The Texas College and Career Readiness Initiative

President Obama’s administration recently released a proposal for rewriting the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. It calls for doing away with the 2014 goal of 100 percent proficiency in reading and math in favor of getting all students college- and career-ready by the time they graduate from high school. In other words, students are prepared for college-level courses upon matriculation or for a job that can support a family.

So what does the college and career readiness initiative mean for Texas? Hi, my name is Dr. Lakshmi Mahadevan, and I am program coordinator for the Career and Technical Special Populations Training and Resource Education Center at Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Welcome to this webcast on The College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) program in Texas.

CCRS is a collaboration between the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Its purpose is to identify and define the competencies and skills that graduating high school students must possess to be successful in higher education and beyond (txreadiness.tif). The College and Career Readiness Standards began in 2009 and are ongoing in 2011.

This scope of the CCRS initiative spans both K-12 and higher education institutions in Texas. Initiative work is being sequenced in three main phases:

Phase 1: The design of the college and career readiness standards.
Phase 2: The analysis of the current secondary curriculum against the standards.
Phase 3: The development of the student support and teacher training materials required for the successful implementation of the standards.

During each of these phases, teams of educators from K-12 and higher education institutions are working together to define expectations and reach consensus on standards for English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies (txreadinessstds.tif). These teams are also identifying supporting resources appropriate for use by educators and students.

Simultaneously, the Texas Education Agency and its professional development partners are developing training for K-12 educators that explain the new standards and how they link to existing curriculum standards. Similarly, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is working with its university partners to develop awareness and implementation materials for teacher preparation programs.

To keep abreast of the CCRS initiative and its impact on education in Texas, please visit our website at http://ctsp.tamu.edu.