

Newsletter --

Southeast Texas P-16 Council

Volume 2, Issue 8 September 30, 2010 Editor: Steve Buser 409-880-7639 steve.buser@lamar.edu

Board of Directors: <http://setxp16.org/wp/about/> web site: <http://setxP16.org>

SETX P-16 cranks up for new year of work

A lot is going on in the P-16 world this month.

- Just back from a Higher Education Coordinating Board, the statistics and the plan they will present to the legislature
- We just closed out our 2010 Funding Cycle and are into the 2011 cycle with fervor
- We got in 1,400 Generation Texas t-shirts, so my office looks like a warehouse.
- The Kids Kollege team is racing ahead for a kick-off event on Dec. 4
- We've got a big plan for reaching out this year to parents and students on the importance of education and training after high school
- Are our education sights adjusted too low?
- Lagniappe is Khan Academy. Hey, Bill Gates recommends it.

So, let's get to talking here quickly.....

Commissioner of Higher Education Dr. Raymund Paredes lays out his education plan

There is no doubt about it. Many of the changes in education these days are driven by the legislature. It's a sure thing that legislators will be again asking a lot of question about the vision that state education agencies have for the educating a highly-skilled workforce for the state. It is looking very possible that the state will make or break that goal.

The current plan we are operating sets goal to have 630,000 more students in college by 2015 (compared to the number in college in 2000). It came from a study in 2000 showing we were not keeping up with other states (let alone the rest of the world). The plan aims to turn loose each year in the workforce 210,000 more degreed or certified workers than we were graduating in 2000.

Commissioner Paredes points to success marks such as that there has been a 28% increase in college enrollment since 2000 in the Gulf Coast region of Houston, Beaumont, and Huntsville. Degrees awarded are up by almost 8,000 a year in the region.

Still, being successful at getting students to enroll in college does mean you will be successful in getting them through college. He outlines the pipeline for the "Gulf Coast" study area. He points to last big study following 9th graders through college. For every 86 ninth graders, 66 graduated from high school. Then only 54 of those original 86 ninth graders enrolled in college. Of those, only four earned a two year degree or certificate and 15 earned a four-year degree.

Nineteen out of 86 were tooled for a successful career by a college education. That's a mere 22% of that cohort of students. Compare that with the fact that the average percent of the whole population with a college degree is a little more than 37 percent.

The commissioner is proposing new funding models that not only reward getting student into seats, but also getting them to walk across the stage and flip the tassel.

We have invited him to here to talk to groups in about the new plan. More on that later.... Details are still be arranged.

Out with the old and in with the new

The FY 2010 funding cycle for SETX P16 is in the books and we are rolling out a very ambitious FY 2011 year. This year the funding from the state increased from \$42,000 to \$50,000. We've already discussed a lot of the new plans, so we're just going to update you on the active ones (others will be starting up later in the year).

Kids Kollege

Saturday Dec. 4 is the target date for Kids Kollege -- its an opportunity for kids to get an experiential exposure to careers in the Golden Triangle. We are targeting careers in the following fields. Arts and Media Technology, Health, Manufacturing (Process Operators and Instrument Technicians), Public Safety (firefighters, EMT), Homeland Security, Education/Teaching, Culinary Arts/Hospitality, Construction (including welding), Education, Engineering and Chemistry (laboratory work), and Information Technology.

Committee chairs are:

- Enrollment **Karen Newton**, Communities in Schools
- Partner Enlistment **Todd Senters**, Baptists Hospitals of Southeast Texas
- Curriculum and Enrichment **Bertie Standley**, Region 5 Education Service Center

- Publicity **Kim McMurray**, Entergy Texas Economic Development
- Logistics and facilities **Brenda Mott**, Lamar State College Orange

Some of the on-going tasks are:

- enlisting schools into the program;
- developing curriculum for the event and enrichment activities the schools can use in classrooms the weeks prior to the event;
- finding volunteers to chaperone students during the day;
- enlisting businesses to be presenters in their careers;
- getting sponsors – one big need is to pay for lunch the day of the event (our state grant does not cover food) ; and
- enlisting middle school teachers and college professors to be part (while the sessions are designed to experiential, they also should be structured to help students retain and use ideas they learn back in their schools studies.

Stay tuned.....

Generation Texas (Gen TX) -- the shirts are in!

The folks with Cotton Cargo rolled in 1,400 Generation Texas t-shirts that we will use in our programs this year. The shirts will make the Gen TX message highly visible in the schools.

Gen TX is a viral campaign to raise the awareness for career preparation by college, or other post-secondary training.

Reaching out

In addition to our Café con Leche project which we will start later this year, we are making an effort to get out to College Nights at the schools and parent-teacher organizations this year. We want to set up a table and disseminate information on the state's Closing the Gaps programs and the importance of pushing students to go to college (or other career education).

You can help us with this by dropping me an email steve.buser@lamar.edu to let me know when your college night is and who I need to contact. I can't promise we can make everyone, but we don't want to miss a college night because we did not know about it. Thanks.

Are our education sights adjusted too low?

Currently, roughly 1 in 10 U.S. workers want a job but can't find one.

Researcher Anthony P. Carnevale and his colleagues at the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University paint a scarier picture of the future --

“By 2018, we will need 22 million new college degrees — but will fall short of that number by at least three million postsecondary degrees, associate’s or better.”

Carnevale tells us that by the year 2018, 60 percent of the jobs in the U.S. will require a college degree if the U.S. is to remain competitive in the world.

The U.S. will come up short 300,000 degrees (translated: 300,000 skilled workers) every year for the next 8 years.

That seems to raise the ante and shorten the timeline from a Lumina Foundation goal of 60% of the U.S. population between 25 and 64 (translated : the workforce) having a degree by the year 2025. (a Lumina report shows in 1998 the number was 37.9 percent of the 25-64-year olds in the U.S. with a degree.)

How believable is all this crisis predicting?

It is based on studies that find jobs that are growing in the economy, health care, high-tech, office workers etc. -- are also growing in the percentage of college degreed workers. “ In 1973, 63 percent of technology workers had at least some college; now 86 percent do—and more than one-half have at least a bachelor's degree.”

Jobs that traditionally have fewer college-degreed workers are in industries where the workforce is shrinking as a percent of the national economy.

“Natural-resource jobs—including farming, fishing, forestry, and mining—are also in decline, even as their share of workers with college training keeps increasing. These jobs accounted for about 5 percent of all jobs in 1959 but have declined by more than two-thirds and now only account for about 1.5 percent of all jobs. In 1973, two-thirds of these workers were high-school dropouts, but now workers with at least some college hold 31 percent of those jobs” (from 2008 report , [“College For All?”](#)) .

If you look to new entrants into the workforce – 24 to 34 year olds, the shift is even more dramatic.

Consider also that the wage premium for degreed-workers concentrates the non-college-skilled to the lower pay ranks in most industries.

For what it's worth, here's the year 2018 percent of jobs in Texas by the type of education they will require (from the Georgetown University report's appendix):

Less than high school	High school graduate	Some college, no degree	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Master's degree or better	Total postsecondary education
27%	13%	14%	23%	9%	9%	60%

Texas earns a top five spot in the having the highest percentage of jobs for high school dropouts. The problem is that we could have 40% or more of our workforce competing for those jobs. (translation: wage deflation, unemployment for many/most)

Anybody see a problem here?

This may be a report on which you want to do a slow read : [Help Wanted: Projects on Jobs and Education Requirements through 2018.](#)

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.

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Lagniappe -- free online academy that could

Karen Bourdier (always a wonderful source for that WOW! Information) sent us the link for this : [Khan Academy](#) <http://KhanAcademy.org>

According to the story that was attached, Bill Gates discovered the site and used it in several speeches to highlight where education needs to go. In fact, he has his kids using the site. Salman Khan started this site from his home as a way to give back.

There are more than 1,800 you-tube video lessons on the site covering everything from basic arithmetic to advanced calculus, chemistry and biology. (sorry, arts, English etc. now here. Yet?) Now the site is being upgraded with “user-paced exercises--developed as an open source project--allowing the Khan Academy to become the free classroom for the World.”

When I checked the site this morning there were 1,852 people on-line learning from the lessons.

Will you, or your students be among them?

Thanks for reading this newsletter. Please share it.