

Newsletter --

Southeast Texas P-16 Council

Volume 2, Issue 12 December, 2010 Editor: Steve Buser 409-880-7639
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Board of Directors: <http://setxp16.org/wp/about/> web site: <http://setxP16.org>

Kids Kollege

In between the time we last talked and today, Kids Kollege roared into town and was a huge success. By the numbers --

- 330 students (almost all of them were “at-risk”)
- 25 college and business faculty including LSCO, LSPA, LIT and LU.
- 10 classes focusing on 18 careers.
- 20 class sessions
- Dozens of volunteers.
- Lessons learned by students, faculty, volunteers : priceless.

Thanks to **Lamar Institute of Technology and Lamar University** for the career awareness day. Thanks for **Lamar State College-Orange** and **Lamar State College Port Arthur** faculty for doing what must have seemed strange –going to another college campus to present their programs. Special thanks to **Dr. Michael Shahan (LSCO)**, **Dr. Sam Monroe (LSCPA)**, **Dr. Paul Szuch (LIT)** and **Dr. Jimmy Simmons (LU)** for allowing supporting the effort. Also, thanks to the instructors and staff of the institutions and businesses that made this happen. Special thanks to the numerous volunteers, chaperones, and counselors who made it happen smoothly (the counselors helped get all the paperwork in order to get the students enrolled).

Probably strangest feeling must have been for **Brenda Mott** of **Lamar State College-Orange** when she volunteered to head up the Logistics Committee. At the time she volunteered for it, we never considered that most of what the Logistics Committee was going to do was to make sure that every things went by the agenda the day of the event at **LIT** and **LU**. One stroke of fortune, was when **Maggie Cano**, director of recruitment at **Lamar University**, joined the team and brought not just a wealth of knowledge but the highly valued know-how of to get out student volunteers.

The second stroke of good fortune was when **Dr. Otilia Urbina** of **LU**, representing the **College of Education**, joined the team. Having conducted several summer session for K-

12'ers, she and her team of volunteers have a real skill at getting students into, through and out of the Dining Hall –incident free. **Brenda Mott** brought the **Texas Guard** to the event – they turned out to be a blessing – having been trained in handling disasters, they kept the students flowing through the turns and twists of the campus. I suppose you can consider that the guardsmen gained a new skill -- preventing disasters.

Dr. Karen Newton with **Communities in Schools** was a good choice for our Enrollment Committee not just because of her extensive contacts with the schools, but also because of her deep understanding of the “at-risk students.”

Bertie Standley with **Region 5 Education Service Center** did an outstanding job heading up the Curriculum Committee -- turning nearly 20 college faculty and more than a couple handfuls of business representatives into Junior-High-School-teachers-for-a-day. Her team had those new Junior High experts develop their lesson plan in a much-too-abbreviated time. That was because we had a short timeline to try to get the event in the first semester (the it's-not-yet-time-to-panic-over-TAKS semester.)

Kim McMurray of **Entergy-Texas' Economic Development Team** headed up our Publicity Committee. He had the task of trying to figure out what to publicize out of something that did not gel until about a week or less before the event.

The untold story behind all of this was last summer we were putting our proposal together for funding to make it happen. The name “Kids Kollege” came from some quick research that my boss, **Dr. Richard Bothel**, director of Continuing Education at LU, had done on effective career-exploration programs. At the time, we were unaware of a team in the just-completed **Leadership Beaumont** class that did a team project on just this thing. They had staged a demo up of just such an event replete with K-12 students in the LIT General Purpose building. That included a mock surgery suite where students viewed a very lifelike recreation. **Todd Senters** who heads up the **Baptist Physicians Network** was one of that team. The other was **Tom Noyola** with **LIT** who turn out to be a go-to man and Cheerleader in Chief for Kids Kollege.

Two parallel paths worked their way into the same team? Yes, but, not quite. It turns out that there were many parallel paths going on here. Dr. Urbina's summer sessions, IEA's (Inspire, Encourage, Achieve) summer sessions and more.

I will stop, because I just can't list all of the people that worked on this project (my incomplete email list has more than 100 people -- but does not include many of the volunteers who came out to work that day.)

Let me just list some of the lessons were learned from the feedback from the faculty and volunteers.

Classes --

Need for a timekeeper in each room

Ideas for class subjects, information

Have a STEM class. (science, technology, engineering and math)

Have a physics lab. Do something in pharmaceuticals and banks.

Should we have a welding class? Is it possible to find a computer simulation?

Get TAME -- Minority Engineers group involved.

Have more information on where to go to college for different career studies.

Volunteers

Parents, volunteers and chaperones want to go to a different class in the afternoon.

The student volunteers did well and were very valuable.

The Texas Guard was a great asset and kept good order.

Other Logistics

Have a 30-minute lunch -- students started to get unruly at about 40 minutes in the dining hall.

A tour would get rid of some of the students' anxieties after lunch

Show the students more about college life. Not every school has the same dining hall, student center or rec hall, but each has something along these lines to feature.

Enrolling students

If there is time before the next session, do an interest inventory of each student and use that to fill the classes.

We need better descriptions of the classes in the agenda and before the students pick their classes.

Meeting the needs of schools

Teachers and chaperones seemed ecstatic with the success of the event.

Resources

Have college students address the students and share their mistakes and triumphs.

Get Chambers of Commerce involved to get the business community involved.

Have a cost per child computed for the event so we can ask businesses and groups to sponsor a child at say \$50 per student.

Students

At-risk was a good target, but we should open it to other students.

Evaluators thought that students gained a strong understanding of HS and college subjects they must take to get these jobs and the importance of degrees and certificates.

All 23 of the reviewers felt the session were age appropriate.

Reviewers measured engagement by students asking question, answering questions, being involved in hands-on tasks, and the eagerness the student expressed to do projects. Seventeen of the 23 reviewer felt the students were mostly engaged.

We met the other day with **Mary McCoy**, librarian at **Lamar State College Orange** about our proposed **21st Century Skills program**. I promised to send her some stuff I had collected, but ended up with the grandkids for a few days -- a much more demanding task, I assure you.

We are going to be getting a start on this program soon. Still not completely defined, the project will involve a web site, podcast, mixture of the both or something similar.

If you'd like to get involved in this project, I would love to hear from you. I have several hundred Generation Texas t-shirts laying around my office to be used as incentives in this.

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Newsletter ideas for 2011

This is more ideas than a concrete plan but the newsletter is going to change this year. I want to make it more interactive and more tied to the web site. I am not sure how this will shape up but I want to fall back to an idea that has served me well -- the learning organization.

In my old job, we found that we had to be in a flux of change constantly to meet the needs of our customers. The learning organization worked like this: This is what we have the skills and knowledge to do today. One year from now, we need to add skills and more knowledge, to be effective. At this point, we really do not know what those skills and knowledge is, so first we have to find out.

We phrased the plan simply as: We are at Point A today. We want to be at Point B a year from now. We do not know how to get from Point A to Point B. However, we do know how to learn. Let's get learning.

I would love to hear your ideas on this -- Steve.buser@lamar.edu 409-880-7639

Education: back and forth, 2010

I am sure you have been reading or watching lots of reports refreshing your memory of all that passed in 2010. There are also the predictably off-the-mark prediction sites out there.

I thought I would lay on you a few backward and forward looks at education which have caught my fancy:

Looking back

Did We Learn Anything In 2010? -- How about this for a headline? --

NPR education reporters Larry Abramson and Claudio Sanchez discuss the past year in education. <http://www.npr.org/2010/12/26/132342084/Did-We-Learn-Anything-In-2010?ft=1&f=1013>

2010 Year in Review - by **Community College Week** --

"If 2009 was the year community colleges stepped into the national spotlight, then 2010 was the year they were put under the microscope."
<http://www.ccweek.com/news/templates/template.aspx?articleid=2250&zoneid=7>

12 Notable Higher Education Stories of 2010

Daniel de Vise in this **Washington Post** blog also takes a shot at 2010's top stories (chronological for the date impaired). <http://voices.washingtonpost.com/college-inc/2010/12/12/notable-higher-education-st.html>

Year in Review 2010: 12 Stories That Rocked the Education Reform World

The Web Site **GOOD** takes a look at the top education stories : -- *"2010 might just go down in history as the year "education reform" became more than a phrase tossed around by school district policy wonks. Americans are more aware than ever of the need for change in our nation's schools-and they're taking action..."*
<http://www.good.is/post/year-in-review-2010-12-stories-that-rocked-the-education-reform-world/>

The future

Top 25 Technology Predictions

Cisco is often cited in predictions – this report is probably the source of most of those stories : By Dave Evans, Chief Futurist, Cisco IBSG Innovations Practice
My favorite part of this **Cisco** report is *"Today, we know 5 percent of what we will know in 50 years. In other words, in 50 years, 95 percent of what we will know will have been discovered in the past 50 years."*
http://www.cisco.com/web/about/ac79/docs/Top_25_Predictions_121409rev.pdf

Interactive map of future forces affecting education.

This map by **Knowledgeworks** is clickable, shareable, and conversationable.
<http://resources.knowledgeworks.org/map/map.aspx>

2020 Forecast: Creating the Future of Learning.

Also by **Knowledgeworks**

"This 2020 Forecast illuminates how we are shifting toward a culture of creation in which each of us has the opportunity – and the responsibility – to make our collective future. People are creating new selves, organizations, systems, societies, economies, and knowledge.

"We are seeing "educitizens" define their rights as learners and re-create the civic sphere. ..." <http://www.futureofed.org/>

Lagniappe

The Web Is Dead. Long Live the Internet

For the past two issues of the SETX –P16 newsletter we have talked about the pace of change. Wired Magazine notes : “This year video, video-conferencing, and video-based collaboration will become the dominant form of Internet traffic in terms of percentage of total traffic on the Internet. Over time, we will see a maturing of video for learning take place. Early and exciting niche players are using basic video-capture tools and traditional mini-lecture pedagogies to deliver learning objects in multiple languages to learners all over the world.

“You spend your day on the internet but not on the web, The World Wide Web.”

To me, this whole “web is dead, long live the internet, thing” is hard to understand if you don’t have a sense of history of what it was like on the internet before browsers, when Veronica, Archie, Telenet and others competed for mind space over the World Wide Web. The youth of today, however, find the web just one tool – along with email, and peer to peer networks. Those tools are giving way to video and apps.

This is a August 2010 article. I didn’t get to read it until I was preparing for this newsletter.

How Web Video Powers Global Innovation

Speaking of video and the internet, this is a must see

http://www.ted.com/talks/chris_anderson_how_web_video_powers_global_innovation.html

Quick tips on making a video

Just in case that inspired you, jump quickly into this one.

<http://scripts.mit.edu/~techtv/blog/?p=84>

New finds

Ask A Tech Teacher –

My new favorite BFE (best find ever) -- I found this site the other day and it is already at the top of my favorite blog list. I particularly like the web site resources sorted by grade level.

<http://askatechteacher.wordpress.com/>

<http://askatechteacher.wordpress.com/great-websites-for-kids/>

Utilities Seek Fresh Talent for Smart Grids

File this one under “understanding what business needs from education.”

This articles shows the smart economy is working its way into our elementary and secondary schools (not to mention colleges)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/30/business/energy-environment/30utility.html?ref=education>

Shut out of the Military: Today's High School Education Doesn't Mean You're Ready for Today's Army

This report continues on the theme of how important it is to continuing education and career certification after high school.

"Military careers have provided generations of Americans with pathways to successful adulthood as well as honor, discipline, and achievement. Unfortunately, today too many high school graduates who seek the opportunity to serve don't make the cut. Just as secondary schools are failing to prepare many students for college and civilian careers, so too are they failing to prepare young men and women—particularly young people of color—for military service..."

Another must-read.

http://www.edtrust.org/sites/edtrust.org/files/publications/files/ASVAB_4.pdf

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

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

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