

Volume 2, Issue 6 June 30, 2010 Director: Steve Buser 409-880-7639  
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**Lamar University** Downtown Campus --lower floor of the Beaumont downtown library

**SETX P16 Board** : <http://setxp16.org/wp/about/> **Our web site:** <http://setxp16.org/>

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### **Grant Funding** -- Projects for next year

We sat down with our Council last week and set priorities for next year. Monday we filed our application for funding for the FY 2011 year with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The Program of Work in that grant is packed with punch (not to mention packed with a lot of work).

Assuming funding comes through as we hope, we are going to be contacting you a lot this year -- through this newsletter sure, but many of you, we hope, will be getting involved in our mission --changing the culture of Southeast Texas to one of expectations that all students will move into adulthood career-ready.

What we are trying to change is the assumption that you can get by with a High School Diploma or GED (or even less). For most students, entering the workforce without post-high schools career studies will not lead to a very fulfilling life. Studies show that on the average, without post-secondary education or training you will live a shorter life, you won't have access to high paying and motivating jobs, you will be unemployed longer and you will feel less self-fulfilled....

Here's a round up of what we have in store for next year. (read this with an eye of what you can do to get involved.)

- Foster start up in Southeast Texas of **Café Con Leche** for Hispanics, latinos and for first-generation-in-college families. (We are working to get a partner to start the Hispanic program. We need find another partner to do Cafés for other demographic groups and assist them in starting and sustaining this program. The Café Con Leche is essentially a small informal gathering to discuss enrolling in college and discussing barriers and solutions. The meeting has knowledge experts on applying for college, paying for college, and other cultural issues. It is essentially what Americans would call a coffee with a purpose. It has worked well in other areas and it has been modified in some areas.
  - The Café Con Leche could be done as a Hispanic night at a High School for instance, or a Parents Teachers Organization.

- The Café Con Leche has also been modified to suit other groups -- first-generation-in-college, African Americans and other.
- We will be putting together a team soon to plan and execute all of this. **Interested?**
- We expect after SETX P-16 Council provides training and start up assistance, that our partner will take over the Hispanic/Latino version of Café Con Leche.

Other partners will be sought for other demographic groups. We will be putting together a team to plan all this out and put the program into motion. We would like to have a training program by an expert from the state before summer is out. **Interested?**

- **Kids Kollege** -- This is just what it sounds like, but it has a deeper purpose (or three). Students attend half-day classes about careers. Each class would be led by a hands-on industry expert. For instance, a class on public safety might be led by a policeman or a firefighter.

A class on health occupations might be led by a doctor or nurse. We may do classes on construction, or computer applications. The classes are for 6th to 9th graders. The program would tie an industry expert in with a teacher to make sure that students walk away with some meaningful information.

Purposes?

- **AchieveTexas** is the Texas career exploration project that is being rolled out in all public schools. It features 16 clusters of jobs -- such as those above. We intend to have classes in at least ten of those clusters.
- This will help the schools better start students off in the **AchieveTexas** program.
- Kids Kollege will help industries get the word out about the jobs they offer and the skills they need.
- This will help to facilitate collaboration across the education - industry divide.
- Each class will be ½ day and tuition free.
- We are targeting at-risk students and first-generation-in-college, but classes will be opened to all.

We will be putting together a team to plan all this out and put the program into motion. **Interested?** We already have a couple of partnership interests expressed on this

- **P-16 Roundtables** – we are continuing our **Roundtables** at the schools, but we are learning we have to be a lot more flexible. More on this to come.

- **21st Century Skills** We want to create a podcast program for students with lessons on **21st Century Skills**. When students complete a certain number of lessons and pass a test to show they viewed the podcasts, they will be awarded a prize such as a GEN Tx t-shirt.

What's **GEN TX**? Hold on, we're getting ahead of ourselves.

The idea came from Mary McCoy, the librarian at Lamar Orange, and was passed to us by Brenda Mott also from LSCO. It received some polishing by our Council last week to get where it is now.

What are **21st Century Skills**?

We may be talking about what the Partnership for 21st Century Skills discusses : "define college and career readiness as fusing content knowledge mastery in the three Rs (reading, writing, mathematics, etc.) and four Cs (critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration, and creativity and innovation skills), and that these shall be the principal student outcomes that define success in the 21st century."

I suspect though that that the first steps will be on "students in high school need to know how to find information and discriminate what is good and/or useful and what is not. With SO MUCH information they really need technology skills to organize and digest it." --Librarian McCoy

We will be putting together a team to plan all this out (including what the podcasts should cover, and how we produce them) and put the program into motion. **Interested?**

- **Communicating the message** -- We are going to be continuing our web site, ([setxP16.org](http://setxP16.org)) and our **newsletter** (which now goes out to over 5,000 educators, and leaders in business, community, government and non-profits -- we are still adding names to the list, so if you are not on it drop us an email at [steve.buser@lamar.edu](mailto:steve.buser@lamar.edu) )

**Local Media** -- We are also going to make more use of local media -- especially to roll out **Generation TX**. What's **GEN TX**? Hold on, we're getting ahead of ourselves.

We are going to be making more presentations this year, looking for community groups, school groups etc. We want to explain more about the **Texas College and Career Standards**, progress on the **Closing the Gaps** strategies, and **Generation TX** (Hold on, we're getting there).

**Data Gathering** --We're going to use our newsletter database as a foot print and expand it so that we can start cataloging all of the education programs and groups that support high-school-to-college, college-and-career-readiness etc. in the region -- its all part of our strategy (well, Texas' strategy) to roll out **Generation TX** (you know the routine, hold on, we're getting to it.)

- **Data Driven** That last one is really part of an overarching strategy of our Council -- it is data-driven. Educational and cultural changes without data to back them are usually short-lived, short-sighted, and easily become white elephants.

You can visit our web site at <http://setxP16.org> to see how we are building the case for change with data.

- **Roll out Generation TX** in Southeast Texas. This is the state's new marketing campaign to put pzazz into everyone pushing students to learn more and go further in school to be career-ready.

The state has hired **Milk Shake Media** to put the plan together. Never heard of Milk Shake Media? Have you heard of Lance Armstrong? Heard of **LiveStrong**? The wrist bracelets? Then you have at least experienced their work. This is a viral campaign that is going to take the state by storm and I predict that Southeast Texas will be the eye of the storm. (perhaps I should watch my metaphors with a hurricane swashing around the Gulf).

(Didn't you love the Beaumont Enterprise Headline --"GULP!" -- headline writers like that are few and far between).

We can tell you this much -- part of the plan is to have podcasts of students talking about education -- Milkshake Media will post them on **GenTX.org** We want to do that here also on our site and share with **GENTX.org** --

We will be putting together a team to work on the roll-out, go over the collateral material, make our own materials and get partners involved in shooting videos for the site including. **Interested?**

IF you answered **yes** to any of the **Interested?** above, drop us a line and tells us what team you would like work on. -- [steve.buser@Lamar.edu](mailto:steve.buser@Lamar.edu)

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## Geek Time

We are still on a war path about disasters being great opportunity to bring science, engineering, environment, government, jobs, math and communications into the class room. Remember we did a post awhile back about the [Deepwater Horizon oil spill](#).

Also, we talked about links for Ozone Action days that get the geek out in us. (that was in [last month's newsletter](#)) This time it was that ballerina, Alex, spinning around in the Gulf that made us think of it. We put up a post with [some real time links](#). We know, you are not in the classroom this summer. We just did it to give you something to think about. Class start back up when the hurricane season gets a lot hotter than June.

The page has links to satellite photos, satellite loops, offshore buoys and platforms with wind, precipitation, podcasts of weather reports, web cams on the surf, and more, including my very first **twitter widget**. That's right. You have to go to the page to see it.

It occurs to me that you might like some ideas of how to put this all together on the fly (it took me about an hour -- there was more I could have linked in, but this was just a demo). If enough people are interested, I will see if we can put together a pd time and show you how live the live internet can be and what it can teach. Email me: [steve.buser@lamar.edu](mailto:steve.buser@lamar.edu)

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## Teacher Workshops

This is when we wish we had the capability to include images in this newsletter. You can help by closing your eyes and imaging eye-popping photos of egrets, multi-colored herons and more sweeping gracefully across the bayou, skimming the surface with their reflection. Okay, open your eyes, and lets continue.

Teachers looking for an exciting interactive outdoor program can contact Cardinal Neches River Adventures to learn more about summer teacher workshops. On either July 8 or August 8 teachers may attend a free workshop reviewing Project Wild Aquatic curriculum that correlates directly with TEKS and TAKS.

Teachers will receive curriculum for use in their classroom and their classes will be eligible to participate in a Cardinal Cruise on the Neches River including some of the Project Wild hand-on exploratory outdoor exercises. Information and registration for these programs call [409-880-8907](tel:409-880-8907).

The Environmental Learning and Research Center is a nonprofit corporation that operates the River Adventures to provide educations to the public regarding ecology and the history and culture of the Neches River.

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## Redemption

Sooner or later, if they will have enough scientists in the world, they will discover that your worst character flaw is actually a great boon to mankind. At least that the spin I am putting on this.

Think of all those teachers who told me I was wasting time and talent. Now comes "[Discovering the Virutes of a Wandering Mind.](#)"

How does that Toby Keith song go? "What do you think of me now....."

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### **Connected Classroom** (<http://setxp16.org/wp/connected-classroom/>)

A couple of new resources (630 links now) that have been added to our **Connected Classroom** site:

**eGlossary** --Great dictionary for ESL. Gives the definition, pronunciation (audio) and a picture of the word. It has a limited number of words, but still, it is very useful. (in the "dictionary" category)

**Kids.gov** --- "The Official Kids Portal for the U.S. Government Government, American History, Earth Science - Environment, Games and Activities, State Websites, Careers, Social Studies, Money and more --all kids- sized. (It's in the "Government" category )

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### **Future Watch**

What do you think colleges will be like in 20 years?

The Association of Research and College Libraries in a [new report](#) presents 26 possible scenarios based on the implications assessment of current trends, which may have an impact on all types of academic and research libraries over the next 15 years..

Some may be far-fetched. Some may be spot on. Most of the scenarios have at least a small ring of believability to them.

The Association culled articles, journals and other sources to come up with 26 scenarios. The idea was to get everyone thinking about Libraries and the future to come. (is that redundant?)

I guess the idea is "forewarned is fore-planned." We'll see. (said with a long drawl and a sharp rise in tone on the "see")

"The scenarios represent themes relating to academic culture, demographics, distance education, funding, globalization, infrastructure/facilities, libraries, political climate, publishing industry, societal values, students/learning, and technology. They are organized in a "scenario space" visualization tool, reflecting the expert judgment of ACRL members as to their expectations and perceptions about the probability, impact, speed of change, and threat/opportunity potential of each scenario. Finally, the study

draws out implications for academic libraries.” --

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/value/futures2025.pdf>

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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.

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Anyone can sign up for our newsletter online at <http://setx16.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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STAY Dry!