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Subject: FW: Business Administration and Management TEKS Training
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Greetings Fellow Business and Technology Teachers:

Last Thursday and Friday I took two personal days to attend the TEA sponsored TEKS Training at the Region XI Service Center. Day one was very informative and was presented by Dan Belcher, Region XI's CTE Director. The second day was with one of the TEA trainers. She was a teacher from FTW ISD. I don't remember her name. Although much of day two was scripted, some questions from the participant prompted some discussion and sharing of useful resources. Here are some of the things I learned from attending this session.

- Texas College and Career Readiness Standards – These were developed by a board directly under TEA. The Cross Disciplinary Standards are those that we as CTE teachers must review. I want to bring section II, E Technology to your attention. It is the TCCRS Board recommendation that student be able to
    - "Use technology to gather information."
    - "Use technology to organize, manage, and analyze information."
    - "Use technology to communication and display findings in a clear and coherent manner."
    - "Use technology appropriately."

  It is disappointing that the Technology credit is no longer a requirement of graduation for all students. Will our students be prepared for a career or college when they graduate without having taken a technology class?
  Here is the link to this report: http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=EADF962E-0E3E-DA80-BAAD2496062F3CD8
- A few weeks back I sent out the Scope and Sequence for all 16 CTE clusters. The website is http://cte.unt.edu. The is our best resource for the new TEKS. Although new TEKS take effect in August 2010, new books will not be reviewed and adopted until 2014. The last column of the Scope and Sequence identifies online resources and text books we should be using to fulfill the requirements of the TEKS.
- During our discussions several online resources were noted and I want to share them with you in case you have not heard of them before:
    - Teachers Pay Teachers
    - DocStock
    - Custom Guides
    - Journey Ed
    - Pics4learning
    - Fotosearch
    - Powertyping.com
    - Did you know Videos

- Another major push of the new TEKS is an expectation that we are implementing lessons

that further explore and reinforce Math, English, Science and Social Studies concepts that our students are learning in their core classes. I know many of us already have done so in the past. The TEKS identifies specifically how we can do this with the newly combined classes. Also, CTE teachers are being challenged to work with teachers in the core areas to develop lesson plans that compliment activities in those departments.

- Tech Prep was also discussed briefly. We must continue to encourage our students to do well in all of the courses that are Tech Prep approved. Students need to take advantage of the free college credits they can earn through Collin, Dallas Denton, Tarrant County Community Colleges. I have had some students complain that some universities will not accept the credit for the class they took in high school. However, these classes are accepted as an elective credit. As I see it, the students and/or parents have still saved money.
- Course Sequence. In the new Career Clusters, each has a recommended sequence for the student to follow. Some students may not follow these recommended plans as they may change their mind about what their intended career may be and that is perfectly acceptable. The goal is to put students in CTE classes for the right reasons. These courses should not be schedule fillers, but filled with students who wish to take the course and have a passion to work in a related field.
- Teacher Certifications. We are being told that TEA, SBOE and SBEC have not yet aligned the new CTE courses with the existing certifications and/or requirements for new certifications. A decision is expected in May 2010 at this point.
- Practicum courses- In order for a student to take a Practicum course, they must have taken another credit in that area. It is intended to be a senior level course that earns a student 2-3 credits. It is part classroom instruction and part work experience. It can be nonpaid or paid, but is different than the coop programs.
- Are you wanting to know trends in the need for certain careers and skills. The Texas Workforce Commission or more locally, Interlink.org were two resources that were mentioned.

These are only the highlights that I thought were important for me to share with you. I strongly recommend that you attend these trainings at the Region XI Service Center or at this summer's Texas Career Education Conference from July 12-15 at Dallas' Sheraton Hotel. Texas Business and Technology Educators Association (TBTEA) members will receive a $40 discount from the conference registration. TBTEA dues are $35. You can learn more about TBTEA at http://tbtea.org.

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