FREE Professional Development Opportunities

Attention high school teachers: the CSU offers FREE professional development opportunities!

Mathematics: Available to mathematics high school Algebra II teachers and all who prepare students for the CST – Algebra II and/or High School Summative exams. The focus of this workshop is understanding how to help students sustain mathematics skills and avoid remediation courses when they enter college.

The Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC) a four day series intended for English teachers teaching grades 11-12 in California public high schools. The workshops provide an introduction to the materials contained in the CSU Expository Reading and Writing Course. High school English teachers who would like to pilot the modules from the expository reading and writing course should attend. To sign up for a math or English professional development workshop, please visit: http://www.calstate.edu/eap/support_hs_teachers.shtml

Reading Institute for Academic Preparation (RIAP) RIAP participants will receive:

- 60+ hours of cutting-edge professional development in academic literacy (e.g., strategies to aid student comprehension of content texts, vocabulary development, writing, and strategies for assessment)

Who should attend? High school teachers of English-language arts, English language development, history/social science, science, mathematics, and other content areas; department chairs, administrators and counselors. For more information, please contact the RIAP Director via email at: denise.fleming@csueastbay.edu

FREE Professional Development Opportunities

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The California State University is proud to offer an e-learning course to satisfy the CSU Entry Level Mathematics (ELM) Requirement so students can avoid having to take remedial courses at the CSU. In order to be eligible students must have already received a letter from their high school (or verified their status at www.calstate.edu/eap/) to ensure they are Conditionally Exempt from the ELM Requirement. Students are advised to read through the e-Learning Course FAQs http://www.csumathsuccess.org/elearning_faqs to determine if they are a good candidate for this course.

The math course is delivered online using ALEKS, a self paced math tutorial that focuses on Algebra, Geometry, and Numbers and Data. Students will need to dedicate time above and beyond their normal school work load in order to succeed.

Students who register for the course will receive an e-mail from a CSU ALEKS Instructor who will communicate with them periodically, follow their progress, and set up the proctoring of a final exam.

CSU instructors and tutors will be available to answer a limited amount of questions via phone and e-mail, but students are required to work with a local high school teacher, relative and/or tutor for extra support.

The cost of the program is $35, which may be waived for a limited number of applicants from low-income families.
On November 1, the CSU, East Bay Early Assessment Program (EAP) hosted its first annual High School Educators Reception. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for a number of county and district superintendents, principals, and counselors the opportunity to meet and interact with CSUEB faculty and administration. Dr. Carl Bellone, Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Graduate Studies, participated as keynote speaker. A panel was on hand to answer questions regarding the EAP program. The panel was comprised of faculty from CSUEB and local high schools as well as staff from the CSU Chancellor’s Office. Feedback to the event indicated the information was timely and very helpful. Similar presentations are now being made in Alameda and Contra Costa County high schools.

If you are interested in signing up your school or organization for an EAP presentation, please email your request to Claudia Quezada, CSUEB EAP Coordinator at: Claudia.quezada@csueastbay.edu; or call her at (510) 885-3996.

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In an effort to motivate and increase the number of Hispanic students graduating, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Contra Costa County (H5C) holds an annual educational conference. On November 3, 2006, the H5C hosted its 6th Annual Educational Conference in Los Medanos College.

Close to 300 Hispanic students from local high schools attended a 1/2 day conference to meet with Hispanic business and community leaders to discuss career opportunities, college education, and the importance of graduating from high school.

The CSU, East Bay Early Assessment Program (EAP) staff participated in college readiness workshops, provided EAP information for the students’ resource binders and was on hand to answer questions.

On January 27, 2007, CSU East Bay in collaboration with the Alameda County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Alameda County Office of Education, will host the 7th Annual Latino Educational Summit “Education—It’s Everybody’s Business.” The summit will be held in the university gymnasium from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission, lunch and parking are FREE. Registration is recommended to save your space.

The day’s activities will include presentations by inspirational speakers and workshops for parents, high school students, teachers, counselors, business and community members. Anyone who is interested in improving opportunities for families and youth should attend. For more information on the day’s activities, visit: www.csueastbay.edu/edsummit2007

Phone Registration: (510) 885-2514.
2006 EAP Results and 2007 Preview

How did students do?

In August 2006, scores were announced for the approximately 158,000 (38% of the total) high school juniors who had completed the California State University’s Early Assessment Program (EAP) for English, which tests students’ college readiness and preparation for the rigors of college-level work.

English EAP Results (Spring 2006)

The EAP in English requires students to complete an additional 15 objective questions and to write an essay that is read by CSU faculty, in addition to taking the California Standards Test in English and math. Of these students, 25% were judged to be ready for college-level work.

However, an additional 67,000 EAP essays in English were not scored at the time due to some confusion regarding test instructions. After the additional tests were scored in October, a complete set of EAP score reports was sent to school districts for distribution to students.

This represents a significant increase from 2005 when 186,000 juniors opted to take the voluntary assessment. Of these 210,000 students, 23% were assessed as college-ready (compared to 23.5% of the 186,000 last year).

Math EAP Results (Spring 2006)

Approximately 134,000 (72% of all high school juniors eligible to take the California Standards Test in math) opted to complete the CSU’s voluntary EAP. Slightly more than 55% were judged to be ready for college-level work in math. This represents an increase in both the number of students taking the test (from 119,000 in 2005), as well as the percentage of students eligible (69% in 2005) to take the CST who volunteered for the EAP.

There was a slight decrease (from 56% in 2005) in the number of students found to be college-ready due to the significant increase in the number of students who took the voluntary test, gender and disability.

New in 2007

Beginning with the spring 2007 EAP, students will no longer be required to fill in a “bubble” to guide the scoring of English EAP tests. All public high school juniors will have the opportunity to receive an assessment of their readiness for college work if they complete at least one EAP item. This change in reporting will eliminate reports of “incomplete” to students who participate in the early assessments.

New Website Design

Many teachers and administrators are familiar with the reporting of STAR data on the California Department of Education’s website, and the CSU is redesigning its EAP website results to follow the same format. In addition to providing information by county, district and individual school, the enhanced EAP website will provide information by subgroups on areas including English language fluency, economic status, parent education, and ethnicity. EAP 2006 Test Results are available at the following site: http://eap.ets.org/eap2006; STAR 2006 Test Results: http://star.cde.ca.gov/star2006/viewreport.asp
Early Assessment Program

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--Charles B. Reed,
CSU Chancellor

Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC) workshop comes to West Contra Costa County

Since the inception of the Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC) workshop, more than 1400 teachers from 350 California high schools have participated in the professional development series. In the Bay Area, by the end of the 2006/2007 school year alone, close to 100 Bay Area high school teachers will have participated in the ERWC.

One of the individuals that played a key role in connecting many of those teachers to the workshop is Ms. Karen Simontacchi, Secondary Literacy Specialist for the West Contra Costa USD.

Ms. Simontacchi attended the ERWC workshop series beginning August 1 and 2 where she met Dr. Nathalie Longrée-Guevara from the Alameda County Office of Education and the CSU, East Bay’s EAP Coordinator, Claudia Quezada.

Ms. Simontacchi commented what a great series the ERWC was, and how it would be great if it were held somewhere closer to WCCUSD for those teachers that could not make the drive to Hayward. It was that idea that brought forward the third workshop series which began on November 16 and 17 in San Pablo.

Karen invited teams of teachers from each of the six high schools in the district to participate in the four-day workshop. The workshop was also open to teachers from other districts in the Bay Area, and as a result, there were teachers in attendance from Oakland, Berkeley and Fremont.

So far teacher comments on the evaluations have been unanimously positive. In fact, after just two days of training, 4 high schools want to offer the 12th grade Expository Reading & Writing Course as an alternative to English next year, and another high school is seriously considering it. The next step will be to seek District and Board approval.

As Ms. Simontacchi visits high schools, teachers have been enthusiastically explaining how they have been adapting their curriculum in order to try some of the units. They indicate that student response has been positive.

Congratulations to Karen Simontacchi and all of the teachers that are participating in this ERWC series!