

REPORT OUT FROM BSI CTE REGIONAL CONFERENCE MEETING

Dates of Conference: March 11-12, 2009

Important Points Covered:

1. What are the basic skills students need to be successful in class or on the job?
 - a. Speaking English
 - b. Reading and Writing in English
 - c. Basic Arithmetic or Higher Math Skills
 - d. Employability or "Soft" Skills

2. Important Statistics
 - a. In 66% of low-income working families in CA, no parent has had any post-secondary education. **We rank dead last among the 50 states.**
 - b. Today, more than 4,000,000 (about 18%) of adult Californians 18 to 64 have not earned a high school diploma. **In 2020, that number will swell to 22% of the working-age population.**
 - c. Employment demands are rising while education backgrounds/success are falling.

3. Solutions Presented:
 - a. Career Academies in L.A. Community College District (including Trade Tech) and Fresno City College. Sometimes these Academies include "for credit" courses; sometimes they don't (as in "noncredit"). Many career paths are addressed at once (as well as basic skills), whatever that particular community's employers most demand.
 - b. Presentation given with regard to teach math in a contextualized framework, given by Dr. Yogesh Arora, Instructor for LA Valley College.
 - c. IBEST program in Washington State offers the most successful model for success with basic skills/CTE students. Credits are funded at 1.75 per unit because of a team-teaching environment which includes generally an on-site ESL instructor and a CTE instructor (for content in the particular career field). Students earn 5x more credits and are 15x more likely to complete course of study.
 - d. Means for analyzing particular lessons given called the "Lesson Study Project" located at ~~22~~.uwlax.edu/sotl/lsp. Offers step-by-step means for evaluating student learning (as opposed to the teaching), including forms.

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