live to KFDM on the 5 p.m and 10 p.m. newscasts. The telethon has one primary goal, to get Southeast Texans to pick up their phone and call for information on college financial aid. Some details will be talked about on the air, but complete answers will be available on the telethon hot-line **1-888-311-8881**.

"We want families, students, anyone to just pick up the phone and get their questions answered about getting aid to go to college", said spokesman Carlos Fermat.

The telethon is part of Financial Aid Awareness month being hosted by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and sponsored by TG a guarantor of college loans.

*Can't wait to get your answers about college financial aid? You can call the same line **1-888-311-8881** at anytime, before, during or after the telethon. The line is open weekdays 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and until 5 p.m. on Fridays. Try it. Call now!*

Don't forget, [CollegeForAllTexans.com](http://CollegeForAllTexans.com) is the state's web site for college information (including financial aid) that is always available.

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#### **Taking it to the schools**

The SE TX P16 Roundtable program is moving forward. The Southeast Texas P-16 Council is in talks with several schools on conducting a roundtable on their campus.

Buna High School will be site of the first Roundtable discussion. Principal Don Muckleroy requested that the SETX P-16 team lead dialogues on College and Career Readiness Standards, Workforce Development, Development Education, STEM and CTE changes.

If your school or ISD would like to explore having a roundtable discussion, give us a call at 409-880-7639 or email [steve.buser@lamar.edu](mailto:steve.buser@lamar.edu).

Complete information is available on our website at :

<http://setxp16.org/wp/?p=238>

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

Our English to Spanish translation program has begun. We have two of the three translators for this year's program on board. The first document translated is on our web site at: <http://setxp16.org/wp/?p=317>

The goal of the program is to reach out to parents of Hispanic students to make them more aware of opportunities and resources available to them to help their students do better in school and in life.

The translators will be working with Lamar University, colleges, schools and community organizations to translate documents in to Spanish.

If your organization serves Hispanics and has forms, applications, instructions, pamphlets, web sites and the like, that it would like translated into Spanish, please give us a call at 409-880-7639 or email [Danielle.Barnard@lamar.edu](mailto:Danielle.Barnard@lamar.edu)

You can email us the documents, drop them off at our office (lower floor of the Downtown Beaumont Public Library, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or call and we can pick them up. You can also mail them to Southeast Texas P-16 Council, Lamar University, P.O. Box 10008, Beaumont, TX 77710. We currently have about 20 documents in the queue.

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### **Connected Classroom**

We are approaching 550 resources in the Connected Classroom database. We have trimmed some duplicates and removed some broken links. A couple of recent entries that interested us:

[Wisemapping.com](http://www.wisemapping.com) – a really easy to use mind-mapping and diagramming tool. We were having trouble understanding how all the new graduation requirement changes meshed, so, we used Wisemapping.com to diagram the Minimum, Recommended and Distinguished plans. We still have a few changes to make, and we probably need to break this into three separate maps. We invite you a look at it. <http://www.wisemapping.com/c/publicView.htm?mapId=19199>

(PAUSE)

On this next one, we know you are going to call us geeky. Go ahead, get it out of your system. Thanks.

[YourDictionary.com](http://YourDictionary.com) not only gives you the definition (harbinger: Historical, an advance representative of an army or royal party, who arranged for lodging, entertainment, etc. a person or thing that comes before to announce or give an indication of what follows; herald. )

YourDictionary , also, gives you that part we like best – the etymology: (-- pause for rush of excitement --)

Etymology: ME *herbergeour* (with intrusive -n-) < OFr *herbergeor*, provider of lodging < *herberge*, a shelter < Frank (or OHG) *heriberga*, shelter for soldiers < *heri*, army (see [harry](#)) + *berga*, a shelter < *bergan*, to protect.

Check it out. Go to <http://setxp16.org/wt.php> and choose “Dictionary” from the dropdown list.

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#### **Of note --**

State legislators see the world through the lens of their district. If the State of Texas unemployment rate goes down, but the rate in their district goes up, they see the district rate as much more important.

Likewise, they see the schools in Texas through the lens of their district. To get an understanding of that, we have gathered a few files from the [Lonestar web site](#) which has statistics on Texas public education. Also included are district maps from the legislators’ websites.

We invite you to peruse the data to get a better understanding of how our legislators make their decisions on education legislation. It is on the bottom of our [Data web page](#) .

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#### **Oil, Energy, and Entrepreneurship -- life blood of the Texas Gulf Coast.**

What impact have these three elements had on Beaumont, Texas and the rest of the World? Where do we stand in terms of future growth?

Oil, Energy & Entrepreneurship: the Economics of the Texas Gulf Coast will be explored in a teacher workshop hosted by the Texas Energy Museum and the Federal Reserve Bank, Houston Branch February 26<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00am – 3pm.

Teachers will have the opportunity to hear Senior Economist Dr. Bill Gilmer as he describes the economic impact of oil on Beaumont and the Texas Gulf Coast Region. Additionally, he will explain how our area has and will continue to respond to current financial challenges.

Ryan Smith, Executive Director, Texas Energy Museum will provide a program including units on geology and formation of oil, historical and modern oil well drilling, chemistry and refining of oil, and background on environmental issues, climate change, alternate energy and peak oil using the museum exhibits as teaching aids. Teachers will have the opportunity to re-visit the museum exhibits during breaks.

All High School teachers are invited to join us. Teachers will be provided with classroom lessons on energy and entrepreneurship that they can take back to their classrooms. Professional development credit will be provided. Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be provided.

Email registration to: [Susan.kizer@dal.frb.org](mailto:Susan.kizer@dal.frb.org) or Fax:713-483-3600 include Name, School, School Address, City, State, Zip, Phone Number, Email and Current Teaching assignment:

Questions : 713-483-3667 Contact: Dr.Robbie Moses or Susan Kizer Economic Education, Federal Reserve Bank, Houston 1801 Allen Parkway Houston, TX

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### By the P-16 numbers

It was the class of 2005 which in recent years had the largest numbers. That class graduated in the Spring before Hurricane Rita hit.

Here's a recap of the last four classes for which information is available.

<b>Grad Year</b>	<b># in class</b>	<b>Graduates</b>	<b>GEDs</b>
2005	5,684	4,919	217
2006	5,452	4,465	92
2007	5,220	4,252	83
2008	5,320	4,451	71

Graduation classes are smaller by about 470 students from 2005 to 2008. (The figures for 2009 have not yet been released.)

How is that affecting your business? [Steve.buser@lamar.edu](mailto:Steve.buser@lamar.edu)

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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 signup for our newsletter online at**  
<http://setxp16.org/NewsletterSignUp.php>

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**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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