



California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

**To: All California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley
PreK-12 Work Group Members and Friends**

PreK-12 Education News and Updates June 2009

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2010 Exemplary Practices Conference to Feature Bill Daggett

Attention Valley Leaders: Mark January 20, 2010 on your calendars now for the next *Exemplary Practices in Education Conference: Engaging students in their learning, grades 6-16*. Thanks to major support of State Center Consortium, Dr. Willard "Bill" Daggett, President of the International Center for Leadership in Education, will be the keynote speaker and will exchange ideas in breakout sessions with K-12 site leaders, K-12 district leaders and attendees from higher education. Dr. Daggett believes that ALL students need an academically rigorous and relevant curriculum based on positive relationships, and his mission has become the focus of change and continuous school improvement for hundreds of districts and thousands of schools across the nation. He will identify best practices and success stories. Exemplary Valley schools and programs that focus on rigor, relevance and/or relationships as key factors to enhance student success grades 6-16 will also be featured at the conference.

We know budgets are tight and you will likely not have many opportunities for professional development next year, so we're creating this special opportunity right here in our Valley! We are waiting to hear about potential sponsorships, and have thus, not finalized the cost or registration yet for sponsorships yet. Please stay tuned... Help us spread the word about this exciting event. Find our Save-the-Date flier [here](#). Registration is available at: http://www.csufresno.edu/cveli/conferences_programs/index.shtml

If you have questions or suggestions for the conference organizing committee, please contact Marcy Masumoto at mmasumoto@csufresno.edu.
[Exemplary Practices conference materials available online](#)

The Exemplary Practices in Education Conference held on Jan. 13, 2009, at California State University, Fresno, was facilitated by education leaders from nine counties—Fresno, Kern, Kings,



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Madera, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tulare. Approximately 300 education, business and community leaders participated in this first conference. Central Valley Education Leadership Institute (CVELI) now has available online summaries of keynote presentations and more than 20 breakout sessions as well as links to resource materials and contact information on its Web site. Click [here](#) to view the presentations and other resources. Breakout sessions were conducted by Valley schools, districts and programs exemplary in: English Learners, College Going Culture, Workforce Development, Reading, Technology and Computer Literacy, Data Systems, Partnerships and Collaborations, Teacher and Administrator Training, and Preschool Planning.

2009 Conference Keynote Speaker is Obama's Pick

Those of us who witnessed Dr. Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana's keynote address at our Exemplary Practices Conference last January feel a special kinship and appreciation for President Obama's nominee for Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education at the US Department of Education. We were delighted to learn about Dr. Melendez' nomination on March 19 which can be found at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/President-Obama-Announces-More-Key-Administration-Posts-5/19/09/

Assuming she will gain confirmation to the post, we wish Dr. Melendez success in her new challenge and anticipate that she will use her experience as an English Learner, teacher, administrator and Californian to help us all as we strive to meet the needs of students in our region. Congratulations Dr. Melendez!

Congratulations Dr. Christine Frazier, Farewell Dr. Reider

Congratulations to our friend and colleague, Dr. Christine Frazier, who has just been appointed to follow Dr. Larry Reider as the new county superintendent of schools in Kern County. Christine has worked tirelessly on our college-going culture plan, and the development of a pilot project using the internet as a resource for valley students for seeking information and planning for post secondary options including college and career paths. For more on Dr. Frazier's appointment, please see a recent article in the Bakersfield Californian [here](#).

We would also like to thank Dr. Larry Reider for his support of the Partnership and activities of our work group. Dr. Reider, who has served the students of Kern County for over 30 years, is retiring as Kern County Superintendent of Schools on June 30. We will definitely miss his presence and can-do attitude. [Click here](#) to read a lovely article with testimonials about him. Dr. Reider, we will miss you and we wish you well!

Update on College/Career Centers in Middle Schools Project

Kern County Office of Education (KCOE) has been working to develop *College/Career Centers in Middle Schools and development of a collaborative web-based project* focusing on college and careers for valley students. The Kern County workgroup has put a lot of time into development of the college/career website. KCOE received a \$25,000 grant from AT&T and has purchased various software packages that will enable the site to have a very updated feel for the students. They have met with the two superintendents of the pilot school districts to explain the expectations for the project and have developed criteria for the selection of a control group that would be identified at the end of the 08/09 school year to be compared with the first participants in the college/career centers in 09/10.



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Contacts have been made with California State University Bakersfield and Bakersfield College to begin the filming of the virtual campus tours. Other higher education institutions throughout the valley will also be contacted to acquire video segments.

Filming has also begun on the industry clusters with narration by local high school and college talent. We hope to roll out the project with the pilot schools in August.

New PPIC Workforce Study Released

[Closing the Gap: Meeting California's Need for College Graduates](#), a new Public Policy Institute of California study was released in April. Anticipating that California will face a shortage of almost a million college-educated workers by 2025, the study finds that the education-skills gap could be cut in half by modest investments in programs aimed at expanding college attendance rates. This study reinforces our efforts to develop a college-going culture and enhance Post Secondary Options through college and careers for students in the San Joaquin Valley.

[Creating a Regional Voice for Preschool Planning and Implementation in the San Joaquin Valley](#)

As part of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley's *Exemplary Practices in Education* regional conference held on January 13, 2009 at California State University, Fresno a group of nearly seventy interested persons from eight San Joaquin Valley counties met to discuss the status of preschool planning and implementation in the valley. This imbedded preschool strand was funded by The David and Lucile Packard Foundation and was the culminating element of the Preschool Coordination and Alignment Project (PCAP). PCAP was funded to publish a written report on the status of preschool planning and implementation in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern counties and to use the report as a catalyst for conversation about the counties' interest in exploring a regional voice for preschool issues.

Dr. Karen Hill-Scott, a premier group facilitator and well-known preschool champion facilitated the day-long dialogue. The group reviewed the final draft of the preschool status report which can be reviewed [here](#). More important, it discussed rationale for and explored interest in continuing a regional preschool conversation. The group consensus was that the first step was to develop a regional message a draft of which emerged at the end of the day: *8 Counties, One Voice for Today's Children and for the Future of California's Great Central Valley – Beginning Now*. Nine persons (one from each county and a representative of the California Preschool Instructional Network) were identified to continue the regional conversation and to explore next steps. Merced County agreed to facilitate the process.

The work that Merced County is leading for our region is consistent with research conducted by RAND Corporation in the California Preschool Study. The RAND reports confirmed that early childhood education is a critical part of K-12 reform. The recent May 2009 report suggests improvement in Early Childhood Education systems, particularly in this time of fiscal crisis. Read about the RAND studies, including the most recent May 2009 release [here](#).

CVELI 2009-10 Program Schedule

Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute at CSU Fresno is offering a wide variety of professional development opportunities for educational leaders across the valley in 2009-10. Most of the program offerings support the Partnership's goals for PreK-12 Education with specific emphasis on continuous improvement through effective leadership practices. Some of the events include national speakers such as Rick and Becky DuFour whom you can see for a fraction of the



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cost it would be to see them outside the Valley. For a glimpse at the program offerings for 2009-10, please find the schedule and event registration links at the CVELI website:

www.csufresno.edu/cveli.

Work Group Update

Both the Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute and the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley have submitted grant applications to seek financial support to continue the work of our PreK-12 Work Group beyond June 30. To date, we have not yet received firm financial support, which is not at all surprising given the current economic crisis we all face. CVELI is committed to continue to do what we can to further implement the Partnership's strategic action plan and support PreK-12 educators to provide the best possible education to the students of our region. There is also a commitment on behalf of some of the county superintendents to do what they can; however, we are all waiting to see what shakes out with budgets for next year. That said, our Work Group has not yet clarified our plan and direction for next year, but look forward to remaining in contact with all of you virtually, if not directly, in the future. We will do our best to maintain our webpage at

http://www.sjvpartnership.org/wg_overview.php?wg_id=7. For further information and/or inquiries, please contact Marcy Masumoto, work group consultant, at mmasumoto@csufresno.edu.

Have a great summer!

For questions or suggestions, contact:
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