

## *Region IX P-16 Council*

*July 7, 2009*

### *Minutes*

The P-16 meeting began at 8:30 a.m. at Region IX on Tuesday, July 7, 2009. In attendance: Dr. Grant Simpson-MSU, Jessica Sutherland- Vernon College, Dr. Shelley Sweatt-BISD, Wes Pierce – Region IX, Billie Gorham P-16 Counselor, Melissa Yip – P-16 Counselor, Michael Paris-Wichita Falls Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Romona Vaughan-ED of North Texas Tech Prep Consortium, J.J. Schweiger-Straight Street, Jodi Schlaud-IPCISD.

#### 1. Camp Beyond Report – Article from Times Record News

P-16's "Camp Beyond 2009" was a wonderful success. This residential camp targeted "first generation" students from all over Region IX. Camp Beyond was designed for rising juniors and seniors in high school. We had participants from the following districts: Vernon, Iowa Park, Wichita Falls, Burkburnett, Quanah, Electra, Nocona, Bowie, and Bright Ideas. Camp Beyond campers were able to stay in the dormitories at Midwestern State University and experience a taste of what college life is all about. The P-16 Council was so pleased that not only MSU was involved with this camp but Vernon College, NCTC, and VC North Texas Tech Prep all worked together to make this experience a very memorable event for these juniors and seniors. Businesses, colleges and community involvement made this rich "going beyond high school" experience a life changing event for the students who attended. The P-16 Council was able to hire "P-16 Mentors" college students to mentor students at the camp. These mentors were from colleges all over the United States. Each college student had a unique story to share and added so much to the campers' experiences. The high school students and mentors as well grew immensely during this week long experience. There were three strands of this camp: College and Career, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering Math) and a Bilingual Education strand Project BOW (Bilingual Opportunity Window). A big thank you to Wichita Falls Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Howmet, ABB, United Regional Health Care Center, and ATT Call Center for offering hands on experiences and tours of their facilities to these young people. The students learned why they need education "beyond" their high school experience to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workplace. Please visit the link for Times Record News that covered this event.

#### 2. Summer Bridge Updates-

Dr. Shelley Sweatt and Jodi Schlaud reported on their Summer Bridge Experiences thus far this summer. The Council discussed things that have gone well and also how we could improve the bridge experiences for next year. Our pilot program, from IPCISD will have their bridge beginning on July 27, 2009. Since they are in their second year, even though they are the smallest district participating, their projected numbers have grown tremendously. It is exciting to see how this year the teachers and administrators have a better knowledge about what a "summer bridge" experience is for students and how important it can be in the students' success in high school.

3. A formal thank you was given on behalf of the Region 9 P16 Council to all that made and are making our Summer Bridges and Camp Beyond a success. Especially Romona Vaughan and Jessica Sutherland and their Vernon team with the help of "Reality Check" Experiences. A huge thank you to Dr. Tim Powers and W.F.I.S.D. for aiding with transportation to businesses and college visits during Camp Beyond.
4. An email blaster report for the P-16 July Newsletter was given by Michael Paris. The Council discussed who was receiving the newsletters and who should be added to the list. Advertisements were discussed by the council and how they should be handled and what potential they had for sustainability. The Council is so excited about the impact that these technological advances that our council is making can do for our P-16 initiatives.
5. Billie Gorham and Melissa Yip gave a "Go Center" update for our council. It has been an exciting summer and will be an even more exciting fall. They discussed the change in calendar items and are considering using "Twitter" to connect and communicate with students and families about opportunities during the school year at the different Go Centers. Billie and Melissa are also considering a "virtual Go Center" that would be web based for students that are unable to attend one of the P-16 Go Center events.
6. Region 9 P16 Council is still looking at specific baseline data to use from 12 Statewide Data Points and other sources. The Council is encouraged by the Lone Star website that is a bit more user friendly. The Council did submit a survey to the State P-16 Council on what data we felt was most useful to us as a council. The Region 9 P16 Council would like to see data that would measure "school readiness" for early childhood students.
7. Our Council will be submitting a packet to become a "Recognized P-16 Council". Dr. Grant Simpson discussed that this packet was due July 17, 2009, and stressed its importance.
8. The Council will also be resubmitting a RFP for P-16 August 2009- August 2010, discussion about what was required of our Council was made. The deadline for this submission is July 30, 2009.
9. The date for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Breakfast, with Dr. Daggett and B.I.S.D. is August 17, 2009, at 7:00a.m... Dr. Shelley Sweatt informed the council that Mr. Danny Taylor would be including our P-16 Council in breakfast. The Council is excited to see the data that Dr. Daggett gathered for our Region and how it impacts education and businesses.
10. Region 9 P16 Council subcommittee for the Business Planning Session in conjunction with Workforce Solutions will meet in August to continue to work on October event. Early Childhood Subcommittee will meet in August as well.

NEXT P-16 Meeting date: Tuesday, August 4, 2009, 8:30 a.m., Region IX