

H-SCHOOL TIMES



NEWS FOR TEXAS 21st CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

Issue No 1 - October 2005



Save the Dates for a 2006 Afterschool Kickoff



First statewide conference for
Texas 21st CCLC program staff
Thursday / Friday, July 27-28,
2006

Renaissance Hotel
Austin

Enrich your team so you can enrich
your students! [More](#)

21st CCLC Task Force Gathers Ideas



What does a successful 21st
Century Community Learning
Center look like? How do its
afterschool enrichment activities
support the Texas Essential
Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)?
How do we measure success?
And how do we sustain programs?
[More](#)

Facilitator Develops Training Process for Texas 21st Grantees

SUMA/Orchard Social Marketing,
an Austin-based firm with a history
of collaboration with the Texas
Education Agency (TEA), has been
selected to serve as the facilitator
for the 21st Century Community
Learning Centers (CCLC). [More](#)



News You Can Use

[Grant and Funding Opportunities](#)

[Sound Bites](#)

[What is Service Learning](#)

[Web Site Worth Visiting](#)



Dear Texas 21st CCLC Grantees,

Welcome to the first issue of your very own newsletter. Although you share common goals to help Texas students, your programs are all unique. We hope this will be one of several new tools through which you can share your many ideas, success stories and learn new ways to enrich and continue building diverse, creative and sustainable programs.

You are an energetic group with lots of experience and aspirations. I hope you will share them with each other through this newsletter. And share this newsletter with all your staff members. We hope to bring you learning opportunities for every staff member.

Geraldine Kidwell
Program Administrator
High School Completion and Student Support Programs
Texas Education Agency

Meet Your Nurturer!



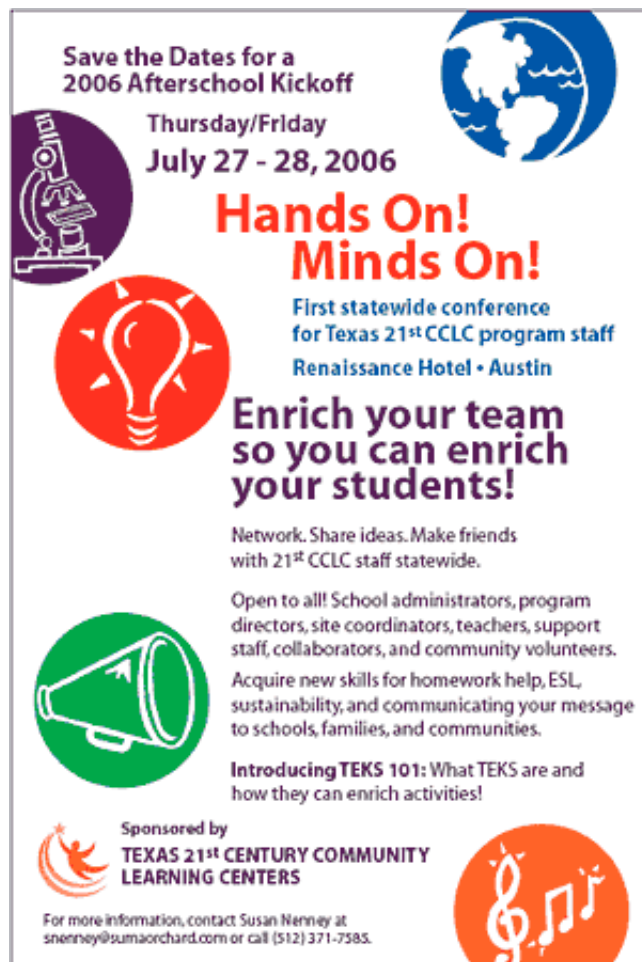
Each 21st CCLC grantee has a geographically-based field representative known as a Nurturer. Each nurturer provides support and encouragement to grantees in their area through training, technical assistance, and capacity building consultation.

[More](#)

[Home](#)

Coming next July!!!

Get ready for the first ever statewide conference for Texas' own 21st Century Community Learning Center program staff and leadership. Throughout these two days of intense learning we will take a fresh look at programs, analyze crosscutting issues in afterschool programs, and learn how to more effectively incorporate important practices of public relations, diversity management, steps to sustainability, useful skills for every program stage, and many other practices essential to top quality programs. We hope you will take this great opportunity to learn what's happening across Texas and to swap ideas and experiences with Texas 21st CCLC colleagues.



Save the Dates for a
2006 Afterschool Kickoff

Thursday/Friday
July 27 - 28, 2006

**Hands On!
Minds On!**

First statewide conference
for Texas 21st CCLC program staff
Renaissance Hotel • Austin

**Enrich your team
so you can enrich
your students!**

Network. Share ideas. Make friends
with 21st CCLC staff statewide.

Open to all! School administrators, program
directors, site coordinators, teachers, support
staff, collaborators, and community volunteers.

Acquire new skills for homework help, ESL,
sustainability, and communicating your message
to schools, families, and communities.

Introducing TEKS 101: What TEKS are and
how they can enrich activities!

Sponsored by
**TEXAS 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY
LEARNING CENTERS**

For more information, contact Susan Nenny at
snenny@sumaorchard.com or call (512) 371-7585.

Also in this issue:

[Hands on! Minds on!](#)

[Facilitator Develops Training Process for Texas 21st CCLC Grantees](#)

[Meet Your Nurturer!](#)

[News You Can Use](#)

[Home](#)

[Home](#)

Facilitator Develops Training Process for Texas 21st CCLC Grantees

SUMA/Orchard Social Marketing, an Austin-based firm with a history of collaboration with the Texas Education Agency (TEA), has been selected to serve as the facilitator for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC). The staff of SUMA/Orchard will work with a designated task force of 21st CCLC staff members to design, develop and implement a new locally-focused training program for 21st CCLC staff and collaborators. Training within geographic regions will focus on building successful, sustainable programs as projects prepare for the cessation of grant funds.

Integration of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills into student enrichment activities, building strong partnerships with day schools and local communities, and engaging families will be central aspects of training. The multiple-module training package will be tailored to local program needs and requests and will provide support to all levels of staff.



Also in this issue:

[Hands on! Minds on!](#)

[21st CCLC Task Force Gathers Ideas](#)

[Meet Your Nurturer!](#)

[News You Can Use](#)

[Home](#)

[Home](#)

21st CCLC Task Force Gathers Ideas

What does a successful 21st Century Community Learning Center look like?

How do its afterschool enrichment activities support the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)? How do we measure success? And how do we sustain programs?

A Texas 21st Century Community Learning Center Task Force met in June in Austin to examine these questions and others as the foundation of a new training process for 21st CCLC program staff. Participants included twenty experienced Texas 21st CCLC afterschool program staff members from all regions of Texas who brainstormed ways to strengthen afterschool programs. SUMA/Orchard Social Marketing, the 21st CCLC facilitator for the new training process, compiled the group's findings as a road map for future regionalized training.



The Task Force identified five components needed to create programs that compliment the TEKS: interactive learning, seamless school day/afterschool coordination, academic achievement, invested community and engaged families. Participants also identified critical program success factors including assessing needs, hiring and training quality staff, implementing data driven programs (assess and use data), building community awareness and building bridges to family involvement.

These elements have interrelated and synergistic relationships and lead to programs that are valued by the community, and when valued, are likely to be sustained within the community. The group concluded that while the task is challenging, successful programs can help insure the success of Texas students.

Also in this issue:

[Hands on! Minds on!](#)

[Facilitator Develops Training Process for Texas 21st CCLC Grantees](#)

[Meet Your Nurturer!](#)

[News You Can Use](#)

[Home](#)

[Home](#)

Meet Your Nurturer!

Each 21st CCLC grantee has a geographically-based field representative known as a Nurturer. Each nurturer provides support and encouragement to grantees in their area through training, technical assistance, and capacity building consultation. They visit sites and offer on-call assistance. Nurturers also can provide technical assistance related to routine grant requirements such as amendments, continuation applications, and reporting evaluation information.

Nurturers are excellent facilitators and encourage communication among directors, site coordinators, and administrators. They can also help interpret grant requirements and intentions.

Pictured at a recent Nurturers meeting are Geraldine Kidwell, State Coordinator, 21st CCLC; Becky Graham, Grant Facilitator, Education Service Center 12; Lois Cunningham, Nurturer, Region 4; Jean Dickerson, Nurturer, Region 10; Eileen Beiersdorf, Nurturer, Region 12.



Also in this issue:

[Hands on! Minds on!](#)

[21st CCLC Task Force Gathers Ideas](#)

[Facilitator Develops Training Process for Texas 21st CCLC Grantees](#)

[News You Can Use](#)

[Home](#)

[Home](#)

News You Can Use

Funding Opportunities

Afterschool Program funding is definitely out there. Visit the Afterschool Alliance website's funding section at afterschoolalliance.org. This link will connect you to federal, state, local, private, and in-kind contribution funding streams available to you. Check it out!

Making the Case: A fact sheet on children and youth in out-of-school time.

Evidence-based outcomes support after-school programs

"Significant research shows that participation in afterschool programs is positively associated with better school attendance, more positive attitude towards school work, higher aspirations for college, finer work habits, better interpersonal skills, reduced drop out rates, higher quality homework completion, less time spent in unhealthy behaviors and improved grades." (Excerpt from the National Institute on Out-of-School Time, Center for Research on Women, Wellesley College). Complete fact sheet available at www.niost.org

What is Service Learning?

Service-Learning is one of many forms of experiential learning and community service opportunities which can provide both enrichment and academic support in afterschool programs. It can be distinguished in the following ways:

- Connection to Curriculum – Integrating learning into a service project is key to successful Service Learning. Academic ties should be clear and build upon existing disciplinary skills.
- Youth Voice – Beyond being actively engaged in the project itself, students have the opportunity to select, design, implement, and evaluate their service activity.
- Reflection – Structured opportunities are created to think, talk, and write about the service experience. The balance of reflection and action allows a student to be constantly aware of the impact of their work.
- Partners in the Community – Partnerships with community agencies are used to identify genuine needs, provide mentorship, and contribute assets towards completing a project. In a successful partnership, both sides will give to and benefit from the project.

Web Site Worth Visiting

New Toolkit Teaches Afterschool Providers Innovative Ways to Support Student Learning

New literacy tools are online at www.sedl.org/afterschool/. The literacy component is the first of six key areas of resources to be offered in "The Afterschool Learning Toolkit: Building Quality Enrichment Activities", a project of the National Partnership for Afterschool Learning. Other areas which are scheduled to be online in the coming months are arts, math, science, technology, and homework help. Available online, the toolkit includes sample lessons by grade level and tips for practitioners. There are also videos that allow afterschool practitioners to see activities firsthand, such as one in which seventh- and eighth-graders at the Children's Aid Society in New York City create an original play inspired by the Mirabel sisters' struggle for freedom in the Dominican Republic. The toolkit's sample activities include learning goals, directions, and potential results.

The Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory in Portland, Oregon, one of the members of the National Partnership, developed the literacy section of the toolkit. For more information, please call 800-476-6861 or e-mail info@sedl.org.

ServeNet SERVEnet.org is the premier Web site on service and volunteering. Users enter their zip code, city, state, skills, interests, and availability and are matched with organizations needing help. SERVEnet is also lists calendar events, job openings, service news, recommended books, and best practices.

Also in this issue:

[Hands on! Minds on!](#)

[21st CCLC Task Force Gathers Ideas](#)

[Facilitator Develops Training Process for Texas 21st CCLC Grantees](#)

[Meet Your Nurturer!](#)

[Home](#)