

CTSP CENTER UPDATES

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Upcoming Events

TIVA Professional Development Conference, Corpus Christi, TX, July 16-20, 2012

Texas Career Education Conference—Dallas, TX, July 23-26, 2012

FCSTAT Professional Development Conference—Dallas, TX, July 30 - Aug. 3, 2012

VATAT Professional Development Conference—Amarillo, TX, July 30 - Aug. 2, 2012

Message from the Project Director—CTSP Center Deemed a “Model” Program

In February 2012, the Texas Education Agency was visited by a monitoring team from the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) – U.S. Department of Education (USDE) to survey the spending of funds from the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act. As a part of this process, Marilyn Fountain from OVAE and Annie Blackledge, who is a Fellow from the Casey Family Foundation (focused on foster children, families, and vulnerable populations) on loan to USDE, were looking at special populations-related programming in the various states.

The Career and Technical Special Populations Training and Resource Center (CTSP) program is prominently mentioned in Texas’ Perkins State plan and was deemed by the team as comprehensive, unique, and possibly a model for other states to emulate. CTSP Center staff – Dr. Rick Peterson, Program Director, and Dr. Lakshmi Mahadevan, Program Coordinator, were invited to TEA in Austin on February 28, 2012, to present on the Center’s work. The meeting included the OVAE team, TEA Grant Administrator, Dale Fowler, and TEA CTE Director, Vangie Stice-Israel. At the end of the presentation, the OVAE team congratulated CTSP staff and TEA for maintaining a successful program. The OVAE team was also interested in showcasing the CTSP Center in the future at a meeting with Dr. Brenda Dann-Messier, the Assistant Secretary of OVAE.

As another outcome, the CTSP Center has been contacted by CTE/special populations’ personnel from other states for the purposes of collaboration and resource-sharing. Additionally, CTSP Center staff presented at the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity Conference 2012, with the potential for providing future professional development training for CTE teachers in Washington DC.

NRCCTE - Programs of Study Institute

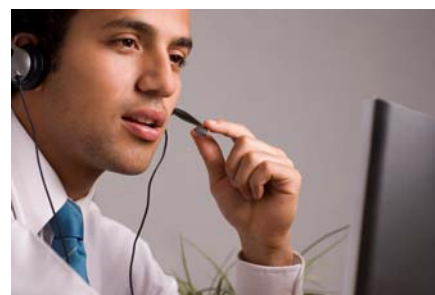
The National Research Center for Career and Technical Education (NRCCTE) has begun an initiative to help five states address barriers to the implementation of Programs of Study.

Selected through a competitive process, the states will receive research-based technical assistance over a six-month period. The assistance will be aimed at helping states to improve the quality of CTE instruction

provided to both secondary and post-secondary students.

The program commenced with a two-day meeting on February 6-7, 2012, held at the NRCCTE's headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky. A national-level convening of the National POS Institute was held at the 2012 ACTE National Policy Seminar, March 5-7. On June 18-20, 2012, a Career Clusters Institute will be held by the NRCCTE's partner

organization, the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium. To learn more about the initiative, please visit:
<http://136.165.122.102/mambo/content/view/526>.



State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR™) Resources

The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) replaces the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) starting Spring 2012. The STAAR program for grades 3 through 8 will assess the same subjects that were examined by TAKS. Grade-specific assessments at high school will be replaced with 12 end-of-course tests: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English I, English II, English III, World Geography, World History, and U.S. History.

The Texas Education Agency is offering educators a comprehensive website



featuring various STAAR-related resources. Available at www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/, the site provides specific subject resources, printable FAQs, a media toolkit, an assessments comparison chart, brochures, TAKS-STAAR comparisons, a manual for test administration, district and campus coordinator manuals, time limit policies and procedures, as well as optional test administration procedures and materials. In addition, the site hosts directions for administering the STAAR Modified, STAAR Alternate, and STAAR assessments for English Language Learners (ELLs).

State Perkins Accountability Congress Initiative



The State Perkins Accountability Congress (SPAC) is an initiative sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE), Office of Vocational and

Adult Education (OVAE), Division of Academic and Technical Education (DATE), to support accountability for career and technical education (CTE) programs funded by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006. SPAC's mission is to obtain feedback from states on approaches for assessing student and program outcomes.

SPAC will be composed of the state director and his/her secondary or postsecondary counterpart in each state, territory, and outlying area. SPAC members will meet virtually, via webinars and conference calls, several times this year to prepare recommendations for USDOE.

In addition to the full SPAC, USDOE has convened a Design Team composed of individuals nominated by states and national CTE associations, including the National Association of State Directors for Career and Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEC) and the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE). The Design Team includes about 45 secondary and postsecondary representatives from state CTE systems. Design Team members meet virtually and in person.

The Design Team works with USDOE staff and partners to develop definitions of student populations and approaches for measuring core performance indicators. The full SPAC will review Design Team proposals and determine what to recommend for USDOE consideration.

SPAC recommendations will help inform reauthorization discussions and the development of guidance to assist states in implementing future Perkins accountability requirements. For more information, visit <http://cte.ed.gov/spac/>.

Library of Congress Resources

The Library of Congress provides materials and professional development to help teachers effectively use primary sources from the library's digital collection. The resources include self-paced online modules, workshops at the library, videoconference training, and summer institutes. The professional development programs are free, easy to use, aligned with the standards of the National Staff Development Council (NSDC), American Association of School Librarians (AASL), and International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). The multi-media enhanced modules are ideal for teachers, librarians, administrators, and facilitators. To find out more about the Library of Congress resources, visit: www.loc.gov/teachers/.

Graphic Organizers

Graphic organizers are visual and spatial displays that make relationships between related facts and concepts more apparent. They are intended to promote more meaningful learning and facilitate understanding and retention of new material by making abstract concepts more concrete and connecting new information with prior knowledge. Graphic organizers—also known as concept maps, story maps, advance organizers, story webs, semantic maps, and cognitive organizers—are used to teach text structure, aid comprehension, support writing organization and planning, and help students understand vocabulary. Many websites offer free templates.

1. www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/
2. www.enchantedlearning.com/graphicorganizers/
3. www.teachervision.fen.com/graphic-organizers/printable/6293.html
4. www.edhelper.com/teachers/graphic_organizers.htm
5. www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/graphic-organizers-reading-comprehension

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The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating