SHOP TALK # 67: Tex-BEST Summit 2013

The 4th Annual Workforce Literacy Summit, Tex-BEST, will be held in San Antonio at the Grand Hyatt Hotel July 31 – August 2, 2013. The summit is co-sponsored by Alamo Colleges, Community College Consortium for Immigrant Education, Texas LEARNS, and The Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Accelerate Texas initiative. This year’s summit will once again bring together local, state, and national practitioners from developmental education, adult basic education, and workforce development to participate in a forward-looking agenda that can help us prepare for the significant changes anticipated in the coming year.

Conference tracks for this year’s summit include
- Sustainability Models and Best Practices
- Curriculum Integration and Pathways
- Access and Immigration

Keynote speakers will include Commissioner Andres Alcantar from the Texas Workforce Commission, Israel Mendoza, former Washington State Director of Adult Basic Education, Randy Capps from the Migration Policy Institute, and Michael Collins from Jobs for the Future. Topics include Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and innovative services to immigrant students; plotting a career awareness course for adult education students; practical transitions and stackable pathways from adult education into college and career; contextualized instruction; innovative partnerships and leveraging support from partner agencies; I-BEST (Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training) model development; expanding and sustaining innovative program models in community colleges; and implementing the TSI (Texas Success Initiative) assessment.

The summit will be preceded by a full day pre-conference on July 30th. Participants may choose from four pre-conference workshops which will be offered for an additional fee:
- Promoting Accessibility and Affordability to Higher Education for Undocumented Immigrants (facilitated by the United We Dream Network and Blue Grass Community College)
- I-BEST implementation solutions for current I-BEST program administrators (facilitated by Alamo Colleges and Partners Accelerate Texas Institutions)
- I-BEST for instructors and curriculum developers – contextualized curriculum development (facilitated by Jobs for the Future)
- Innovative implementation of the Texas TSI Assessment (facilitated by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and The College Board)

At the close of conference activities on July 31st and in conjunction with the conference, the Texas Workforce Commission will hold an Adult Basic Education Public Stakeholders Meeting at the conference site (open to the public starting at 5:00 p.m.).

For additional information on the conference, registration, and hotel accommodations, go to www.ALAMO.EDU/TEX-BEST2013