

Newsletter --

SOUTHEAST Texas P-16 Council

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

Kids Kollege 2--

Our Enrollment Chair **Dr. Karen Newton** with **Southeast Texas Communities in Schools** will be working next week with schools to start getting students signed up for Kids Kollege 2.

We finished the Course Description this week and you can get a look at it on our Kids Kollege Page (<http://setxp16.org/wp/events/kids-kollege>). Included on that page is a short video from the last Kids Kollege that my son, **Shawn Buser**, computer teacher at West Hardin County ISD, produced from some video we shot at the last Kids Kollege. I asked him if he could shoot some video at Kids Kollege 2 and he came up with an exciting plan of bringing four of his students to make videos. That will help us better get the word out for this next KK.

Back to the Course Descriptions for a moment. We will have 13 classes this time, four more than last time. **Candyce Tompkins** with **Region 5 Education Service Center** has been working hard to get instructors. **Brenda Mott**, our Logistics Char has helped tremendously on that with several new classes from **LSCO**, our host campus for KK2.



LSCO will be providing lunch prepared by staff and faculty.

We can use volunteers, especially K-12 teachers and counselors. This would be a good opportunity to see firsthand some of the careers available in the Golden Triangle and to make ties with college instructors. Those contacts can help you find information about classes at the local campuses that can help your students.

Learning to Work --

One should never count their students before they graduate, but we are very hopeful on a grant we applied for that will put some real punch in a program that started out

of conversations and studies at the Southeast Texas Industrial Workforce Alliance last year. Those focused on the need for more skilled workers that had good math skills. **Candyce Tompkins** at Region 5 ESC took off on that and created a **Math Summit** -- bringing in math teachers from throughout the region to meet with industry experts and learn about how math is used on the job in the region. I am doing this from memory, but I think it was Motive, Total, Valero, MeadWestvaco, Entergy and the IBEW that made presentations. Teachers armed with this information are better able to convince students of the need to take math studies more seriously.

We expect to hear soon about the grant. And then..... well stay tuned. With the grant money, I believe this program will be a real model of how to get industry and education together to infuse deep understanding of math (and more) in students.

Website

I hope you have had time to visit our [website](http://setxP16.org) lately <http://setxP16.org> . We were finally able to fix the speed issue on the site. You will find it to be very snappy these days.

Some recent improvements

- More information on the [Kids Kollege page](#) (including a video we hope you will check out). You get to the page under "events" in the top menu.
- Our links got messed up in fixing the speed problem, but we have solved most of that. However, speaking of links, we added a Counselors' page under the "Resources" Heading. Since the web page is not just faster for you, but also for editing, over the next few weeks we are going to be doing adding more link resources and spicing things up.
- We're continuing to put more video and links to video all over the site.

It's a complex world out there

In the last few months, I have had the privilege of having several people with technical careers explain what they do. I suddenly put it altogether. Many of the things we take for granted, and that keep our life safe and easy, happen because of well educated and trained people applying a lot of brain power to their jobs. They do it so well, we almost think things happen by accident.

At a YLSET interviewing session, Luther Martin, an electrical engineer at the Entergy Sabine Power Station was explaining the balancing act he supervising between bringing up steam in a massive boiler and the folks that run the electrical grid calling for power, and then changing their estimate of the power needed maybe because things didn't get as hot as they thought because thunderstorm developed rapidly. A lot of costly steam can go to waste very quickly.

I was helping Dr. Bothel with training session at the **Neches River Salt Water Barrier** and was just totally amazed at the complexity of keeping water demands, river levels and pumping stations all working together. Just a few inches in how high those massive steel barriers are lowered or raised could mean not enough water to flush the salt downstream that flows up from the Gulf. Or not enough water up stream to feed the needs of farmers, industrial plants and cities. Or, leaving too much water upstream and threatening properties along the river system. All the while, you have to be cognizant that the lakes upstream are suffering from a serious drought and need every drop of water they can retain.

Did I mention that if you don't get the calculations right, it will take you three days to correct it? That's how long it takes water to get downstream from the dam to the Saltwater barrier.

I could go on. The point is, that this is a complex world and its getting more complex every day. We need more and better trained workers to keep things humming along. We need fewer people with just the basic skills they can get from graduating from college. Our job is to communicate that to those coming up the pipeline into the workforce.

Outreach

New college help -- I am in the process of running down many copies of the brand new "**Como Pagar Estudios Superiores**"

the federal Education Department's new Spanish language version of its guide to applying, financing and entering college. This is just the second year they have published a Spanish Version.

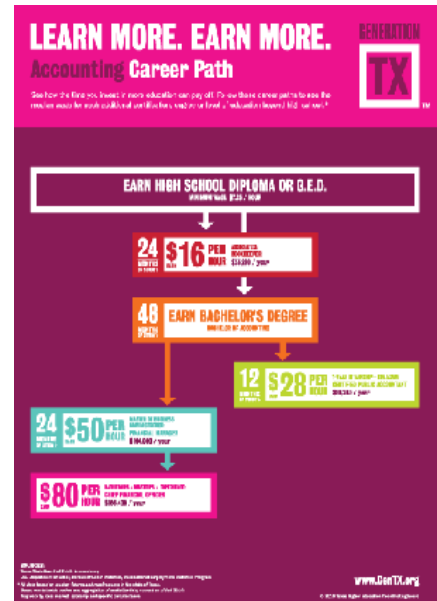


- If you want a copy now, you can download it at <http://ow.ly/4JJSf>
- I am also working on getting many copies of the new English language edition "**Funding Education Beyond High School**" <http://ow.ly/4JKea>
- These 60+ page books are packed with information that will help you navigate the going to college maze.

College Talk -- I enjoyed this past week speaking to several classes at Lumberton High School about continuing their education beyond High School. They were all Freshmen, and probably wondering how they ever made it through their first year in High School, let alone going on to more education. However, I made my point that "college doesn't start after your finish High School, it starts in the seventh grade when you start making choices in what classes you will take, how rigorous they are and how hard you will student through High School."

I am available and would love to talk to your classes or PTA meetings about the importance of college and career certification. Recent studies point to a bleak future for any student who stops their education with just a high school degree or less.

Poster power -- I have been passing out the new **Generation TX "Learn More, Earn More"** posters at various ISDs this past week. I have some for each ISD, but getting around to each is going to take some time. I am hopeful that High Schools and Junior Highs will put them up in very visible places in halls, lobbies, etc. The posters talk about career paths, and how continuing one's education leads to better positions and better salaries. If you put them up at your school, take a picture with a student or two standing near them and send them to be sbuser@setxP16.org so we can show them on our web site.



Out of the mouths of students -- I met with **Shannah Mackey** at Vidor High School this week and it looks like we are going to soon get started on a project that has had me excited for some time. Videos of students talking about their aspirations for college and careers. Stay tuned.

Lagniappe

Take the test --Your mission for the summer, students and teachers alike, should you decide to accept it is to take an SAT test at <http://www.number2.com/> They offer free SAT, ACT and GRE practice exams and tutoring. Come fall, and students start taking entrance exams in earnest, we'll all be able to offer better support. Better yet. If you are a student go to <http://www.ineedapencil.com/> take the practice SAT. Then get practice lessons on taking the SAT. At the end, take another practice SAT and see how far you have progressed. Come fall, you'll feel a lot more confident in taking the real thing.

Likes --

- [@safetyweb](#) -- follow this twitter for daily tips and resources on student safety on the web. Heck, some of those tips are great for me, too.
- [Popplet.com](#) -- see what you can think together. I about jumped out of my chair when I saw this one. This is

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simple enough even I can use it. Just start filling your screen with ideas and resources and then start linking them. Any way you want to. Easy is good. The education site where I found this recommended it for elementary school students. Simple, get it?

Reminds me of a time I was covering a trial and the defendant's attorney was alleging that his client's rights had been abridged so many ways, that many of them had never been argued before. An attorney friend, sitting beside me, says "He's going to lose his case." I asked how he knew, to which my friend responded, "That's the first thing they teach you in law school, you have to keep your case simple enough that even a judge can understand it." Did I mention this is simple? I put a Popplet on the board, you put a Popplet, I put a Popplet, he puts a Popplet, she puts a Popplet. Soon, we are thinking together on our project.

- **Where did your money go?** The White House has this personalized [Federal Tax Receipt](#) app on the page. For more accuracy get out your W-2 to see how much you paid, or just use one of the supplied sample earnings. You receive a detail receipt showing how much went to each area and department.
- **Straight from the top --** Tina Barseghian of Mind/Shift interviews Department of Education's Director of Education Technology, Karen Cator, to find straight advice on [what schools should block](#) and what they should not: <http://ow.ly/4K2Gk>
- **Flyswatters are getting more powerful --** My wife calls me into the room last night when they first announced the President would make an announcement. Waiting for the announcement, I picked up my computer to do some work. So when the CNN folks first mentioned Abbottabad, I googled it. I promise you there were only three screens of links to the city on Google. Many of them were Flickr accounts. Just after the President finished speaking, someone had a placemark up on Google Maps for the compound. When I woke up this morning, there are hundreds if not thousands of links about Abbottabad. About midnight from a twitter link, I found [this mashup site](#) which had just been created. This morning found this link <http://ow.ly/4Lm8c> -- the guy was twittering when a helicopter started hovering overhead in Abbottabad by his house. He says, if it doesn't stop, he is going to get his giant swatter out. Then boom. "Seems like my giant swatter worked!"

This makes me think of all the history-making stuff that has gone on in the last couple of years. This year's graduating class had access to instantaneous eyewitness accounts to history in the making -- all for the cost of opening up their laptop and doing a few quick searches. That is, if they knew how to do them. Maybe we need a course called "How to be a historical eyewitness." Or maybe "How to be an instantaneous historian."

By the way, if you want to see the power of Google maps. Go to <http://maps.google.com> searching for Abbottabad. Try going to <http://maps.bing.com> and doing the same thing. Not a good source for an instant historian.

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.

If you received this email by mistake, please email us at sbuser@setxP16.org and ask to unsubscribe. You can also call us at 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 sbuser@setxP16.org with Subscribe and their contact information in the email.

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