

SOUTHEAST Texas P-16 Council

Volume 3, Issue 3 March, 2011 Editor: Steve Buser 409-880-7639 steve.buser@lamar.edu

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

Kids Kollege 2

Kids Kollege 2 moves quickly now. We are in the stage of getting final commitments from schools to participate. If for some reason your school (7th and 9th grade students) has not yet decided to join us, do so quickly and call our enrollment leader Karen Newton with Communities is Schools.

We have to know how many schools are participating before we can give each school a count of how many students that can send. Also, we can't start getting enrollment forms completed before we know that number.

Call, quickly and be part of the May 19th event at Lamar State College Orange.

It looks as though we will definitely have 10 classes this time. A few other classes are in the works that could raise that number to 13. If you want to conduct a class on careers and haven't contacted Candyce Tompkins with Region 5 ESC, you need to do that quickly too. We have to know all the classes we will be offering before we can complete the enrollment form. We are going to ask each student who will be coming to choose one of the four classes so that we can get that student in to two of the classes they choose.

If you have other questions, you may call me at 409-880-7639 or email me : sbuser@setxp16.org

We are still seeking volunteers to make the event successful. If any student organizations want to get involved they can call our logistics coordinator Brenda Mott at LSCO. In addition to the joy of serving, the volunteers get a Generation TX t-shirt and a free lunch.

Donations we are seeking for the event are bottled water, coffee, and treats for all the workers and volunteers. Call me if you would like to donate and be a sponsor of the event.



The new leaders think differently

Don't you hate it when someone tells you that something is a "must read?" Well this is a **must-read**: [D.C.'s New Guard: What Does the Next Generation of American Leaders Think?](#) (Brookings Institute) by P.W. Singer, Heather Messera, and Brendan Orino. Guess what? Their thinking may not line up with what you think they should be thinking. (this is a survey of just over 1,000 youth who run for student government and choose to spend their summer vacations working in Washington.)

- News organization websites were by far the most used and most trusted source of news.
- Who has the most impact on their politics? It's not faith leaders. Only about 1% ranked them as having the greatest impact on their politics.
- "What company do you admire most?" Apple and Google most popular, with 14.5% and 7.5% of responses. Banks/financial companies and energy companies fared poorly.
- More than 49% chose Barack Obama as one personifies the sort of leadership necessary for the 21st century.(no one else came close.
- Only 11% think the U.S. is "globally respected."

Hispanic Family Conference

This past Saturday we were at the **Hispanic Family Conference** that the **Catholic Diocese of Beaumont** hosts. SETXP16 brought in Gonzalo Robles to do two talks, to parents, and to youth, on the importance of a college

education and career readiness. He was here also to help us get the Café con Leche program going. He must have been a very powerful speaker because we had quite a few people sign to attend or help conduct one of the Café Con Leche settings. They are an informal meeting to talk informally about college and get questions answered. We will be doing a training session soon for those who want to conduct them. We are also gathering a list of those who want to attend one.



If you want to attend or help conduct a session, please email me: sbuser@setxP16.org or you may call me at 409-880-7639.

You may also call **Jesus Abrego** with the **Hispanic Ministry office** of the Diocese **(409) 924-4331**, or **Fatima Burgueño (409) 924-4338** --especially if you speak Spanish. My Spanish is very limited.

We would love to have you be part.

I guess I should explain why I said Gonzalo Robles must have been a very powerful speaker. That is because it is a large event attracting 1500 or more. At the same time that Gonzalo was speaking to parents, Lisa Cowart and I were speaking to the youth and young adults about resources to help them plan, pay for and get into college. While he was speaking to the youth, I was tending to the booth that we had in another area of the conference. It was quite a busy and fruitful day.

Are we talking the same language?

Do education, workforce and business leaders speak the same language? These bullets were taken from a major study published by [Civic Enterprises](#) (we condensed them a little)

- 53% of **business leaders** say their companies face a **major challenge in recruiting** nonmanagerial employees with the skills, training, and education their company needs, despite unemployment close to 10% and millions of Americans seeking jobs..
- Those at **smaller companies**, who were responsible for over 50 percent of new jobs created in 2007, **feel this most acutely**: 67% say it is difficult while only 33% find it easy.
- 98% percent of business leaders believe the term “**college**” means a **four-year degree**. Just 13% of business leaders also think of a two-year associate’s degree, and only 10% say “college” includes a career or technical credential. By the end of this decade, however, about an equal percentage of jobs will require a bachelor’s degree or better (33%) as some college or a two-year associate’s degree (30%).
- The majority of business leaders (63%) believe a **four-year bachelor’s degree is the important degree to achieve success** in the workplace, while only 18% believe a career or technical credential and 14% believe a two-year associate’s degree are important to achieve such success.
- 47% of business leaders believe a **four-year bachelor’s degree offers the best return on investment** for their companies and for students. 35% felt the same way for career and vocational education.
- **Education leaders place greater emphasis on academic knowledge than career skills**. Just 28% of education leaders said providing individuals with the workforce knowledge and skills for success in a specific career was their single or second most important priority.

Website

New on our [website](#) is a spot we call Voices in the upper right had corner of each page. We have about 45 quotations and growing in our database. Each time you open or refresh a page a random, new quotation is served into that spot. Some we agree with, some we don’t. All of them come from various reports, news stories and studies education. They come with links, so you might find some interesting report you did not know about.

Lagniappe

- Two special video recommendations for you this time.
 - [The physics video lectures](#) of Professor Walter Lewin on MIT Open Courseware. This is physics with a punch. I now start to understand what I was supposed to learn in high school
 - [The Last Lecture](#) by Randy Pausch who was a professor of Computer Science, Human Computer Interaction, and Design at Carnegie Mellon University and a famed research on virtual reality and other topics. This is life with a punch.
- **We're moving** -- As a result of varying dynamics in the expansion of higher education, the United States has moved from first place for higher education attainment levels among 55-to-64-year-olds to fourth place among 35-to-44-year-olds and tenth place among 25-to-34-year-olds. [Education at a Glance 2007, OECD Briefing Note for the United States](#)
- **Mardi Gras fact check** anyone? Check out [this link](#) and then come back and you will agree with me that Mardi Gras is, after all, a pretty tame festival.
- **OMG, the Oxford English Dictionary Added New Words! We 'Heart' It! LOL!** (Mashable)
"Before you take to the comments to ream us out about the above headline: "OMG," "LOL" and the symbol for 'heart' have all been added to the *Oxford English Dictionary Online*."
- **Geek Peek** – check out [this video on how fast the internet moves](#). This is the Wikipedia web page on the disaster in Japan. The time-lapse video shows the edits to the page in the first three hours after the quake.
- **Learning on the Tube** --I missed this in my last newsletter. Previously I was talking about the amount of learning you can do on YouTube videos. Lisa Cowart, a cohort hear in the Division of Continuing Education at Lamar University wrote me this email in response:
"Funny you talk about learning videos on YouTube. As a single parent for a good long while, Murphy's law dictates that EVERY single electrical appliance breaks while single and with NO extra funds. I watched YouTube videos and repaired my own dishwasher water intake, changed the heating element in my oven, changed the socket on my large electric burner, changed a thermal fuse on my dryer (TWICE), wired in my own motion detection front porch light, and most recently (after marriage) changed the lid switch on my washing machine. All without calling the repairman and the average cost of repair was about \$45.00. Of course I took me longer than a skilled person so my time was not compensated and I had to spend more time saying Hail Mary's and praying at night for all the cussing I did while making the repairs, but it was still worth it. Ha ha."
As we used to say in math class Q.E.D. (Quod erat demonstratum –look it up.)
- **Boost Your Chances** -- Lastly, this one is **for Juniors in High School** (since it is just about past time for Seniors to start planning for college next semester): [17 ways to boost your shot at a scholarship](#)



Want to be part?

The Southeast Texas P-16 is currently seeking volunteers to work on the various program if you are interested call us a 409-880-7639 or email sbuser@setxP16.org

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

Southeast Texas
Closing the Gaps
P-16 Council

"fostering a college-going, career ready culture in Southeast Texas"



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sbuser@setxP16.org
