

# Newsletter

## Southeast Texas P-16 Council

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Volume 1, Issue 4 November 30, 2009 Steve Buser 409-880-7639 [steve.buser@Lamar.edu](mailto:steve.buser@Lamar.edu)

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### **P-16 Conference in February**

The Conference Committee held its first formal meeting in November.

The theme for the conference will be "The P-16 Vision." Conference Chair Cindy Westfall said speakers are now being enlisted. The conference aims to bring together superintendents, principals, counselors, professors and businesspersons and others to find ways to change the culture in Southeast Texas to encourage students finishing high school and continuing in post secondary studies to help them be career-ready.

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### **Hispanic Outreach**

The Southeast Texas P-16 Council has firmed up its work plan for the Catholic Archdiocese of Beaumont for its March Hispanic Summit. The P-16 Council will partner with Lamar University's Division of Continuing Education to present three programs during the day for students aged 12-14, 15-18 and 19 to young adults. The programs will stress the importance of completing high school and getting a post-secondary education to be career-ready.

In addition, Lamar University's Division of Continuing Education will open its classrooms at the Lamar University Downtown Campus, where Junior Achievement will present financial education programs to younger students.

The event is expected to attract more than 1,000 Hispanic families. There will be activities for parents in the Beaumont Civic Center. The Southeast Texas Art Museum and Library will also have events during the day for youth.

The Southeast Texas P-16 Council is also working with the Multi-County Childhood Education Committee to try to get funding for a Hispanic track for its Spring conference, "*Quest for Quality*." The conference helps childcare providers and childcare center directors meet state-mandated requirements for annual training.

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### **New on our web site**

We had such success with our two new brochures, we decided to find a new place for them on our web site. You can now find them by following the "Resource Lists" link on the home page of SETXP16.org

We've updated our "Southeast Texas Education" page with every school having a link to a TEA website with statistics and reports on that school. We think this will help teachers, parents and researchers find information quicker.

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### **The Connected Classroom**

We didn't plan on adding new sites to our Connected Classroom page this month, but some sites were just too good to pass up.

As a result, the Connected Classroom now has more than 500 internet resources for classroom teachers, students, parents and librarians.

Number 500 in our list of resources is very fitting. It is a site on internet security resources for students maintained by Lee's Summit R-7 School District (Missouri). Some of the resources include:

- **4 Net Safety** -- Internet safety program sponsored by Sprint
- **Internet Safety Tips (PowerPoint)** -- Safety tips PowerPoint from LSR-7 Internet Safety Night
- **Chat Abbreviations**
- **Chatdanger** Potential dangers or interactive services online
- **Common Sense Media** -- Essential parental advice for managing media
- **Cybersmart** -- Lesson plans and activities dealing with Internet safety
- **Cybernetiquette** -- Entertaining and interactive way to learn about internet safety
- **Family Online Safety Guide from Norton Symantec**
- **Get Net Smart Quiz** --Internet safety quiz
- **Get Net Wise** -- Safety tips
- **Get Your Internet License** -- Students test "Rules of the Road" knowledge to earn an internet license

**One more note** about the Connected Classroom. This month we started seeing a lot more resources aimed at librarians, which we had never considered when we started. To see some of those sites, go to the Connected Classroom (<http://www.setxp16.org/wt.php>) and type "librarian" into the the tag search -- then press **submit**.

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### **By the P-16 Numbers**

Since it is hard to keep up with all the educational progress numbers and reports, we thought we would quote a few stats gleamed from a State of Texas report:

**Report of the (Texas) Select Commission on Higher Education And Global Competitiveness (January 2009)** : <http://www.theceb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/1754.PDF>

- Texas has the highest percentage of any state of its adult population age 18-64 (19.8%) **without a high school diploma** or the equivalent. (Page 19)

- In order to reach international competitiveness by 2025, the U.S. and **32 states cannot close the gap** with even best performance with traditional college students. They must rely on the re-entry pipeline—getting older adults back into the education system and on track to attaining college degrees. ( p. 19)
- Even with an increase in performance in the education pipeline for traditional-age students to the levels of the best performing states, Texas would still need to generate an additional 1,322,596 degrees from the adult population. The goal of increasing education attainment by getting adults returning to complete a certificate or degree will require a dramatic turnaround from current trends. (p. 20)
- Texas produces less than one-half the number of certificates, degrees, diplomas per 1,000 adults with no college degree (21 per 1,000) than the top states (44 per 1,000). ( p. 20)
- The requirement to meet the challenge of global competitiveness requires an annual level of degree production of **nearly 100,000 higher than the target** of 168,000 bachelor's and associate degrees set by Closing the Gaps for 2015. (p.13)

And, lest we get complacent with the remarkable progress Texas has been making in Closing the Gaps, this quote on page 27 sums it up :

"Texas is making slow, steady progress but at rates that are totally inadequate to move the state to national— let alone to globally – competitive levels."

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**Of Note:**

- Congratulations to Dr. Carrol Thomas, Beaumont ISD, where **Ogden Elementary School** (Wayne Wells, principal) was one of 26 school state-wide nominated for Blue Ribbon awards. Ogden was nominated in the Dramatic Improvement Category for Reading/ELA.
- **First Newsletter** -- The Lamar University College of Education and Human Development recently published **its first newsletter**. In the inaugural edition, stories showcase the many developments within the college. "Enrollment in the programs in COEHD is strong," said Hollis Lowery-Moore, dean of the college "The programs in the college are preparing students for service careers in community health, dietetics, exercise science, family studies, hospitality management, interior design, school leadership, and teaching." Lamar University's COEHD offers accessibility and affordability through on-campus and distance delivery. Meeting the demand has led the college to add 18 new faculty members in the last 2 years, and 10 new staff positions.
- **Easier to Transfer** -- Lamar Institute of Technology and Lamar University's Department of Industrial Engineering have made it **simpler for students who want to transfer** from training at LIT into the university's Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology Degree program.

"We want to facilitate the successful transition of students from LIT to the university's industrial technology program," with a minimum loss of credit, said Steve Doblin, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Lamar University.

Students seeking transfer must meet LU's minimum admission requirements. In general, transfer students must have a grade point average of at least 2.0. All courses intended for transfer must have a grade of "C" or higher. A maximum of 60 semester hours will be accepted toward the bachelor's program for graduates with the Associate of Applied Science degree. Up to 39 credits may be transferred from an approved technology major field of study and up to 21 academic credits may be applied toward the university's required academic core sequence.

Students applying without the A.A.S. degree will have their credits transferred to their best advantage as determined by the university, provided the credits are applicable to the degree program.

"We've received students from LIT into the program for many years," said Ryan Underdown, professor of industrial engineering at Lamar University. "Most students come into the program with around 39 credit hours in technical subjects and 12 hours in academics. That makes them almost a junior with 69 hours needed to complete their bachelor's."

"Having a bachelor's degree puts them in a better position of being promoted into leadership," Underdown said. "They got their foot in the door of industry with their associates degree and see earning the bachelor's as a step to advance."

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## AchieveTexas Toolkit

We made more progress on our toolkit in November, though the progress was in designing databases and interfaces -- kind of geeky stuff. Stay tuned!

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## 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](mailto:steve.buser@lamar.edu)

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## Lagniappe

- Our good read of the week is "***Living and Learning with New Media: Summary of Findings from the Digital Youth Project***" from the The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Reports on Digital Media and Learning (November 2008) -- it is a account of how youth really use new media -- put all of your assumptions aside. Interesting thing about it, is that since its from 2008 it does not mention Twitter or all of this followers. Strange that history is so recent in the digital age. [http://www.macfound.org/atf/cf/%7BB0386CE3-8B29-4162-8098-E466FB856794%7D/DML\\_ETHNOG\\_WHITEPAPER.PDF](http://www.macfound.org/atf/cf/%7BB0386CE3-8B29-4162-8098-E466FB856794%7D/DML_ETHNOG_WHITEPAPER.PDF)
- Want to follow along with some of the **newest developments in educational technology**, from a teacher's perspective? Get a Twitter Account (It's free). After you log in. Go to the Twitter search bar in the right hand column. Type in "#EDchat" (it is not case sensitive) and

you will be in the middle of conversations. The "group" holds a Tuesday night chat session, but people are always asking questions and dropping comments in the chat space. If you don't know about hashtags (#) on Twitter, you can go to <http://hashtags.com> or ask a twitter friend.

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## Spread the word

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.

Our mailing address is P.O. Box 10008, Beaumont, TX 77710.

If you received this email by mistake, please email [info@setxp16.org](mailto:info@setxp16.org) and ask to unsubscribe. Or call 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 [info@setxp16.org](mailto:info@setxp16.org) with "Subscribe" and their contact information in the email.

Or, anyone can signup for our newsletter online at <http://setxp16.org/NewsletterSignUp.php>

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## What is P-16 ?

Want to keep up with what the Southeast Texas P-16 Council is doing? Our web site gives you the plan and will keep you up-to-date.

**Strategic Plan** <http://setxp16.org/Documents/The%20Strategic%20Plan%20in%20short.pdf>

**Work Plan** [http://setxp16.org/Documents/OnePageProgram%20of%20Work%20\(2\).pdf](http://setxp16.org/Documents/OnePageProgram%20of%20Work%20(2).pdf)

**Work Plan Timeline** <http://setxp16.org/Documents/TimelinePhoto%20doc.pdf>

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## New location for Southeast Texas P-16 Council

The SETX P-16 Council has moved to the new Lamar University Downtown Campus (810 Pearl Street) – the lower floor of the Beaumont Downtown Library.

Lamar University Continuing Education Division (which includes the SETX P-16) and the Small Business Development Center now occupy the offices of the lower floor and four of the rooms have been converted to classrooms. Staying the same is our phone number (409-880-7639) our mailing address (P.O. Box 10008, Beaumont, TX 77710) and our email ([steve.buser@lamar.edu](mailto:steve.buser@lamar.edu))