

Celebrating 10 Years
1999 - 2009

Academic Advancement

California Reading and
Literature Project (CRLP)

California State Summer
School for Mathematics and
Science (COSMOS)

Early Academic Outreach
Program (EAOP)

GEAR UP Partnerships -
North Monterey County,
Pajaro Valley & South
Monterey County

Girls in Engineering

Mathematics, Engineering,
Science Achievement Schools
Program (MESA)

San Jose California Student
Opportunity and Access
Program (San Jose Cal-SOAP)

Transfer Partnerships
Program (TPP)

PRESS RELEASE

Jaimie E. Vargas
Director of Development & Communication
Mobile: (831) 239-9130
Direct: (831) 459-1747
Email: jevargas@ucsc.edu

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EDUCATORS, PARENTS GATHER NOV. 14 AT CSU MONTEREY BAY ON FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN COLLEGE-GOING PATHWAYS **Monterey Bay Educational Consortium Hosts Special One-Day Forum**

(SANTA CRUZ, CA) – Educators, parents, researchers, and program practitioners from Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties will convene on Friday, November 14, for a special, one-day forum on family involvement in education to increase success on college pathways. Access to postsecondary education, college preparation, and other family-school-community issues will be the focus of the conference, which will take place at the new Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library on the CSU Monterey Bay campus from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

“It is important to bring people from different organizations and agencies together to explore the range of family involvement efforts and also develop a community of learners across the region,” said Carrol Moran, executive director of the UC Santa Cruz Educational Partnership Center (EPC). “We know that parents especially are key to student success and academic achievement.”

The Nov. 14 forum, “Family Involvement Forum: Pathways to College,” is being organized by EPC on behalf of the Monterey Bay Educational Consortium (MBEC). The consortium brings together top administrators from regional K-12 schools and districts, county offices of education, and colleges and universities to align services and build intersegmental partnerships to improve student learning, academic achievement, and quality teaching for all students. Special funding and support for the forum generously provided by CSU Monterey Bay, UC Santa Cruz, and the Bridging Multiple Worlds Alliance.

Since its inception, MBEC has made great strides in support of data-driven reform, curriculum alignment, educational efficacy through the development of college-bound curriculum, and community mobilization. Family involvement is a critical factor in students’ success in high school and enrolling in college and pursuing postsecondary education opportunities. “When I talk to

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students from underrepresented backgrounds and ask them what helped them to succeed, they always respond that it was their parents who encouraged them and supported their dreams,” said Moran.

MBEC is sponsoring this forum on family involvement to create a support network among parents, program staff, and school representatives as well as begin to develop solutions to regional challenges. The forum will also link research and best practices to help develop models for family involvement efforts to make a sustainable impact on college-going rates and leverage the resources and expertise across the region.

More than 100 educators; district and county administrators; family resource center directors; practitioners; researchers and university faculty; and parents from Watsonville/Pajaro Valley, Monterey peninsula, and south Monterey County will attend the forum. MBEC co-chairs George R. Blumenthal, chancellor of UCSC, will provide welcome remarks, and Dianne F. Harrison, president of CSUMB, will offer closing remarks. In addition, the forum will feature the following confirmed presenters and speakers:

- Dorma Baker, Superintendent, Pajaro Valley Unified School District
- Elizabeth Bliss, Manager, Office of Parent Education & Involvement, San Jose Unified School District
- Janet Chrispeels, Professor in Education Studies, UC San Diego
- Catherine Cooper, Professor of Psychology, UC Santa Cruz
- Bill Erlendson, Asst. Superintendent, San Jose Unified School District
- Margarita Gonzalez, Director of Research and Evaluation, Center for Educational Leadership and Effective Schools, UC Santa Barbara
- Phoebe Knight Helm, President, Hartnell College
- Nancy Kotowski, Monterey County Superintendent of Schools
- Carolyn Post, Superintendent, North Monterey County Unified School District
- Stan Rose, Superintendent, San Benito High School District
- Elizabeth Schilling, Program Co-Director, Live Oak Family Resource Center
- Lilia Tanakeyowma, Dean, Student Affairs, Santa Ana College
- David Valladolid, President/CEO, Parent Institute for Quality Education
- Michael Watkins, Santa Cruz Superintendent of Schools
- Esperanza Zendejas, Superintendent, Alisal Union School District

The morning presentation will feature the Padres Promotores de la Educacion from the Santa Ana Partnership, followed by a discussion with the Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools. The afternoon presentation will focus on two family involvement programs, Parent Institute for Quality Education and MALDEF Parent School Partnership, including a research study from UCSD and UCSB faculty. Following both presentations, participants will convene in smaller facilitated breakout sessions for further discussion and problem solving. The Monterey County Superintendent of Schools will moderate a special panel in the afternoon, featuring K-12 district superintendents reflecting on their vision for family involvement. A full schedule is available online at <http://epc.ucsc.edu/MBECfamilyforum>.

For more information about the Nov. 14 Family Involvement Forum or other media inquires, please contact JAIMIE VARGAS, EPC Director of Development & Communication at (831) 239-9130 or jevargas@ucsc.edu. This event requires advance registration to attend.

About Monterey Bay Educational Consortium

Monterey Bay Educational Consortium (MBEC) is a strategic alliance among the public educational institutions in the Monterey Bay area dedicated to increasing the levels of educational attainment of all students in the region by focusing on collaborative activities. MBEC convenes the top administrative officers of the Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito County Offices of Education; school districts; regional community colleges; CSU Monterey Bay; and UC Santa Cruz on a quarterly basis. Together, they improve curriculum, pedagogy, and educational policy and work to increase the public's understanding and support of local educational institutions.

About UC Santa Cruz Educational Partnership Center

Established in 1999, the Educational Partnership Center (EPC) coordinates new and ongoing academic preparation efforts on behalf of UC Santa Cruz with the goal of increasing access and opportunity to higher education for students across the Monterey Bay and San Jose/Silicon Valley regions. EPC is a research- and data-driven, umbrella organization for an array of integrated academic preparation programs, serving students, teachers, and families from kindergarten through college. The mission of the Educational Partnership Center is to create college-bound communities that improve student learning and increase college-going rates among students from low-income and traditionally non-college-going families in collaboration with school, college, business, and community partners. In January 2009, EPC celebrates its 10th anniversary.

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