

Empowered for Success

A College and Career Newsletter for the Gulf Coast Issue 34 | Feb. 2013

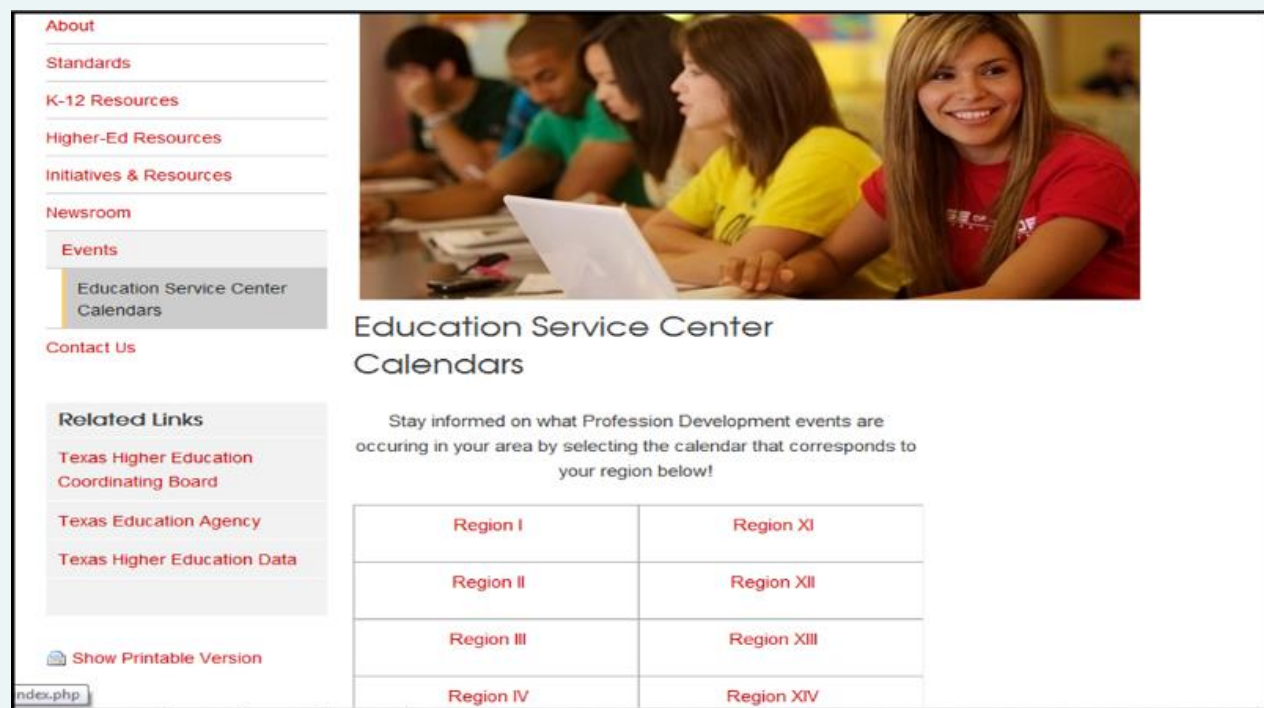
In this issue:

- [TXCCRN Events Resource](#)
- [Houston Pathways Initiative Overview](#)
- [Report: Top 10 Higher Education State Policy Issues for 2013](#)
- [Professional Development Calendar](#)

Online Resources: Regional and Statewide Events

Events going on in the ESC regions and around the state can be viewed easily at the [Texas College and Career Readiness Network](#) (TXCCRN) website!

The Professional Development calendar for all 20 [Educational Service Centers](#) (ESC) also can be viewed at www.txccrn.uh.edu/Events/ESC-Calendar. Select the desired region and be connected instantly to the appropriate ESC Region Calendar.



The screenshot shows the TXCCRN website interface. On the left is a navigation menu with links for About, Standards, K-12 Resources, Higher-Ed Resources, Initiatives & Resources, Newsroom, Events, and Contact Us. The 'Events' section is highlighted, and 'Education Service Center Calendars' is selected. Below the menu is a 'Related Links' section with links to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas Education Agency, and Texas Higher Education Data. A 'Show Printable Version' link is also present. The main content area features a photo of students, the title 'Education Service Center Calendars', and a paragraph: 'Stay informed on what Profession Development events are occurring in your area by selecting the calendar that corresponds to your region below!'. Below this is a table with 14 regions listed in two columns.

Region I	Region XI
Region II	Region XII
Region III	Region XIII
Region IV	Region XIV

Do you have an event going on in your region that also would benefit others outside of your region? [Contact us](#) with the [Events Submission Form](#) completed and attached, and the event will be featured on the monthly calendar for all of Texas to see!

Houston Pathways Initiative Overview

The [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board](#) (THECB) hosted a P-16 Institute in Austin, Texas on February 12, in which over a hundred high school and Higher-Education educators that form the P-16 Regional teams attended. At the P-16 Institute, Dr. Pam Campbell, Assistant Vice President for Educational Learning at San Jacinto College shared with the attendees The Houston Pathways Initiative, which is authored by herself and Dr. Catherine H. O'Brien, Associate Vice Chancellor for Learning at San Jacinto College.

Houston Pathways Initiative (HPI) was formed to help prepare local students to be college and career ready. Many of the initiative's activities have served as a catalyst for partnerships between secondary and postsecondary faculty - creating a backbone of support that will continue to exist in the future.

The initiative was formed by [San Jacinto College](#) and is funded by [Houston Endowment](#), with [Houston Community College](#) acting as a fiscal agent. Its partners are the THECB; the [Deer Park, Pasadena](#) and [Galena Park](#) Independent School Districts and the [University of Houston-Clear Lake](#) (UHCL). Another statewide supporter includes the [California Partnership for Achieving Student Success](#) (Cal-PASS), which provided guidance for the initiative.

The initiative planned four main activities to help educators be better prepared to develop college and career ready students:

1. Develop Faculty Vertical Alignment Teams that support the four main content areas of mathematics, natural sciences, English/language arts and social science
2. Create a system that contains accurate student data
3. Create within the student data system the ability for secondary and postsecondary educators to be able to access this data
4. Create within the student data system ways to track and use information pertaining to associate's degrees

One major step that the HPI made toward improving College Readiness was identifying the appropriate secondary courses that correspond directly to entry-level college courses. The authors also knew that in order for the initiative to be successful, there would need to be specific point-of-contact people dedicated to communicating information to secondary faculty and assisting with barriers that might occur. Two point-of-contacts were chosen from each school district, and three college faculty members were chosen for each of the content areas.

One of the main benefits since the establishment of the Faculty Vertical Alignment Teams is the beginning of tightening of gaps between secondary and postsecondary educators. During discussions between the four groups of faculty teams, several gaps between what was being taught in high school and what is required to enter college were identified.

Report: Top 10 Higher Education State Policy Issues for 2013

[The American Association of State Colleges and Universities](#) (AASCU) identified the top 10 issues

state policy makers and Higher Education officials will face in 2013.

The report states that 2013's top focus will be on improving the performance of the state's higher education institutions, followed by adapting to the new state funding given to universities, discovering ways to create college affordability and ensuring overall student success.

Many of the focuses will be influenced by President Obama's shift in priorities, which center around spending improvements, job creation as well as associated programs. Although each state's Higher Education overall theme will vary, it is expected that the majority of priorities will involve ways to make college attendance affordable so that student will be able to succeed and contribute to the economy.

Topic 5 on the report focuses on College Readiness across the states. One of the two main efforts of promoting College Readiness will be implementing the [College Career and Readiness Standards](#) (CCRS) in [Mathematics](#) and [English Language Arts](#). The second will be to change the way developmental education is conveyed to students. The report also recognizes that secondary issues will pertain to on-campus gun control and immigration topics.

View the full report: [Top 10 Higher Education State Policy Issues for 2013](#).

Professional Development Calendar

<u>Region 4</u>	<u>Region 5</u>	<u>Region 6</u>
March 8	March 8	March 4
Supporting STAAR Achievement in Science Grades 8 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	The Home Stretch: Social Studies STAAR/EOC Grade 8 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	STAAR Writing Expository Scoring Swap Grades 9 & 10 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
March 26	March 19	March 19
Instructional TEKS – Based Coaching and Professional Development (Social Studies) Grades K – 12 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	CSCOPE: Science Planning Lessons with Alignment and Networking 6th 6 weeks Grades 6 – 8 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	CSCOPE Social Studies Content Training for Grades Grades K – 5 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Empowered for Success is a monthly newsletter focused on college and career readiness in the Gulf Coast region.

The newsletter is made possible by a University of Houston grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Editor

Amy Williams, awilliams10@uh.edu

Contributing Editors

Jo Anne Davis-Jones, jadavis-jones@central.uh.edu

Chris Cheatham, ccheatham@uh.edu

Associate Vice President at University of Houston Agnes DeFranco,
adefranco@uh.edu

www.thecb.tx.state.us

www.txccrn.uh.edu

STAY CONNECTED

