



ICCB Career and Technical Education Department Update

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Exciting Times!

Over the last several years the Illinois CTE community has worked diligently to implement the vision of Programs of Study called for in Perkins IV. These efforts have not gone unnoticed. Recently the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) submitted the [Race to the Top](#) (RTTT) application to the U.S. Department of Education, and I had the privilege of working on one piece of that application that centers on Programs of Study. Specifically, the application calls for the development of STEM Learning Exchanges and puts the Illinois Programs of Study model at the core of these Learning Exchanges. Local Education Agencies (LEAs) will be expected to create one Program of Study consistent with the work done through Perkins. This is not to say they must create a CTE Program of Study, but rather they must create a Program of Study, be it in Humanities or a CTE field, consistent with the methodology and based upon the [guiding principles](#) that our system has worked so hard to develop. For this work to be recognized and to hold such a central place in this application speaks volumes about the efforts of the CTE system. I think we should all be proud!

Also, the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) recently rolled out the [Pathways to Results](#) (PTR) process. Thanks to the hard work of the Office of Community College Research and Leadership (OCCRL), we are integrating continuous process improvement into Programs of Study. This effort includes Partnerships for College and Career Success projects, community colleges, high schools, Education for Employment (EFE) regions, universities and employers. The approach builds on past successes to create Programs of Study that demonstrate clear connections between promising processes, practices and student outcomes. Why does this approach make sense? Because this approach helps to create educational programs that meet diverse student needs and contribute to P-20 education. The field will see resources coming available, training and more training, as well as process elements in report and plan requirements. Eventually program review and other institutional processes will be included. Recently, as I sat down and worked as a facilitator with one of the PTR groups, I was struck by the conversation they were having. In my mind they were talking about the exact issues that colleges and high schools need to pursue as they work to develop fully articulated Programs of Study. Watch for more to come.

According to a [National Governor's Association report](#)^[1], Illinois, along with every other state in the country, is seeing growth in green industry sectors (2009). In anticipation of this and consistent with many of the other efforts that are going on around the state, the ICCB and the ISBE applied for the Green Programs of Study Technical Assistance Academy for this year and were one of five states chosen. The team represented in this effort cuts across secondary and postsecondary, business and education and includes representation from the Governor's office as well as business representatives. As we learn more about Green Programs of Study we look forward to engaging you as well.

In sum, I believe that the work that the secondary and postsecondary CTE system has done in the past several years is coming to fruition. In trying economic times it is especially important to see CTE situated so well among the important education and workforce initiatives that are happening today. This visibility will help us to prepare for what is likely to be a challenging budget year. We are in an excellent position to argue our case and to ensure that students get the academic *and* technical knowledge and skills that they need to help strengthen the state's economy in this tough recessionary time.

Brian Durham
Senior Director for Academic Affairs and
Career & Technical Education

^[1]National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. (2009). *Profile of the Green Economy*. Accessed January 27, 2010 from: <http://www.subnet.nga.org/downloads/GEStateProfiles/ILLINOIS.PDF>.



City Colleges of Chicago

CTE Update

COMPASS Test Preparation

The district office is piloting a COMPASS test skills mastery class this spring semester. The class is being offered to the senior cadets enrolled in the CPFTA program, who previously failed to test at college level on the COMPASS test. The class is based on a self-paced internet based application called "myskillslab", sold by Pearson Publishing. Students take a pre-test, their deficiencies are identified by the application and a customized study plan is developed for the student. The student works through the plan, which includes exercises they need to practice. Additionally, faculty facilitators are in the computer lab with the students as they navigate through their study plan. At the end, the student takes a post test that should they pass, should indicate their success in placing on the COMPASS test. The students will also submit to taking the actual COMPASS test in May 2010. The short-term goal is to offer this skills mastery class to identified CPS students who are at risk of not placing at college level. The long-term goal is to offer the class to anyone who may feel they would not be successful at placing at college level on the COMPASS exam without refreshing their reading and math skills.

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) -City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) Partnership: Professional Development-DACUM training

In a combined effort to offer ongoing professional development to the career tech instructional staff in both school districts, CPS is offering a series of one-week training sessions on the DACUM methodology. DACUM is an approach to developing and designing career tech courses based on workforce needs articulated by industry leaders. To date, at least three of the seven colleges have at least one CTE faculty member trained on the technique. Both CPS and CCC, are working collaboratively to employ the DACUM method and are planning their first DACUM meetings, which should begin this spring and address at least one career cluster. The long-term objective is to create a formal environment in which industry and academic decision makers collaboratively develop initiatives that address the most current trends and workforce development needs in the market.

CPS-CCC Partnership: Strategic Planning and CPS Reorganization

Both partners continue to meet periodically to discuss short term and long-term strategies for developing programs that result in clearly identified programs of study. In the fall, the planning process was delayed due to the CPS organizational restructuring of the career tech education department and the creation of career academies. One of the CCC CTE departmental goals is to facilitate regular planning meetings between the college career deans and the CPS program coordinators who are assigned to specific career clusters while senior leadership continue to collaborate.

CPFTA Parent Night

The partnership hosted a successful Parent Night in the fall of 2009 at the Arturo Velasquez Technical institute. In attendance were representatives from all seven CCC colleges, the Chicago Police Dept., the Chicago Fire Dept., and Chicago Public Schools. The President of Daley College, Jose Aybar, welcomed the group and the evening ended with a Question and Answer session addressing parents' questions and concerns. A second parent night is scheduled for May 2010. This session will be offered to senior cadets only and their parents. The intent is to specifically address the needs of senior cadets as they plan and prepare for college or to enter the workforce.

Women Employed helps Connect Students with CTE

A cornerstone of Women Employed's mission to improve the economic status of women is helping low-income women move out of poverty. We see postsecondary CTE as a key contributor to economic advancement because it is a proven strategy for raising incomes. Community colleges, as the biggest provider of adult training and education to women and low-income people, are integral to our common goals.

There are **two new pieces of work from Women Employed that you will find helpful in your work and relevant to our efforts on the Illinois Shifting Gears initiative:** (1) the first Clear Connections Project (CCP) policy brief—; and (2) recommendations regarding the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA).

Policy Brief -

CCP is a Women Employed project that brings together Illinois community colleges and non-profits to improve success rates for non-traditional students by improving access to and quality of student supports. Twenty-seven (27) Illinois community colleges committed to this goal are represented on the CCP coalition and the number is growing.

Women Employed supports the passage of Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA) as a way to improve access to and completion of community college degrees. To improve the impact of SAFRA, we have offered suggestions to the Senate HELP committee that include: Dedicating resources to underserved populations; Implementing remedial and bridge programs; Building career pathways; and Providing the supports students need to complete programs.

Women Employed will continue to talk with legislators and staff as the bill progresses and look forward to working with the Illinois Shifting Gears team to ensure that our state is prepared to take full advantage of these grant opportunities once the Act passes.

For more information regarding the initiatives described in this article, contact Mary Kay Devine, Director of Workforce Development Policy, at Women Employed via email at mdevine@womenemployed.org.

PARTNERSHIP FOR SUCCESS

OAK FOREST, IL November 19, 2009 – Business leaders, community leaders, and school principals gathered Thursday evening for a reception following the seventh Principal For A Day (PFAD) program hosted by Career Development System (CDS), and its Business Partnership Advisory Council. PFAD pairs businesspersons with the principals of local public elementary, middle, and high schools. Each businessperson spends a half-day at their designated school and takes on the top role of the school under the guidance of the actual Principal. Participating in PFAD this year was Representative William Davis (D) of the 30th Representative District. A long time supporter of education in the state, Rep. Davis is a graduate of the Maya Angelou School in Harvey where he served as the PFAD. Following his day as a PFAD, Rep. Davis presented the Outstanding Partnership of the Year Award to the winning partnership of the previous year.

The 2009 Outstanding Partnership of the Year award was presented to Dr. Lela Bridges, Superintendent of Harvey School District 152 and Mr. Steve Purucker, President of the Tinley Park-Frankfort Rotary Club for their efforts in distributing dictionaries to the districts' third grade students. A \$1000 award was presented to the school of the winning partnership to be used towards the continuation of the partnership activities. Keepsake plaques were also presented to the school and the business partner. Presenting the award, Rep. Davis congratulated the winners and pointed out to all present that “students sit for the ISAT test for the first time in 3rd grade so dictionaries will prove to be very useful as they prepare for their class lessons and other tests.”

Career Development System is part of a statewide education system working jointly with business and education to improve the way young people are prepared for their future. CDS works with South Suburban College, ten local high schools and 19 elementary districts as well as parents, business, labor agencies, community groups and business organizations.

Illinois Office of Educational Services
Presents
CTE Works ~ Electronic Resources

The *CTE Works Electronic Resources Newsletter* is a virtual “one-stop shop” for valuable CTE information resources. The newsletter is emailed weekly to those with an interest in CTE and includes the resource title, a brief description and a link to the resource itself. ICCB staff currently distributes the *CTE Works* newsletter via listserv for Career Deans, Perkins Administrators, PCCS Coordinators, and Special Populations Coordinators. If you are interested in being added to the email list for this newsletter, please contact Tricia Broughton at tricia.broughton@illinois.gov.

Northern Region Update

The **Suburban Cook/Lake County/Chicago Regional Collaborative** is sponsoring a Programs of Study Summit on February 18, 2010. The Summit will be held at Moraine Valley Community College 7:30 a.m. (Breakfast) to 3:15 p.m. Among the featured speakers is Kimberly Green, Executive Director of the National Association of State Directors of CTE, whose topic is **Charting a New Course: Career Clusters, Programs of Study, and the National Perspective**. Rob Kerr (ICCB) and Mark Williams (ISBE) will provide the state perspective on the Programs of Study framework. Dr. Debra Bragg (OCCRL) will discuss the six guiding principles for Programs of Study and Dr. Robert Sheets (DCEO) will connect Programs of Study to the Science, Technology, Engineering and Manufacturing (STEM) initiative. There will be morning and afternoon breakout sessions on Connecting Systems; Students; and Content to Programs of Study. Registration is open until February 5th at www.macspartnership.com.

McHenry County College and its PCCS work closely with the McHenry County Work Force Investment Board. Joel Green (PCCS) regularly updates the WIB about Partnership activities. Joel and Tony Capalbo (McHenry County College) are on committees looking at the State of the Workforce in McHenry County. One of the committees is considering employer buy-in to use the Career Readiness Certificate. The PCCS, McHenry County College and the local Economic Development Corporations sponsor a **Careers in our County** day for students. This year, the event will be held at Woodstock North High School on April 29. If you would like more information about the event contact Joel Green at JGreen@McHenry.edu.

Dan Segebarth recently completed a review of the **Barriers and Accomplishments** reported by the Northern Region colleges and Partnerships in their FY'09 Final Reports. If you would like a copy of the document please contact Dan at Louseg@aol.com.

FY 2010 Connections Conference

The FY2010 Connections Conference will be held on March 10-11 at the Pheasant Run Resort and Convention Center, St Charles, Illinois. This will be the 21st year for this Conference. The conference brings together thousands of participants to learn, share ideas, and develop strategies. The Connections Conference is clearly focused on new and exciting practices in all discipline areas. It features presentations by and for teachers, counselors and other educators from Illinois and other states sharing innovative curricula, programs and instructional strategies that have been successful in their schools and colleges.

The goals of the Connections Conference are to provide experiences to grow professionally, to showcase exemplary programs, and to encourage school improvement strategies. The Connections Conference attracts educators from middle and secondary schools, as well as faculty and staff from community colleges, universities and other educational agencies. The Connections Conference draws nearly 1200 attendees and presenters each year.

The annual Connections Conference:

- Offers over 100 practitioner-based sessions in a 1 ½ day conference format
- Highlights best practices from middle level through postsecondary education
- Addresses the needs of teachers/instructors, administrators, and counselors
- Focuses on curriculum development and instructional methods, as well as guidance and advisement
- Illustrates how local, statewide, and national educational initiatives are linked
- Includes session topics related to school improvement and the High Schools That Work Key Practices. Topics addressed include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative Teaching Strategies • High Expectations Curriculum • Seamless Transition to Postsecondary Education • New Trends in Career and Technical Education • Transition from Middle School to High School • Integration of Academic and Career and Technical Education • Postsecondary Curriculum and Instruction • Enhancing Linkages from Secondary to Postsecondary Education • Business-Education Partnerships • Assessing Student Achievement • Postsecondary Career and Technical Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High School Reform Learning Standards Engaging Learning Activities Tech Prep Special Populations Workplace Skills School Improvement Work-based Learning Guidance and Advisement Small Learning Communities Career Clusters Development
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Individuals and groups may register for the conference by going to:

<http://www.connectionsproject.ilstu.edu/>. Registration may be completed on-line or with a hard copy registration form. The Connections Conference is sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education and is coordinated by the staff of Connections Project at Illinois State University through grant funding provided by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Update on Bridge Instruction

In the last *iForum* we provided you with an update on the State's participation in the Joyce Foundation's *Shifting Gears Initiative* and Illinois' plans for developing and implementing Bridge Instruction locally. We outlined our plans to create a framework for developing local Bridge programs and the related activities to support this effort. Since then several of these activities have been completed and much related work towards educating the system on the benefits of offering contextualized remedial/developmental education and CTE has been done.

ICCB staff has developed a set of Generic Course Codes for use with CTE/Remedial Education Bridge courses in the cluster areas of Health Sciences, Manufacturing, TWDL, and IT. These course offerings will be reimbursed at the vocational skills funding level. For more information on classifying existing course offerings as Bridge instruction contact Tricia Broughton at tricia.broughton@illinois.gov.

ICCB staff also held a pre-session workshop to the 2009 Forum for Excellence that provided an opportunity for those interested in learning more about Bridge instruction. Presentations on the *Shifting Gears* pilot sites and lessons learned from evaluation of those projects was shared. More information regarding the evaluation of the pilot sites can be found through the Office of Community College Research and Leadership (OCCRL) at http://occril.illinois.edu/files/Projects/shifting_gears/Report/SG_Policy_Eval_FINAL.pdf

In the near future Regional Meetings will be held across the state to provide more information on the benefits of Bridge instruction: combining contextualized academics with CTE to help prevent the need for separate remediation, better preparing students for transition into a career or postsecondary program of study. More information on the Regional meetings is available in this issue. (see next page)

We are on the web@
www.iccb.org/cte.html

ICCB CTE STAFF

Brian Durham

Senior Director for
Academic Affairs and
Career and Technical
Education

Rob Kerr

Director for Career and
Technical Education

Tricia Broughton

Associate Director for
Career and Technical
Programs

Kristy Morelock

Associate Director for
Career and Technical
Education—Programs of
Study

Ann Knoedler

Assistant Director for
Career and Technical
Education

Bernie Ferreri

Chicago Region
Consultant

Dan Segebarth

Northern Region
Consultant

Sue Petrilli

Central Region Consultant

Terry Clark

Southern Region
Consultant

SAVE THE DATES



On March 9, 2010 and again on June 2, 2010 the Illinois Community College Board, will be sponsoring a **Women in Green** workshop, in partnership with the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor, and the Illinois State Board of Education. The Workshop, hosted by the Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support (ICSPS), will examine the programs and initiatives which are in place to support the development and advancement of green occupations in Illinois. Please plan to attend this informative pre-session to the Connection Conference, where you can share and gather information on the unique role of women in green technology, existing "green" careers and examine examples of effective practices in "going green." To learn more and to register visit www.icspsilstu.edu.

Building Bridges to Success Regional Workshops

"The goal of bridge programs is to sequentially bridge the gap between the initial skills of individuals and what they need to enter and succeed in postsecondary education and career path employment." ~ Illinois Bridge definition. The workshop will include information on strategies for creating and enhancing Bridges; information on state resources and policies that support Bridges for adult and development education students; and provide an opportunity for you, the stakeholders, to share information and gather ideas on the needs and what's working in your local areas.

Meeting Dates and Locations

Southern Region:	February 23, 10am-3:30pm	Lewis & Clark Community College
Central Region:	March 3, 10am - 3:30pm	Lincoln Land Community College
Northern Region:	March 24, 10am - 3:30pm	Harold Washington College

To register, complete the form found at <http://iccbdsrv.iccb.org/buildbridges/registration.cfm>

For more information, contact Shifting Gears Project Coordinator, Cathy Kirby, at ckirby@illinois.edu. You may also contact ICCB staff: Lavon Nelson, Jennifer Foster or Tricia Broughton for information

Central Illinois Alliance (CIA) Regional Collaborative Upcoming Events

The next meeting of the Central Illinois Alliance Regional Collaborative will be held on Wednesday, February 17, in the Workforce Development Resource Center, Rooms 1143 & 1144, on the campus of Lincoln Land Community College from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The focus of the meeting will be Programs of Study. Agenda items at this time include updates from ICCB, reports from recent conferences, Local Implementation Grant/PTR team updates, and discussion/sharing of Programs of Study templates.

On Friday, April 9, the CIA is hosting a workshop with Dr. Karen Alexander, State Coordinator of Achieve Texas, who will be presenting on the development and implementation of Programs of Study in Texas. Time and location are yet to be announced.

8th annual Career Clusters Institute

Registration is now open for the 8th annual Career Clusters Institute June 14-16, 2010 at the Denver Marriott Tech Center in Denver, CO. This year's theme is *Using Career Pathways to Reach New Heights*. The Institute promises to give you more of what you are looking for – sessions and workshops organized into strands designed for specific groups, with more hands-on breakouts. These strands include: Career Clusters as a Model for Collaboration, Innovations in Implementing Career Clusters, Career Clusters and Programs of Study: Guidance, Instruction, and Assessment, and Instruction and Innovations in One of the 16 Career Clusters. Attendees may register as individuals or collectively as a team. The team concept allows for seven or more people from a school, institution, or district to register as a group. Please go to the following website for more information or to register.

<https://www.careerclusters.org/registration/>