

August Newsletter --

Southeast Texas P-16 Council

Volume 1, Issue 1

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<http://setxP16.org>

409-880-7639

Program of Action

Where should the Southeast Texas P-16 Council focus its time and resources? Members of the council grappled with that topic at the Council meeting June 19 at Lamar University.

There were plenty of ideas that went in several directions – blending those into a effective program of work will be the task of the staff over the next few weeks.

There was call to action on early childhood education -- research shows that if a student doesn't come to school ready to learn, he/she will rarely catch up. Is that a lack of support, a function of early brain development or other causes?

Another area that was highlighted is tying education to business and industry's needs -- making sure schools graduate enough students to fill jobs needed by business in this region.

Plenty of ideas surfaced in how we can work together to have more college graduates and skilled workforce in the region. – Stay tuned.

What is P-16?

In case you're new to the P-16 initiative, or just need a brushing up, we thought we would give you a few resources to catch up or refresh.

In the U.S., the movement is about a 15 years old, but has caught most of its steam since 2000. It was in 2000 that Texas took a hard look at itself and said "we are not competitive in turning out the educated workforce that business needs."

Texas set a goal of getting itself competitive (being on par with large states in the percent of its population in college and earning degrees, diplomas and certificates) by the year 2015.

Our P-16 is all about creating a college-going and career-ready culture in Southeast Texas.

Here are a few links to help you understand how the P-16 movement will affect you, your family and your business.

P16 update Dec 16. 2008 <http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/1678.PDF>

Closing the Gap 2009 Progress Report :

<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/1852.PDF?CFID=20466&CFTOKEN=83282870>

P-16 Initiatives Page at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=B85D3710-B5A6-2637-FD961636B6438439>

AchieveTexas Toolkit

The Southeast Texas P-16 Council is working on a program to help counselors to have better local and regional resources when they implement the new Achieve Texas Program.

Achieve Texas calls on schools to make education and career plans for each student known as a Texas Achievement Plan. It is based on the 16 career clusters at <http://careerclusters.org>.

All the participating states took the national plan and gave it a twist to make it fit the career and education landscape of their state. The Texas plan is at <http://AchieveTexas.org>

SETX P16 goals for the program are

1. to produce a website to make the program readily accessible to counselors (and, importantly, to parents.)
2. Support counselors by having the site reduce the time they need to access various resources needed to assemble TAPs.
3. To provide counselors, students and parents with a multitude of local and regional education resources that can enhance their progression toward a career. Examples might be apprenticeship programs, local events, career courses online, and more.

SETX P-16 is currently lining up partners for the implementation of the AchieveTexas Toolkit.

TEA Newsletter -- lots of changes for Texas education

The July 2009 Texas Education Agency newsletter is out – Surprises? The new school ratings show that Texas had the highest number of Exemplary campus (double last year) but at the same time the highest number of Academically Unacceptable campuses since 2006.

How did your school, district rate?

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/account/2009/index.html>

Newsletter : <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index4.aspx?id=4570>

Other hot topics in the newsletter:

- New textbook options for schools

- New Graduation requirements A complete listing of course requirements under HB 3 is available at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/curriculum/SBSGradRegs20092010.pdf>.
 - New Career and Technical Education curriculum
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Statistic Time:

Back in the 1970's the labor force was growing at about 2.5% per year. That rate of growth slowed to about 1% by the 2000's.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics folks project that 1% will be something to look back on as rosy. In the 2010's they are looking for, maybe, 0.6% growth each year.

In the 2020's the rate should be even lower.

How will that effect your business or school?

<http://setxP16.org/newsletter/LaborForceProjectedGrowth.jpg>

Coalition members sought

The Southeast Texas P-16 Council is looking for volunteers to work on its programs of fostering a college-going and career ready culture. If you're ready to roll up sleeves and unlock you mind, you can find a rewarding time working to help Southeast Texas meet the educational needs of the 21st Century.

Currently our P-16 Coalition committees (we call them Champions Teams) are :

- Data Champions Team,
- Regional Conference Champions Team
- Communications Champions Team, and
- AchieveTexas Toolkit Champions Team;

Call us a 409-880-7639 or email steve.buser@lamar.edu if you would like to be park of a team of champions.

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.

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

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