

**Work Group:** PreK-12 Education  
**Consultant:** Dr. Marcy Masumoto  
**Organization:** Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute  
**Quarter:** 4<sup>th</sup> 2008  
**Phone:** 559.304.2190  
**Email:** mmasumoto@csufresno.edu

**Description of Activity by Goal and Objective**

Based on the plan approved at the September Partnership Board meeting, this report is formatted by responsible entity as opposed to delineating all the goals and objectives which are embedded in the responsibilities.

**1. Top priorities and actions to be carried out by County Offices of Education (COE)**

- a. English Learners (EL) – led by Fresno County Office of Education (Fresno COE)
  - Fresno COE concluded training sessions for cohort 1 of the English Language Learner Leadership Academy in September, and this quarter compiled data based on new California Standardized Testing (ST) data and summarized participant feedback from their concluding survey. The second cohort of districts began the Academy in September and continued to participate in training sessions this quarter. (Please refer to the Seed Grant reports for more details.)
  - PreK-12 Education Work Group (PreK-12) identified schools in the region that had made significant progress with their English Learners and made plans with them to share their successful strategies in three break-out sessions at the January Exemplary Practices in Education Conference.
  
- b. Post Secondary Pursuits (College and Careers) – led by Kern County Office of Education (Kern COE)
  - Kern COE has been working on the proposal to develop the College/Career Centers in Middle Schools and development of a collaborative Web-based project focusing on college and careers for San Joaquin Valley (Valley) students. A planning meeting was held with the Kern Project Work Group to review the center requirements and the 20-step action grid which was presented to the San Joaquin Valley Project Leads Work Group on Oct. 27, 2008, identifying content development assignments and solidifying the industry-focused modules. The project lead also met with representatives of Central Valley Higher Education Consortium this quarter to enlist its help and support. The focus on providing industry modules to excite students concerning career options will make these college/career centers the bridge between academic learning and real world choices. Kern County COE staff continued to work on its Web site development this quarter.
  - PreK-12 also participated in a joint meeting with the Higher Education and Workforce Development and Economic Development work groups this quarter.
  - PreK-12 began an assessment of career education programs in the region that address the priority industry clusters of the Economic Development group. PreK-12 representatives attended and presented information about high school programs to the cluster meetings in Stanislaus County on Dec. 2, Tulare County on Dec. 3.
  - PreK-12 identified exemplary schools and programs in the two areas (college-going culture and career education), made contacts, plans and arrangements for six breakout sessions for the January exemplary practices conference.
  
- c. Pre-Kindergarten – led by Merced County Office of Education (Merced COE)
  - Merced COE has been working on the Preschool Coordination and Alignment Project (PCAP), and is wrapping up that Packard Foundation-funded project.
  - During the last quarter of 2008, PCAP continued to revise the report in development, “Preschool Planning and Implementation – Status Report for the San Joaquin Valley of California,” with feedback from Early Care and Education stakeholders from the eight-county region being studied. The 60-page document was distributed to various representatives throughout the Valley. One of the outcomes for PCAP was to convene a regional conference. As a result of discussions with PreK-12 Project Director, plans were made to include a preschool strand into PreK-12’s Exemplary Practices in Education Conference. PCAP promoted the conference to Early Care and Education professionals throughout the eight-county region and hired Dr. Karen Hill Scott to facilitate the conference. More than 70 people attended on Jan.13, 2009, at California State University, Fresno.

**Summary of Preschool Planning Status**

NO PLAN	CONSIDERING PLAN	PLAN IN PROCESS	HAVE PLAN	HAVE PLAN DORMANT	REVISING PLAN
Tulare	San Joaquin	Stanislaus	Fresno	Kern	Merced
	Kings		Madera		

Download the interim report of the [Preschool Coordination and Alignment Project](#) available on the Partnership's PreK-12 Education Work Group Web page.

## 2. Top priorities and actions to be carried out by Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute (CVELI)

- The major task this quarter for PreK-12 was making contacts, arrangements, outreach and registration for our regional Exemplary Practices Conference (EPC) for PreK-12 education, business, and community leaders on Jan. 13, 2009. Our two key note speakers, Dr. Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana, superintendent of schools for Pomona Unified School District, and Dr. James Lanich, Executive Director of Just for the Kids California were finalized as well as presenters for over 25 breakout sessions. A brochure was developed and distributed in our nine-county region, San Joaquin Valley counties and Mariposa County. The purpose of the conference was to identify schools, districts and programs in our region that have positive demonstrable impact on student outcomes, and share success strategies with others to impact schools and communities across the region. The conference was organized into nine strands with three workshops each on our priority topics: English Learners, PreK, College-Going Culture, Career Education, Reading, Data Systems, Computer Literacy, Partnerships and Collaboration, and Teacher and Administrator Training Initiatives. We made arrangements with administrative and doctoral students at California State University, Fresno, to help with data collection and report writing for a white paper summarizing the conference. For conference registration, we used the Region 7 Computer Technology Assistance Project, an online registration system. 300 participants registered.
- CVELI hosted a Legal Update on Collective Bargaining on Dec.12 for approximately 40 district leaders; on Nov. 12 held one session of the Executive Leadership Center for superintendents from six counties; and on Dec. 14 a teleconference with nationally known experts Drs. Rick and Becky DuFour for a maximum-capacity crowd of superintendents. Each session was part of 12 sessions planned for school leadership this year. Through the partnership between PreK-12 and Springboard Schools, direct coaching support is provided to teams of educational leaders in 17 Valley school districts; professional development on closing the achievement gap and English Learners also is provided to Valley districts through leadership networks in multiple locations across the region.
- On Oct. 15, eight to 10 members of PreK-12 attended a joint meeting with the Higher Education and Workforce Development Work Group and the Economic Development Work Group. Some of our members also attended and shared information about K-12 Career Education programs at the Dec. 2 and 3 Economic Development Cluster meetings in Stanislaus and Tulare.
- PreK-12 is assessing the progress of school districts participating in the data systems project with Cal-PASS to facilitate the transition between high school and higher education in the West Hills Community College District (WHCCD) and all school districts in the service area.

Several activities were completed to facilitate communications with and for the work group. Major meetings held this quarter, were:

- Nov. 24 A full work group meeting at the Merced County Office of Education included participation by five county superintendents of schools, Vince Stewart from the Secretary of Education's Office, Pete Weber, and 12 other work group members. Discussion included identification of legislative and funding priorities for our region.
- Nov. 21, Oct. 27 Conference planning meetings with the curriculum and instruction group.
- College-going culture project leader and work group consultant met with the public information representatives of the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium.
- Three issues were distributed through electronic newsletter (October, November and December).
- Planning calls with key stakeholders, county superintendents Lee Andersen and Larry Powell.
- Met with the secretariat's staff and attended one legislative staffers meeting.
- Continue to compile and post a compilation of news articles summarized on a monthly basis. to maintain the PreK-12 Web page.
- Joint meetings to develop a partnership proposal for funding from Living Cities for Urban Universities with Fresno Business Council and Fresno Unified School District representatives, Fresno State President John Welty, Fresno Compact, State Center Community College District and Fresno County Office of Education.
- Met with conference partners and sponsors from State Center Consortium, School Innovations Associates and Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt.

Special events attended this quarter included:

- Special foundation and funders dinner hosted by Fresno Regional Foundation (Oct. 2)
- California Latino School Board Members Association conference (Oct. 10-11)
- UC Berkeley College Tools Workshop (Oct. 14)
- Fresno Cultural Arts, Sciences and Humanities Annual Cultural Leadership Conference (Oct.17)

- Springboard Schools Mathematics training (Oct. 22)
- Presentation to Administrative Credential Program class (Oct. 27)
- Partnership Annual Meeting, Stockton, attended and presented a workshop (Dec. 11)

**Planned Activities by Goal and Objective (for next 3-6 months)**

1. Final plans and media outreach and hosting of our Exemplary Practices Conference, Jan. 13.
2. Host a meeting of leaders from California State University campuses of Bakersfield, Stanislaus and Fresno and Fresno Pacific University to share current plans and assist in developing other leadership opportunities in the Valley.
3. Work with the Anytime Anywhere Learning Foundation to expand to school districts in the region alternatives and resources available for enhancing computer literacy.
4. Monitor implementation of Cal-PASS in the target districts/area.
5. Identify curricula, programs and best practices in career education that support target industry clusters and disseminate information about exemplary programs at the EPC and/or Superintendents network.
6. Pursue funding alternatives to continue the work of the work group and broad-based regional activities that support the Strategic Action Proposal of the Partnership.

**Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback**

1. Securing funding and support to continue the Partnership and PreK-12 work.
2. As with all state programs, issues with the state budget and cutbacks for school districts continue to challenge.

**If you have coordinated any outreach, please describe briefly.**

The major outreach this quarter was the Exemplary Practices Conference including the conference brochure, which was widely distributed, and Web site postings on both the CVELI and Partnership Web sites.

PreK-12 also presented a workshop at the Dec. 11 Annual Meeting.