

Napa & Solano County Early Assessment Program News

Issue 4

Spring 2014

Expository Reading and Writing Course Armijo High School Training

Final Session

January 15, 2014, 4 p.m.-7 p.m.
Armijo High School, New Library

Teachers must attend all four sessions of the series in order to be certified and receive the full suite of ERWC materials. If you are interested attending an upcoming Bay Area ERWC training, please visit <http://www.calstate.edu/eap/englishcourse/>.

Where, Oh Where is EAP Going?

Starting in 2015, the EAP assessment will be integrated into the new CalMAPP testing in math and English for 11th graders. There will no longer be the need for supplemental questions. The fact that all 11th graders participating in MAPP testing will now automatically participate in the indicator of college readiness will give EAP staff the opportunity to spend more time on a diversity of issues related to the high school to CSU transition, including programming expanding beyond grades 11-12.

Contact the Napa & Solano County EAP Office:

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Happy 2014 from the Napa & Solano County EAP Office!

We hope that you had a relaxing holiday season, and have returned refreshed for the spring semester. In this issue, we have details about 2014 EAP administration, answers to frequently asked questions about testing transitions, and perspectives on the high school to college transition from current CSU Maritime Academy students.



Spring Semester Contact Note

Elaine Kociolek will be out on maternity leave from late February through late May. During this time, please direct any routine questions to EAP@csum.edu, and one of our EAP Ambassadors will get back to you within 48 business hours. Many routine questions are answered on the CSUM EAP website: <http://www.csum.edu/web/admissions/eap-early-assessment-program>.

In case of any urgent EAP testing problems that require immediate attention, please contact Lourdes Kulju at the CSU Chancellor's Office: lkulju@calstate.edu or (562) 951-4691.

We will be scheduling most junior visits a bit earlier than normal this year, which we believe will line up appropriately with the adjusted EAP testing window of February 3-March 31. We look forward to continuing to meet your EAP and CSU college readiness needs.

ERWC Middle School Updates

The first Region 4 middle school ERWC workshop series is currently underway in Hayward. This three-day training provides participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to implement ERWC modules in their classrooms in order to support their students in improving their ability to understand and write expository texts. Participation also assists middle school teachers in aligning with their high school counterparts in districts that have adopted ERWC.

We are in the process of attempting to schedule a middle school training series in the Napa/ Solano area in 2014. As the main focus of EAP remains on the high school to college transition, our local service provider, the Alameda County Office of Education, is hosting these middle school trainings at-cost at a rate of \$225 per participant. The cost includes lunch for all three days, a binder with the middle school modules, and all training materials. The workshops are directed toward 6th-8th grade English teachers, and are also appropriate for middle school social studies teachers.

If you are interested in having your school or district participate in a middle school ERWC training, please contact Nathalie Longree-Guevara, Reading/ Language Arts Coordinator at the Alameda County Office of Education, at nguevara@acoe.org.

2014 EAP Testing Dates

The essay window for 2014 EAP testing is February 3 through March 31. Test materials will need to be postmarked by April 6. All essays must be returned at one time; late papers cannot be scored.

It is recommended that enough EAP essay materials be ordered for all students taking the English Language Arts 11 CST. If additional test materials are needed, a supplemental order can be placed until March 23rd.

Please note that 2014 will be the final time that EAP is administered in its current form as the transition to MAPP occurs (see FAQ on back page for details).

Fall 2013 SMI Series for Math Teachers

Thanks to **Steve Morgan** from **Vacaville High** for being the first-ever Napa/ Solano math teacher to participate in Area 4 Strengthening Math Instruction workshops. The SMI series is intended to provide high school math teachers with means of boosting student achievement by using cognitively complex strategies in every-day instruction. We hope to be able to send more local teachers in 2014!

Second Edition ERWC Curriculum – All Modules Now Released!

All second edition modules for the Expository Reading & Writing Course curriculum are now released and available to all teachers who have completed an ERWC training series via the ERWC Online Community:

<http://writing.csusuccess.org/community>.

This includes both semesters of the 12th grade, full-year course, along with four modules each for grades 7-11.

The full-year ERWC course will continue to meet the college readiness needs of seniors who receive a “Conditionally Ready” English designation through statewide testing.

Early Start 2014 News

CSU campuses are currently busy preparing for 2014 Early Start courses for the incoming class of Fall 2014. Students who do not show college readiness in math and English through qualifying exam scores are required to participate in an Early Start experience before the beginning of their freshman year. Students who scored as “Conditionally Ready” on the EAP during their junior year are **not** required to participate.

For more information and details by campus, please visit: <http://www.csusuccess.org/earlystart>.

The High School to CSU Transition: A Student Perspective

Junior Genevieve Quijada has worked in the EAP office at Cal Maritime for two years. This year, she is serving as our Lead EAP Ambassador, working with local schools to promote EAP college readiness. Genevieve, who plans on pursuing a career as an educator, also serves as a College Advisor through UC Berkeley's Cal-SOAP program. Following is her perspective on the high school to college transition, and what she knows now that she wishes she knew three years ago.

Q: What was the most difficult part of transitioning from high school to college?

A: The most difficult part for me was being far away from home. I am from San Diego, and it was my first time being away from loved ones. But I knew that I chose this school to help better my future, and the sacrifice was going to be all worth it.

Q: What do you think you did right in high school to prepare for college?

A: When I think back, I believe taking Advanced Placement courses in high school helped me understand the fast pace of a college course. This helped me focus on my course subjects and helped me improve my study habits. Time management is one of the key factors for college.

Q: What advice do you have for high school juniors and seniors who want to attend college?

A: Be prepared for any new changes, whether it's a change in schedule, or a change in course material such as more presentations or papers. Also, be prepared to learn new material on your own and go at a pace that you may not be used to. All of this is definitely a learning experience. Once you get the habits down, it is really easy to adjust. Many high school students are intimidated by college, but it's definitely a fun experience, and there's nothing to be afraid of!

Q: What are your plans after graduation?

A: My plans after college are to go back to school and receive more education. This time, my field of study will be Environmental Education. I have always had interests in teaching younger generations about the current environmental issues, and in engaging in problem solving to take action to improve the environment.

Local Student Profile

By Genevieve Quijada, EAP Ambassador



Chris Blakesley Napa High School, Class of 2011 Global Studies & Maritime Affairs Major

Chris Blakesley is a student with great ambitions. As a junior Global Studies major at Cal Maritime, Chris studies maritime policy. Chris' intention during high school was to become an officer in the Navy, but because of some health setbacks, he was unable to enlist. He then decided to attend Cal Maritime due to his interest in the maritime field.

Chris has many memories from his time at Napa High School. He enjoyed participating in the choir, especially during his senior year, when they won the Golden State Choral Competition, a state championship.

One of Chris' favorite college experiences was being selected to spend the Spring 2013 semester at The Williams-Mystic Maritime Studies Program in Connecticut. He had the opportunity to take courses that were hands-on and discussion based while traveling along the Pacific, Atlantic and Gulf Coasts.

After graduating from Cal Maritime in 2015, Chris hopes to continue his education to study maritime law and eventually become a maritime lawyer. In addition, he is also interested in maritime and homeland security. Whichever of these ambitious paths he decides to pursue, we look forward to seeing this Napa native shine in his career!

Frequently Asked Questions – EAP Testing in 2014

Q: What happens to CSU-bound juniors who do NOT participate in EAP in 2014?

A: Juniors who do not participate in EAP will not receive an indicator of college readiness in August before the start of their senior year. As they will not receive an EAP designation, they will not have the opportunity to use the ERWC course or other senior year coursework to show CSU readiness. They will need to show math and English readiness through other means, including SAT, ACT, AP, IB, EPT, or ELM scores.

Q: Will EAP participation in 2014 result in actionable data for my school site?

A: In 2014, only EAP reports of readiness will be provided to students. No CST or aggregate reports will be provided. As in previous years, students must complete both the appropriate CST exams and the supplemental EAP questions in order to receive an EAP score.

Q: Whom can I contact with questions or concerns about my school or district's 2014 EAP exam order?

A: Please contact the ETS California Technical Assistance Center (CalTAC) at 1 (800) 955-2954. Please note that the deadline for 2014 orders was December 2, 2013.

Q: Whom should I contact with other questions about 2014 testing, Smarter Balanced, or AB 484?

A: While regional EAP offices are available to answer questions regarding changes to EAP, inquiries about other aspects of the transition in California standardized testing should be directed to the CDE Statewide Assessment Transition Office at (916) 445-8517 or ab484@cde.ca.gov.

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