

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Perkins-Funded Leadership Projects for 2010-2011

The Coordinating Board awarded 12 Perkins-funded Leadership Grants for Program Year 2010-2011. The projects were seen to be relevant to the State as a whole and capable of impacting/being replicated around the State upon completion. During the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011, the project administrators will share results with the Coordinating Board and peers in the field. The 12 Perkins Leadership Grants are:

Amarillo College

"Extending the STEM Equity Pipeline to Texas"

Project Description: "This project connects Texas to best practices in improving gender equity in STEM fields."

This project connects Texas to best practices in improving gender equity in STEM fields. *Extending the STEM Equity Pipeline to Texas* will disseminate the information gathered on best practices that increase nontraditional student participation (5P1) and nontraditional gender completion (5P2) from the national project, *STEM Equity Pipeline*. The dissemination of these best practices from the national study will include informing Texas community colleges via webinars and training sessions at TACTE conferences. This Perkins Leadership project should result in better performance on the Perkins Basic Grant core indicators for all Texas community and technical colleges regarding nontraditional gender participation by increasing each college's Perkins administrator's and STEM faculty's awareness, knowledge and actions needed for the particular college.

Award Amount: \$45,000

Project Director: Susie Wheeler, lswheeler@actx.edu

- [Extending the STEM Equity Pipeline to Texas](#)
- [2011 STEM Equity Pipeline Institute Scholarship Application](#)

Angelina College

"Renewable Energy Development: Ethanol and Bio-Diesel Technology"

Project Description: "This project will create a curriculum of study that addresses the development of ethanol and bio-diesel technology."

Ethanol and bio-diesel will be incorporated into the American fuel supply in the next few years. Ethanol is being used currently for blending with gasoline and there are significant commitments made to increase its use in vehicles. Bio-diesel production is a viable alternative fuel and is growing in use. Ethanol production can be a profitable small farm (acreage less than 1,000) income stream in rural Texas. Ethanol and bio-diesel technologies incorporate portions of agriculture, electromechanical fields, manufacturing, refining and business into a specifically

focused program for small-scale ethanol and bio-diesel fuel production (less than 10,000 gallons per site).

Course outcomes (WECM) need to be developed including agricultural techniques and skills to grow, cultivate, harvest and prepare sweet sorghum and/or excess watermelon crops for conversion to ethanol. Other high-sugar content crops may be included. Technology course outcomes related to commercial fermentation, distillation, storage, transportation and refinement into fuel grade ethanol (~ 99%) have to be developed. Outcomes related from this type of ethanol production compared to cellulose ethanol production are similar if future bio-mass alternative fuel technology program(s) are developed.

Course outcomes related to East Texas specific regional crops could be incorporated or revised for arid crop ethanol production in other rural regions of Texas. Other colleges' alternative/renewable energy technology programs may include one or more courses. There are WECM courses with food/forage crop outcomes; however, no current WECM courses contain outcomes that have crop-based renewable/ alternative fuel focus. No course in Texas curricula contains fuel grade ethanol or bio-diesel technology outcomes. Results and description of the processes will be disseminated to other community and technical colleges at the conclusion of this project.

Award Amount: \$124,967

Project Director: Cecil Brewer, cbrewer@angelinacollege.edu.

Austin Community College **"Texas Network for Teaching Excellence"**

Project Description: "This project continues to develop and build a network of resources that are easy to navigate within higher education with an educational goal in mind."

The Texas Network for Teaching Excellence in Career and Technical Education (the Network) was established through funding from the Perkins State Leadership Grants Program. The Network has been a collaborative project led by Austin Community College District (ACC) that addresses the professional development and training needs of secondary and post-secondary career and technical educators in Texas.

Purpose - In this Program Year 2010-2011, ACC will lead the important work of continuing the Texas Network for Teaching Excellence's ongoing mission to provide professional development and training needs of secondary and post-secondary career and technical educators in Texas, but also will start new activities that expand the reach and audience of the Network. With the addition of new activities, the name for the project will become the Texas Network for Teaching Excellence (the Network). ACC will continue to partner with a number of statewide organizations, including the Foundation for Professional Excellence in the Community College. The project's basic methodology is to develop and sustain a tool (the Network web site) that disseminates project services across Texas.

Project Goal 1: To continue the previous mission of the Network (to addresses the professional development and training needs of secondary and post-secondary career and technical

educators in Texas) by developing, identifying, collecting and launching additional relevant content.

Outcomes of "Project Goal 1" in 2010-2011 will include: an increased number of content offerings, updated content offerings, an increased awareness of and participation in the Network and surveys that measure the effectiveness of the Network.

Project Goal 2: To develop, launch, publicize and sustain interactive online tools with the mission of reaching and guiding those who could benefit from higher education, especially career and technical education, and facilitating their path to enrollment and success in Texas institutions.

By developing tools for students and others who could benefit from higher education, the Network will help to "close the gaps" in participation and success. The 2010-2011 "Project Goal 2" outcomes will stem from two main activities. Network personnel will develop web tools and content that can be launched online in 2010-2011 (such as an online database of existing Texas CTE options). In 2010-2011, Network personnel also will develop and beta test additional web tools and content "behind the scenes" before launching them in 2011-2012. In addition to tool and content development, other outcomes will include: developing a crosswalk between Network content and other relevant online content and creating informational video segments to upload.

There will be a number of outcomes that pertain to both "Project Goal 1" and "Project Goal 2." These outcomes include: ensuring that additional services and opportunities have been provided to underrepresented groups and special populations, and ensuring that the Network's technology is the most current available and acting upon the Network's sustainability plan.

Award Amount: \$532,833

Project Director: Terry Mouchayleh, tstewart@austincc.edu

- <http://thetexasnetwork.org/>

Collin County Community College District **"Geared To Promoting Student Success"**

Project Description: "This project will initiate strategies and activities intended to produce a significant improvement in the number of post secondary students who enroll and complete AAS and certificate workforce programs at Collin College with the intent of ultimately being employed in the workforce."

GPS will incorporate successful initiatives begun under a previous grant that will serve as a launch pad for the strategies and activities of this grant. It is anticipated that activities that produce significant success will serve as models for statewide implementation.

Award Amount: \$83,000

Project Director: Janet Jaworski, jjaworski@collin.edu

- [Geared to Promoting Student Success](#)

Dallas County Community College District

“College and Career Readiness: Integrating with Career Clusters”

Project Description: “We are a key partner in bringing secondary and post secondary partners together to create a true career pathway.”

This project will accomplish two primary objectives: aligning *Achieve Texas’* Programs of Study with the College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) recently adopted by the State Board of Education and developing nine new programs of study at the Associate’s and Bachelor’s degree levels. These new programs of study emerged out of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) rewrite for Career and Technical courses that occurred over the past two years as a requirement of HB 3485. In order for a Program of Study to be considered complete, post-secondary coursework and programs must be included. Currently, there are only generic placeholders where the postsecondary information should be.

It is well documented that implementation of a successful career cluster system must have alignment among all stakeholders -- secondary institutions, postsecondary institutions (community colleges and universities) and perhaps most importantly, business and industry. *Achieve Texas*, the Coordinating Board’s Career Clusters State Leadership Project, College and Career Readiness Standards, and the Advanced Technical Credit (ATC) Program were all implemented with one or more goals of easing the transitions for students as they move from secondary to postsecondary. Each of the 122 Programs of Study at the Associate’s Degree and Bachelor’s Degree levels will be reviewed to ensure compliance with two aspects – that vertical alignment occurs with the new CTE courses at the secondary level and that recommended coursework and majors are incorporated into the College and Career Readiness standards.

Award Amount: \$100,168

Project Director: Shannon Weaver, sweaver@dcccd.edu

Website: www.txcareerclusters.org

- [Career Clusters Initiative](#)

Dallas County Community College District

“STARLINK”

Project Description: “STARLINK is an ongoing support partner with the state to develop Perkins relevant training videos and host relevant professional development materials on its website.”

STARLINK has collaborated with THECB for twenty years to deliver information and training across the state. STARLINK is self sufficient with only approximately eight percent of STARLINK’s operating budget derived from THECB leadership monies. STARLINK, via DVD and from its website www.starlinktraining.org , currently provides career and technical educators

over 150 hours of professional development annually and over 19,000 program viewings last year.

Outcomes of the project will be to:

- maintain and promote the use of existing professional development materials
- add two hour-long programs and twenty-five additional short teaching modules. The educational experts featured in these videos will provide career and technical faculty with research-based, easily implemented teaching strategies and/or information to improve student learning. Since each faculty member teaches many students each year one can see how just a few new strategies, correctly implemented, can raise a college's student success rate. STARLINK's professional development and informational programs are easily available on every technical and community college campus in Texas.
- disseminate Career and Technical Information to a wide range of academic institutions and public groups.
- create, in conjunction with THECB staff, two training videos that will relate directly to the administration of Perkins programs.

STARLINK partners with a variety of community colleges to deliver materials statewide to include: South Plains College and the Dallas County Community College District. These two entities will provide video server, bandwidth, and computer/internet technology assistance. El Paso Community College, Austin Community College, and the Dallas County Community College District will provide facility and personnel needs. TACE will collaborate on the CE modules.

STARLINK has an Advisory Committee made up of representatives from the Alamo Community College District, Texas State Technical College - Waco, Panola College, Amarillo College, South Texas Community College, Del Mar Community College and Brazosport College, Tarrant County College District, Austin Community College, Kilgore College, Midland College and the Dallas County Community College District. This advisory committee provides STARLINK with operational and program input.

Award Amount: \$151,095

Project Director: Henry Hartman, hhartman@dcccd.edu

- [STARLINK](#)

Del Mar College

"Skill Standards-Based Curriculum Development Project 2010-2011"

Project Description: "This project is designed to promote the role and awareness of skills standards among community and technical colleges by rewarding specific programs at institutions that incorporate Texas Skills Standards Board (TSSB) recognized curricula into their programs."

Specific deliverables with strict time tables are required of each institutional program seeking recognition and cash awards. The skills information will subsequently be shared with all CTE institutions.

Award Amount: \$65,000

Project Director: Larry Lee, llee@delmar.edu

- [Skills Standards-Based Curriculum Development Project](#)
- [Program Year 2011 - Request for Applications for Skill Standards-Based Curriculum Development Projects](#)

El Paso Community College District

"Career and Technical Education Statewide Marketing Implementation Project"

Project Description: "This project is responsible for the development and buy-in of a statewide approach to marketing Career and Technical Education as well as providing workshops to colleges and Tech Prep partners on how to use the marketing tool kit that is provided under this grant."

The outcomes of project will be to:

- Achieve buy-in from educational stakeholders at community colleges
- Educate students (lifelong learners, military, recent high school graduates, etc.) about post-secondary educational opportunities
- Help solidify public understanding of "what CTE is"

Award Amount: \$750,000

Project Director: Al Lawrence, alawren4@epcc.edu

Midland College

"Workforce Education Course Manual"

Project Description: "This project plans to provide four WECM workshops this year while emphasizing the use of career clusters."

This project plans to provide four WECM workshops this year while emphasizing the use of career clusters. The WECM (Workforce Education Course Manual) Project will continue the ongoing maintenance of the WECM database catalog of courses that comprise career and technology programs for community and technical colleges in Texas. Additionally, the project will provide the training associated with keeping practitioners informed of WECM protocol and work with the THECB staff to ensure a viable database is accessible to all community and technical colleges in Texas. Funds will be used to administer three to five course review workshops; to support WECM database revisions; to respond to online "WECM Comments;" to

support Perkins-funded projects concentrating on new career and technology education courses and initiatives for high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand occupations; to coordinate with the Career Clusters/Programs of Study Project; to provide professional development on the use of the WECM; and to administer other WECM activities as deemed appropriate by the THECB and the WECM Leadership Committee for the 2010-2011 program year. This project also includes activities of the WECM Leadership Committee during the 2010-2011 program year.

Award Amount: \$196,152

Project Director: Dawn Finley, dfinley@midland.edu

- [Texas Workforce Education Course Manual \(WECM\)](#)

Temple College

“Criminal Justice Faculty and Veteran/Military Students: A Partnership for Success”

Project Description: “Design a state-wide model for implementation across all CTE programs on how to create a holistic academic environment that includes recruitment, retention, and student success for veteran/military students.”

This project is designed to create a holistic program to recruit, support, and increase the number of veteran/military students completing nontraditional career and technical education programs. Military students have distinct issues, concerns and needs. This project will create a cooperative working agreement between El Paso Community College’s Criminal Justice Department and Temple College’s Criminal Justice Department to create a model for veteran/military student success. Although this project is initially targeting Criminal Justice Program students, it will serve as a model for the future development and implementation of military-friendly and accessible CTE Programs.

Award Amount: \$105,000

Project Director: Leslie Keeling-Olson, lkeeling@templejc.edu

- [Criminal Justice Faculty and Veteran/Military Students: A Partnership for Success](#)
- [Creating a Comprehensive Military and Veteran’s Assistance Program at El Paso Community College](#)

Tarrant County College District

“Expanding Energy Pathways: A State Model”

Project Description: “This project will expand and implement the State Energy Career Cluster model developed in 2009-2010 as it focuses on marketing the Energy Career Cluster curriculum to community and technical colleges and to the power generation industry.”

The marketing efforts to community colleges will include printed and electronic materials, conference presentations, and campus visits. Marketing to the industry will include mailings to managers and presentations at energy industry and related conferences to attract incumbent workers. The proposed project is the next step identified from the Energy Career Cluster project that was funded in PY 2009-2010. The project also will expand the Energy Career Cluster model into additional career specializations.

The outcomes of the project will be:

- the presentation of the Energy Career Cluster to all community and technical colleges in Texas
- expansion of the assessment process to validate industry training and articulate this training to college credit
- the development of a statewide advisory board to represent the Energy Career Cluster and to provide common guidance for all colleges that adopt the Energy Career Cluster.

Award Amount: \$99,000

Project Director: Garry Tomerlin, gtomerlin@tccd.edu

- [Expanding Energy Pathways: A State Model](#)

TSTC- Waco

“Incorporation of Smart Grid Training into Electrical Power Curriculum”

Project Description: “This project is designed to integrate training in smart grid technology into its Electrical Power and Control/Electrical Systems AAS program and Electrical Power and Control/Electrical Powerline Technician certificate program. It also will work closely with industry as well.”

Texas State Technical College Waco (TSTC Waco) is a one-year project designed to integrate training in smart grid technology into its Electrical Power and Control/Electrical Systems AAS program and its Electrical Power and Control/Electrical Powerline Technician certificate program.

Students currently going through electrical power and control training or lineman training should be receiving training in installation and utilization of smart meters to ensure that they are industry-ready when they graduate. In this project, industry experts will meet with the TSTC Electrical Power and Control (EPC) faculty to review the smart grid/smart meter technologies and to make recommendations about incorporating smart grid technologies into the EPC curriculum. In addition, EPC faculty will attend professional seminars for upgrade training in smart grid technologies. Faculty members will then revise the ELPT 2347 Electrical Testing and Maintenance course and the LNWK 2324 Troubleshooting Distribution Systems courses to include information and training on smart grid/smart meters. Additional smart meter equipment with laptops necessary for training will be acquired and installed in the appropriate EPC lab areas.

At the end of the project, the updated curriculum will be completed and initiated, and a conference devoted to smart grid technologies will be held on the TSTC campus with industry and educational partners invited to attend. Revised EPC course materials will be disseminated, tours of the upgraded lab areas given, and new articulation and partnership agreements will be discussed.

The immediate statewide impact is that Texas industries will have access to electrical power and control technicians and linemen with training in smart grid/smart meter technologies. Also, the upgraded curriculum elements will be made available to other Texas colleges with electrical power programs, beginning with colleges in the Texas Renewable Energy Education Consortium (TREEC), of which TSTC Waco is the lead institution.

Award Amount: \$51,828

Project Director: Dan Bateman, dan.bateman@tstc.edu

- <http://www.waco.tstc.edu/epc>
- <http://www.waco.tstc.edu/smartgrid>
- <http://www.waco.tstc.edu/epc/smartgrid/curriculum.php>