

**East Area One Educational Task Force**  
**Thursday, April 7, 2016, 3:30 – 5:00 PM**  
**Location: Ventura College Santa Paula Site**

**Present:** Kay Faulconer, Stefan Cvijanovich, Tim Harrison, Tracy Perez, Perry Martin, George Williams, Beatriz Zizumbo,

**Recorder:** Sabrina Canola

**Meeting Notes:**

Agenda Item	Summary of Discussion	Action (If Required)	Assigned to:
Welcome and Introductions			
Announcements	Ventura College is hosting a Diversity in Culture Festival April, 12, 13, and 14. This a public event will have all-day entertainment, speakers, art, cultural food and other activities.	Send event flyer to the Task Force.	Sabrina
Guest Speaker: Tracy Perez, United Staffing Associates	<p>Tracy Perez, Chair of the VC Civic Alliance, is branch manager for United Staffing Associates. This staffing agency assists both employers and job seekers with staffing, hiring, recruiting, safety training, and support with skill testing. A new branch was recently opened in Santa Paula.</p> <p>Tracy shared the following video clips with the Task Force:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Spotlight on the Skill Gaps</b>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgFaieS1wMs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgFaieS1wMs</a></li> <li><b>Staffing Firms Respond to the skill gaps</b>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0UUs3oblSE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0UUs3oblSE</a></li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tracy shared her experiences working with employers and job seekers.</li> <li>She indicated that one of the best things educators can do is focus on their Career Centers, to help students prepare for interviews, learn about career paths, and understand the skills needed for their career choices.</li> <li>Specific skills many employers seek are proficiency in Excel and computer literacy.</li> <li>She described that the labor pool in Ventura County is very tight, especially in Ventura County's smaller towns. It's common for people to</li> </ul>		

	<p>not want to work outside of their city, which creates a challenge for cities such as Santa Paula, due to people not wanting to leave their town to work in Santa Paula.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Companies are very protective of their pay rates, which results in many job postings no longer include salary information. Companies are afraid of competitors, recruiters, etc.</li> <li>• Some employers have high expectations for their employees, but pay below market rate. United Staffing Associates will work with employers and encourage more adequate pay in order to attract more qualified employees.</li> <li>• Stefan and George recommended that the staffing agency communicate with students about soft skills, and visit high school career centers to make a connection. Tracy is happy to help and can visit the high schools or send one of her recruiters.</li> </ul>		
<b>Superintendent/ President Reports and Updates</b>	<p><b>a. Santa Paula Unified School District (George)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• George shared that Santa Paula High School will debut an Agriculture Business pathway, as well as several others in the upcoming academic year.</li> <li>• Santa Paula High School started the Get Focused, Stay Focused program this year.</li> </ul> <p><b>b. Fillmore Unified School District (Stefan)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stefan announced that FUSD was awarded 2.5 million to fund a preschool program over the next two years. The goal is to expand existing preschool, and add new preschools to campuses which do not have a program, including in Piru.</li> <li>• The preschool grant will work in conjunction with the AB104 Adult Ed Block Grant, because parents will be able to drop children off at preschool in order to attend Adult Ed classes.</li> <li>• Stefan recommends expanding partnerships with the business world and higher education to have them visit the high school campuses and speak with students on a regular basis, as a way to reinforce their presence to students.</li> </ul> <p><b>c. Ventura College (Tim)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tim announced VC's new Workplace Essentials Program. This program is designed to provide free classes to high school graduates and adult students with technology and workplace skills</li> </ul>	<p>George will share the Career Pathways flyer with Tim.</p> <p>Stefan will share the FUSD's Career Pathways with Tim</p>	<p>George</p> <p>Stefan</p>

	<p>to enhance their employability and provide value to employers. Classes are free.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tim indicated that VC is going through a re-organization. New discussions are taking place concerning the Santa Paula Site, and more emphasis on providing services in Fillmore. Decisions will be predicated on fiscal resources.</li> </ul>		
<b>Programming Discussion</b>			
<b>Timeline April 2016 – June 2016</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be no meetings in June or July. Perry will concentrate on focus groups and with contacting business leaders.</li> <li>• August and September will be the Task Force's final meetings to finalize the report. The Task Force may need to meet twice during these month.</li> <li>• The goal is for the report to be presented to the Boards of Trustees in October, 2016.</li> </ul>		
<b>Schedule Next Meeting</b>	<p>Thursday, May 12, 2016 3:30-5:00pm VCSP-6</p>		