

DECEMBER 2011



## Siskiyou CTE Bulletin

### A Career Technical Education – CTE – Partnership

Siskiyou County Office of Education/College of The Siskiyous/ Siskiyou County High Schools/ Business and Community Partners

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## This Month In CTE

This month a summary of some interesting reading on related topics seemed to make sense. In both cases the big idea is student success, and making what is meant by that, visible and applicable to educators and students alike. The relevance to CTE is that these conversations are addressing where application and knowledge intersect to support the students we all share in whatever pathway to success they choose.

In a recent [EdWeek article](#), called **Academics Find Common Standards Fit for College: But Academics Maintain Some Skills Are Missing**, by Catherine Gewertz, looks at the Common Core standards now underway for implementation in California by 2015. This university study reveals some useful insights for those just learning about this culmination of 10 years of educational research and development. Below is an excerpt.

*Instructors of entry-level college courses consider the common standards in mathematics and English/language arts good reflections of the skills students must master to be successful in courses in a range of disciplines, according to a survey released last week.*

*The study, "Reaching the Goal," aims to verify a key premise of the academic standards that have been adopted by all but five states: that they prepare students for college by defining the skills and knowledge that are crucial to success in entry-level coursework. Although college instructors served on the panels that crafted the standards, the new survey is believed to be the only study to test that premise by putting the question directly to higher-education faculty members.*

*"It suggests strong support for the validity of the common-core standards, in terms of their applicability to college courses and their importance, and the appropriate level of challenge for students to be successful," said Michael W. Kirst, a professor emeritus of education at Stanford University who focuses on college-readiness issues and serves on the board of directors of the research group that produced the report. "Nobody has cross-checked it with the actual people who teach these courses, until now."*

The full article can be accessed at [EdWeek](#) online.

In a similar vein the CA Community College system is examining what student success means and looks like and recently posted several documents on the [Student Success Task Force website](#). There is more online but this brief opening statement gives you the idea.

#### **A Bold Plan for Refocusing on Student Success**

*The value of a college education cannot be argued. Californians holding an associate or bachelor's degree are likely to earn \$1 million more in their lifetime than a person who holds only a high school diploma.*

*That's why the Student Success Task Force is examining best practices and effective models within higher education throughout the nation to improve educational achievements here in California. The task force has produced a draft of recommendations and, by the end of 2011, it will have developed a plan to be adopted by the board of governors and subsequently presented to the Legislature no later than March 2012.*

Hopefully these selections of "food for thought" will connect with ideas or conversations you have around similar topics.

Marian Murphy-Shaw, Director  
Student Services, Siskiyou County Office of Education  
609 South Gold Street, Yreka CA 96097-3110  
530.842.8498 - 530.842.8436 Fax  
<http://www.siskiyocoe.net>

CTE Programs, College of the Siskiyous  
800 College Ave., Weed CA 94094, Bldg 8 ESTC  
530.938.5512 - 530-938.5327  
<http://www.siskiyous.edu/cte/>

# CTE UPDATES

## **LOCAL:**

### **GEAR UP Award includes Siskiyou County, Press Release – October 2, 2011**

The good news came on Wednesday, September 30, after nearly three months of waiting and anticipation. Barbara Boxer's Office called to confirm that the UC Davis College OPTIONS Program was one of only 47 institutions nationwide to receive a GEAR UP grant from the US Department of Education. This grant will bring **\$12.6 million** to the North State, which will be paid out over 7 years at **\$1.8 million a year!**

GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a multi-faceted school-based program designed to get more students through high school and into postsecondary education programs that will lead to viable careers. The program encourages grade level academic mastery, career exploration and an understanding of the multiple pathways available towards college and career readiness.

GEAR UP College OPTIONS will adopt ten middle schools in Tehama, Trinity, Shasta and Siskiyou Counties and follow the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade cohorts of students through high school and into college. GEAR UP staff and partners will work together to provide students and their families with a range of support services needed to prepare for college and careers, including mentoring, counseling, tutoring, and summer programs to succeed in higher level math and other gateway college preparatory courses. Information about college and financial aid options will also be provided.

Thanks to the generous support from the McConnell Foundation and an incredible partnership with Shasta College, services will be shared with all schools in the region, allowing for true systematic change and support for our students, teachers and families.

The College OPTIONS GEAR UP Program is a collaborative between UC Davis, the McConnell Foundation, Shasta College, CSU Chico, Simpson University, College of the Siskiyous, National University, Southern Oregon University, Shasta County Public Health, the Shasta, Siskiyou and Tehama County Offices of Education, AVID, all of the North State high school and middle school districts, the statewide ICC, and local non-profit organizations such as STc3. North State businesses, including the Redding Bank of Commerce and Scott Valley Bank will also serve as business advisors to the project. The Project design will directly support region-wide initiatives for college and career readiness including the Shasta County Higher Education Task Force, the new Shasta County REACH Higher initiative, and the Tehama County Expect More initiative.

Kate Mahar, Director of Student Development at Shasta College, is thrilled about the news. "This grant is truly a testament to what can happen when multiple partners work together towards a common goal. Shasta College is thrilled to be a partner in such an exciting endeavor."

## **College of the Siskiyous Invitation to 7-12 Teachers**

Jim Ostrowski, Joy Taylor and, Susan Riley-Brown coordinators of College of the Siskiyous Environmental Resources Programs; which encompass natural resources, sustainable business and communities, and power generation, continue to provide Siskiyou County with CTE and educational collaboration opportunities for teachers grades 7-12 along with COS faculty as defined in the SB 70 grants.

Last month a discussion on Sustainable Business/Leadership in the context of economics or business classes was offered as well as an article on Triple Bottom Line Business that can be shared with any teacher upon request.

Plans are being made for next semester to support teams of teachers who want to work on weaving current business information into lessons or project-based learning across disciplines. High school teachers who develop lessons based on a 3-day series of workshops being delivered by COS as a "Triple Bottom Line Business" mini-course the first Saturdays in March, April and May, will be eligible for a stipend to do that development as well as the ongoing technical support of the COS faculty and programs.

To request the article or indicate your intent to take the COS course, contact the COS CTE Office at 938-5512 or email CTE Director, Marian Murphy-Shaw at [mshaw@siskiyoucoe.net](mailto:mshaw@siskiyoucoe.net) or [mmurphyshaw@siskiyous.edu](mailto:mmurphyshaw@siskiyous.edu).

## **STATE:**

### **Educating for Careers Conference: Pathways to Success**

**Sacramento Convention Center, February 13-15, 2012**

**[Registration now open](#)**

The Educating for Careers Conference is an annual three-day professional development event surrounding career technical education (CTE). A variety of delivery systems, strategies, and Industry Sectors throughout the CTE system are represented in the more than 170 breakout sessions offered over the course of this three-day pre-conference and conference. Technical assistance is also provided by several of the delivery systems through special office hours during the conference.

Even though education is facing great fiscal challenges across the nation and professional development has continued to take a large hit, it is understood by all stakeholders that continuing to improve classroom instruction and student achievement is critical for our success as a nation. Therefore, the overarching goal of this conference is to offer high-quality, cost-effective professional development for all stakeholders with broad general breakout session themes.

#### Breakout Session Themes

- Assessment & Accountability
- California Partnership Academy Models
- Career Pathways/Industry Sectors
- Employer and Community Partnerships
- Middle Schools Connections
- Perkins Policies and Programs
- Secondary-Postsecondary Connections
- Student and Teacher Support Systems
- Work-Based Learning

## **NATIONAL:**

### **Free Online Courses in Mathematics, Science Engineering and Other Content Areas**

URL (Math): [http://onlineschoolstexas.com/free-online-college-courses-search/?cat\\_id=3](http://onlineschoolstexas.com/free-online-college-courses-search/?cat_id=3)

URL (Science): [http://onlineschoolstexas.com/free-online-college-courses-search/?cat\\_id=5](http://onlineschoolstexas.com/free-online-college-courses-search/?cat_id=5)

A number of institutions of higher education (IHEs) provide free online courses on a variety of topics. A compilation and description of some of these IHEs is available at [http://education-portal.com/articles/Universities\\_with\\_the\\_Best\\_Free\\_Online\\_Courses.html](http://education-portal.com/articles/Universities_with_the_Best_Free_Online_Courses.html)

In addition, Online Schools Texas presents a searchable database of free online courses from institutions such as Johns Hopkins, MIT, Notre Dame, Tufts, U.C. Irvine, the University of Michigan, and The Open University.

On the Mathematics page (see link above), searches can be refined by subject (i.e., algebra, calculus, computation, differential equations, geometry, and statistics/probability), IHE, and date of online publication.

The Science subjects (link above) include biology, chemistry, geology, and physics, among others.

Databases are also available for the following subjects: Arts, Business, Computers and Engineering, Health and



## 2012 CTE Month

Let's prepare for CTE Month™ 2012 in February! Celebrate with the 2012 theme, **CTE: Careers Through Education**.

### How can you show your support for CTE?

- Help your students enter the [2012 Student Video PSA Contest](#)
- Plan for 2012 CTE Month [events](#) or [hold your own](#)
- Tell your CTE stories through [social networks](#) and [traditional media](#)
- Involve [legislators](#) and [businesses](#)

*The Association for Career and Technical Education is the largest national education association dedicated to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for careers. Find out more at <http://www.acteonline.org>*

## CTE Professional Development 2011-2012

- **December 5-7, CA Perkins Special Populations and Non-traditional Conference** Sheraton Grand Hotel, Sacramento. This year's theme at the JSPAC annual conference is "Career & Technical Education: Success for All: From Dreams to Reality." Presenter, Pre-conference and Conference registration all open. Register as a team for discounts: <http://www.jspac.org/component/content/article/59-events/75-ca-perkins-joint-special-populations-conference>
- **January 13, 2012 Redding at Shasta College:** FREE CA Perkins Nontraditional & Special Populations Workshop
- **February 13-15 2012 Educating for Careers Conference** in Sacramento. This year's theme is "Pathways to Success." Stay tuned to this site for more information <http://2012.ccp-conference.net/>.

## Webinars are Available Anytime

### Project Based Learning can use After-School Strategies:

You can view the [archived webinar](#) at any time.

[Strategies to Advance Student Success through High School After-School Programs](#)

Hear from a panel of national experts about some of the most effective programs in the state and nation, which provide inviting experiences for high school youth and result in significant outcomes. The presenters bring a wealth of knowledge on STEM Service Learning, utilizing the after-school space to offer engaging skill building opportunities, credit recovering, and the Quality Self-Assessment Tool developed specifically for high schools. This is the last webinar in a three-part series co-sponsored by The California After-School Network, the U.S. Department of Education's website *Doing What Works*, and California State University.

To search or sign up for other webinars, please visit: <http://www.schoolsmovingup.net/webinars/>

**STEM EQUITY PIPELINE WEBINARS:** [www.stemequitypipeline.org](http://www.stemequitypipeline.org)