

# Quarterly Newsletter Instructor Connections

Summer 2008

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## TDS Collaborations

Two sessions of a re-training program designed to help dislocated Alameda County real estate and financial services sector workers get back to work were completed in July and August; and a third session begins in early September. The program is a joint effort organized by Training and Development Solutions, the Workplace Learning Resource Center, the Tri-Valley One-Stop Career Center in Pleasanton, and the Alameda County Workforce Investment Board. Each training session consists of four hours of computer fundamentals, eight hours each of basic and intermediate Excel, and eight hours of PowerPoint applications.

Funding for this program comes from a National Emergency Grant administered by the US Department of Labor. The focus of the program is computer training to upgrade the skills of the workers and help them become more marketable and competitive in the job market. This training will also give them a skills "edge" to begin a new position making a salary comparable to the compensation from their old jobs.

This is just one of the ways that TDS has collaborated with other local agencies to provide services to the workforce. Other successful training programs have come to the District through the State Chancellor's initiatives (the Workplace Learning Resource Center, for instance), grants, and Global Community College programs, to name several. Additionally, TDS has helped clients apply for and obtain State Employment Training Panel (ETP) funds to assist them with their annual training costs.

Partnerships, collaborations, and consultative relationships are one of the best ways that TDS serves their client businesses and organizations. "These best practices allow us to leverage resources and share successful outcomes," says Julia Dozier, District Executive Director, Workforce Development and Contract Education. "It gives real meaning to the work that we do!"

## Alameda County Parent Advocate Program

Training and Development Solutions has held Federal Title IV-E contracts with Alameda County since FY 2002-03. The establishment of the Parent Advocate Program in July, 2006, was made possible by this funding. This critical program is staffed with seasoned foster parents who understand what it is like to have a child removed from the home. Each Parent Advocate has successfully completed a reunification training program.

The goal of each Parent Advocate is to help birth parents successfully define and complete their case plan goals, prevent removal of child and disruption in the home, provide support to those families who are involved in the system, and assist with the family reunification process. Advocates bridge the gap between agency staff, birth, and foster families to achieve case closure.

Additionally, Parent Advocates provide extended support and resources to parents in the school environment, participate in a team decision-making process supporting parents during court procedures, and engage parents to maintain connections with their children. Parent Advocates are committed to providing encouragement, outreach, and support to families who need help.

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## News You Need to Know

- ✓ **Welcome** – Bertie Flanders joined the Training & Development Solutions team as a temp-on-call in March, 2008. Bertie's duties include assisting with Title IV-E contracts, apprenticeship training programs, and special projects. Bertie's prior work experience in customer service, administrative duties, and her computer education background has enabled her to effectively perform her new duties. She is currently attending LPC majoring in Business Administration.
- ✓ **New Title** – Join us in congratulating Julia A. Dozier in her new role as District Executive Director of Economic Development and Contract Education.
- ✓ **Instructor books available** – Look for TDS' new list of available books that instructors can borrow for use in developing material, classes, research, or obtaining general information. You can view the list of available books at <http://tdsolutions.org/resources.php>.
- ✓ **Forms online** – Just a reminder to all instructors that our website offers timesheets and invoices that can be opened, filled in, and emailed directly to us for processing. To check out these forms, visit TDS online at [www.tdsolutions.org/forms.php](http://www.tdsolutions.org/forms.php).
- ✓ **WpLRC website** – The Workplace Learning Resource Center (WpLRC) launched its website at the end of July. Visit [www.WpLRCRegion4.org](http://www.WpLRCRegion4.org) to find important links to other resources within the Interior Bay Region, program offerings as well as a calendar of events, and activities across the state related to economic and workforce development.
- ✓ **Basic Skills preparation and remediation** – The Workplace Learning Resource Center (WpLRC) has secured a three year license with KeyTrain, an easy-to-use system for improving basic skills. The system includes targeted, self-paced instruction, pre- and post-assessments, a learning management system, and an occupational profiles database. These components can be used to help individuals learn, practice and demonstrate the skills they need to succeed in the jobs and careers they desire. The WpLRC is partnering with the Contra Costa County One-Stops and the Tri-Valley One-Stop to offer KeyTrain to their clients. Additionally, KeyTrain will be used as a pre-assessment tool for the Career Readiness Certificate. To learn more, contact: Judi Watkins @ 925-485-5508 or email: [jwatkins@clpccd.org](mailto:jwatkins@clpccd.org).

## SME Profile: Sebastian Wong



Sebastian Wong is an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) educator for Training and Development Solutions who has over 30 years experience in hospital emergency care. Working closely with TDS as a lead and assistant instructor for Wet Drill Hazardous Material Trainings, Sebastian has been instrumental in promoting and ensuring safe working environments for Alameda County hospitals.

With a BA in Physiology from the University of California, Berkeley, Sebastian currently works full-time as the Acting Section Chief of EMS Operations at the San Francisco Fire Department. He also works part-time as adjunct faculty at Las Positas College, teaching health care and safety-related subjects. Sebastian's experience includes management of hazardous materials incidents, multi-casualty incidents, and special operations work in the Metropolitan Medical Response System of San Francisco.

Sebastian completed the Basic Police Officer Academy in 2001, and accumulated over 22 years of experience as a reserve police officer for a local Bay Area Police Department. As an educator, Sebastian has also presented before the Hong Kong Fire Service and the San Francisco Paramedic Association.

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