Attention: High School Principals & CTE Administrators

Do you have a CTE teacher who promotes high student engagement, hands-on activities, or other reasons why the CTE teacher should be nominated? If so, please submit your nomination by close of business on November 19, 2021. Click here to submit this month’s nomination.

Kidwind Challenge

Interested in hosting a KidWind Challenge in your area? Sign Up for the Newsletter! Support the 2021-2022 KidWind Challenge Season!

Planning a KidWind Challenge

Join KidWind for a 2-hour course on how to hold a KidWind Challenge in your school, classroom or regional school district. This workshop covers the following topics.

- Timelines
- Fundraising
- Outreach
- Materials Required
- Support Provided
- Online Tools
- Questions

At the end of this event, you will know how to hold a KidWind Challenge at whatever level! All participants get a KidWind T-shirt! Sign Up Here!
For more information, email Michael Arquin at michael@kidwind.org.
NanoEnvironmental Engineering for Teachers (NEET) accepts applications from Houston area engineering, science, and math teachers to understand authentic, sustainable project-based learning. The course comes with a $600 stipend, free college graduate credit or CPE hours, and classroom materials.

→ Application Link
→ Webpage Link

Information on our paid summer programs will be released in the following weeks. Rice would like to talk to anyone interested at HISD about the programs. If you have questions, please contact Christina Crawford, Associate Director for Science & Engineering, Rice Office of STEM Engagement at cc45@rice.edu.
Skill up or start your next career with SMLA.

Microsoft
Nov 1st

Employability Skills,
Employment Placement Assistance,
No Cost Training

CompTIA
Oct 25 Evening

Logistics, CPT, CLT
Nov 8 Evening

Contact us to find out more:

mysmla.com
info@mysmla.com
713-977-0566
Learn best practices for preventing targeted school violence.

The following sessions provided by Region 4 Education Service Center in collaboration with our community partners, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Secret Service, are designed to help schools and districts learn ways to reduce incidences of school violence. These trainings are specifically designed to aid school safety personnel, district and campus administrators, counselors, psychologists, social workers, school district police officers, and community members working in or with school safety.

**Community Awareness Briefing (CAB)**  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships

The Community Awareness Briefing (CAB) is designed to help participants develop an understanding of violent extremist recruitment tactics and explore ways to prevent such threats at the local level. The CAB provides the introductory knowledge needed to successfully prevent targeted violence and terrorism. The main goal of the CAB is to raise awareness of how violent extremist movements recruit individuals to commit violent or illegal acts, and negatively impact these individuals, their families, and their communities.

**Date:** November 17, 2021  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
**Credits:** 2 CPE  
**Fee:** $0  
**Location:** Virtual via Zoom

*Presented by representatives from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security*

**REGISTER HERE**
Averting Targeted School Violence:  
A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Plots Against Schools

The United States Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center’s (NTAC) latest study (March 2021) examines 67 disrupted plots against K–12 schools from 2006–2018 planned by current or recently former students.

This study reviews how plots were discovered and mitigated, such as motives, targeting, planning, and communication and behavior exhibited prior to plot discovery. In this session, NTAC also addresses and presents on the diversity of stressors, home-life factors, and histories of behavioral or emotional issues.

**Date:** November 17, 2021  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
**Credits:** 2 CPE  
**Fee:** $0  
**Location:** Virtual via Zoom  
*Presented by representatives from the U.S. Secret Service*

**REGISTER HERE**
Code.org - Equity in AP CS Principles Program

The guided program will:

- Help schools decide whether AP Computer Science Principles is a good fit.
- Help schools navigate the logistics of creating and adding a new course, and equitably recruit student enrollment for the first year of the course and beyond.
- Provide new-to-CS teachers a rigorous professional learning program.
- Provide students a strong curriculum to help them not only complete the course but pass the AP exam.
- Build internal capacity for a strong computer science program for future years.

Criteria:

- School serves 9th-12th grade students and does not currently offer CS Principles.
- School leaders commit to participating in all tracks of the Equity in AP CS Principles Program.
- Will offer AP CSP in 2022-23.
- Serves student populations that are underrepresented in CS.

Program is available at no cost to select schools, thanks to a generous research grant from the federal Department of Education.

Sign up for the first Welcome Workshop - Information Session on December 14th [here](#)! This [UT Austin Equity in AP CSP Program Brochure](#) is available for distribution.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Amy Carrell.

Amy Carrell, Director for Outreach
The University of Texas at Austin | [TACC](#) | Expanding Pathways in Computing (EPIC) | [acarrell@tacc.utexas.edu](mailto:acarrell@tacc.utexas.edu) | 512-577-2901
TEALS Webinar
November 9, 2021
4:00pm (CST)

Teach HS Computer Science with the Support of Industry Volunteers

The Microsoft Philanthropies TEALS Program provides a short-term solution to the teacher shortage and helps schools build a long-term and sustainable computer science program by partnering teachers new to computer science with industry volunteers who have computer science content expertise.

Teachers in these partnerships learn computer science while team-teaching with volunteers until they are comfortable teaching independently.

In this webinar, participants will hear about the TEALS approach and learn about the process to apply for TEALS support in the 2022-23 school year.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Amy Carrell.

Amy Carrell, Director for Outreach
The University of Texas at Austin | TACC | Expanding Pathways in Computing (EPIC) | acarrell@tacc.utexas.edu | 512-577-2901
WeTeach Computer Science Virtual Counselor & Administrator Webinar

November 18, 2021
9:00am (CST)

Computer Science Training for Counselors & Administrators participants will learn about trends and opportunities in computer science, and how your district can open doors to these opportunities for ALL your students.

Recent policy and funding changes in Texas will be discussed as well as resources for supporting your district and teachers to build a robust and diverse CS program. This session will help school teams appreciate what computer science is, what new courses involve, and how these count toward graduation and fit with the larger school program.

Counselors are influencers and gatekeepers. They counsel and encourage students in their education and career aspirations, advise on course selections, and expose students to occupations through career fairs and internships. If today’s students are to get the exposure and encouragement, they need to pursue computing, it is essential that counselors have the knowledge and resources they need to guide effectively.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Amy Carrell.

Amy Carrell, Director for Outreach
The University of Texas at Austin | TACC | Expanding Pathways in Computing (EPIC)
| acarrell@tacc.utexas.edu | 512-577-2901
Bring Computer Science To Your School

Why Computer Science?

Computer science is fundamental for every student’s success
Six different studies show: children who study computer science...

- perform better in other subjects
- excel at problem-solving
- are 17% more likely to attend college

90% of parents want their children to learn CS

More about the studies: bit.ly/6studies

Students love it!
- Students rank CS as their third favorite subject behind the arts.
- CS has climbed to the 4th most popular STEM major for college-bound students

Open Up Future Possibilities for Your Students

CS teaches critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, curiosity and creativity - skills that all employers seek.

A CS major can earn 40% more than the college average and it’s the 2nd highest paying degree

58% of all new jobs in STEM are in computing

67% of computer science jobs are outside of the tech sector. Computer occupations are the most widely represented across industries

Statistics Data Sources: https://bit.ly/codeorg-cs-stats
What is Computer Science Principles?

Designed for beginners, Computer Science Principles introduces students to the foundational concepts of computer science and challenges them to explore how computing and technology can impact the world. Students will:

- Solve problems about encoding and transmitting data.
- Get hands-on experience with concepts like binary and pixels, text compression, and more.
- Use the JavaScript language to create a series of real, shareable apps.

What you get from our Equity in AP CS Principles program

This free program is designed to support administrators and counselors as they collaborate to develop the AP CS Principles program in their schools.

Your school will be prepared to provide equitable access to computer science for ALL of your students, including young women, students from underrepresented groups, and students from rural communities.

**Administrator Leadership Program**  
Supports administrators through decision making and logistics of course setup

**Counselor Leadership Program**  
Supports equitable recruitment and retention of all students

**Professional Learning Program (Teachers)**  
Prepares new-to-CS teachers to teach AP CS Principles equitably

**AP CS Principles Curriculum (Students)**  
Engages students equitably through CS curriculum

Administrators and Counselors:  
Want to bring computer science to your school?

Sign-up for the free Welcome Workshop!

Regional Partner: **The University of Texas at Austin, Amy Carroll**
Welcome Workshop: **December 14, 2021 from 2-3:30pm**
Enroll: **https://studio.code.org/pd/workshops/11146/enroll**
Step 1. Log into device using HISD network ID and password.

Step 2. Access the PowerUp “HUB.”

Step 3. Access Digital Resources from the HUB.

Step 4. Select Log in with Active Directory
(some 6th grade students may have a badge.)

Step 5. Click on Virtual Job Shadow icon in the ‘Career/Technical Education’ category.
We want students’ and individuals’ Introduction to VirtualJobShadow.com to be streamlined and seamless, so we created a menu of curated FlexLessons Packages for you to choose from! Our goal is to get students and individuals engaged from the start so they can begin their career exploration and planning immediately.

The best part? When students and individuals log in to VirtualJobShadow.com, the assignments will already be waiting for them! You don’t have to do a thing! To make it even easier, no matter which Package or à la carte choices made, we automatically pre-assign these three assignments: Introduction to VirtualJobShadow.com, Scavenger Hunt, and Career Trivia!

**Curated FlexLessons Packages:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction Package (automatically assigned)</th>
<th>CTE Package</th>
<th>Trio Package</th>
<th>Transition Planning and IEP Package</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to VirtualJobShadow.com</td>
<td>Careers and YOUR Interests</td>
<td>Understanding Grit</td>
<td>Introduction to Your Transition Plan - Part 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Trivia</td>
<td>Work-Based Learning</td>
<td>Understanding Growth Mindset</td>
<td>Introduction to Your Transition Plan - Part 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scavenger Hunt</td>
<td>Understanding Problem Solving</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Power of Self-Determination</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Soft and Hard Skills</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Middle School Package</th>
<th>High School Package</th>
<th>Pre-Employment Transition Services Package</th>
<th>Workforce Development Package</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal Setting</td>
<td>My Plan Outline</td>
<td>Job Exploration and Career Awareness</td>
<td>Career and YOUR Interests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding Patience</td>
<td>Initiative</td>
<td>Work-Based Learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft and Hard Skills</td>
<td>Understanding Failure</td>
<td>Postsecondary Planning</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Collaboration</td>
<td>Time Management</td>
<td>Workplace Readiness Skills</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Postsecondary Planning</td>
<td>Self-Advocacy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**À la Carte Assignments Menu:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Careers 101</th>
<th>Soft Skills</th>
<th>Social and Emotional</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal Setting</td>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Understanding Grit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careers and YOUR Interests</td>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td>Understanding Growth Mindset</td>
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<td>Job Exploration and Career Awareness</td>
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<td>Understanding Patience</td>
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<td>Postsecondary Planning</td>
<td>Citizenship</td>
<td>Understanding Problem Solving</td>
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<tr>
<td>Career Trivia</td>
<td>Creative Thinking</td>
<td>Understanding Failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postsecondary Education</td>
<td>Initiative</td>
<td>Understanding Failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualities Employers Are Seeking</td>
<td>Time Management</td>
<td>Understanding Flexibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Workplace Terminology</td>
<td>Soft-Skills</td>
<td>Self-Awareness and Empathy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The STEM Career Cluster</td>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>The Power of Self-Determination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workplace Readiness Skills</td>
<td>Self-Advocacy</td>
<td>Handling Constructive Criticism</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>Job Preparation</th>
<th>Inclusive Practices</th>
<th>Additional Titles</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How To Fill Out A Job Application</td>
<td>Spotlight on Disabilities in the Workplace</td>
<td>Exploring Military Careers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What To Expect In An Interview</td>
<td>Spotlight on Diversity and Inclusion</td>
<td>Introduction to VirtualJobShadow.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Your Cover Letter</td>
<td>Introduction to Your Transition Plan - Part 1</td>
<td>Scavenger Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Your Resume</td>
<td>Introduction to Your Transition Plan - Part 2</td>
<td>University of YouTube</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding The Importance of Your Resume</td>
<td>Working Through COVID-19</td>
<td>University of Youtube: Critically Evaluating Your Sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparing for an Informational Interview</td>
<td>Personal Presentation Is Key To Making A Good First Impression</td>
<td>My Plan Outline</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Virtual Job Shadow: Career Exploration

On-Demand
Where: HISD OneSource (asynchronous)

Audience
Career and Technical Educational (CTE) Middle School Teachers
Career and Technical Educational High School Teachers

Participants will see how VirtualJobShadow.com empowers individuals to discover, plan and pursue their dreams with our unique video-based career planning platform. See how interactive tools help students and job seekers develop career paths based on choice, not chance. CTE teachers in middle and high school will see how to motivate students to take control of their futures by planning for careers today. Our engaging job shadowing, and career advice videos take career exploration to a whole new level by connecting academics to the real world. Take this course at any time.

OneSource Course ID# 1454125

Click here for a tutorial on how to enroll courses in OneSource.

HISD Contact Information
Drew Thurman, Senior Manager, College/Career Guidance
DTHURMAN@HoustonISD.org
November 8th commemorates the anniversary of the Higher Education Act of 1965. High schools, colleges, and universities across the country are encouraged to celebrate the successes of ALL first-generation faculty, staff and students. During the week of November 8th, the HISD College Readiness Department will kick off the “First to Launch” campaign. Join us as we will recognize HISD’s students, staff, and alumni who are the first in their families to attend college. We are excited to celebrate their many accomplishments!

If you have any question about the "First to Launch" campaign, please contact Ruby Rivera, College Readiness Senior Manager at rrivera@houstonisd.org.

Join us as we celebrate our First-Gen students and staff and fill out this Google link.

**Ways To Participate & Celebrate First-Gen Week**

Events held as part of this celebration do not have to be expensive, time-consuming endeavors.

Here are some ways your area can participate:

- Already have a departmental event or meeting scheduled that week (or close to it)? Make it a themed event and feature the topic of First-Generation students. Do you and your colleagues have a First to Launch highlight? If so, share on social media. Don't forget to use hashtags #HISDFirst2Launch #HISDFirstGen

- Be creative! Events may be held virtually- host a trivia night, virtual open mic, online workshop...anything that brings students and staff "together" to celebrate.

- Host a faculty/student “First to Launch” hour and invite students to share their thoughts on what it is like to be a First-Gen student. Host an informational session that specifically addresses issues that First-Gen students may encounter or may find of particular interest.

- Schedule a training session to help faculty/staff in your area learn how to better support First-Generation students. Invite students to panel discussions, webinars, from local colleges and universities. Highlight alumni and community members who are First to Launch.

- Send an email to your department/students that recognizes the many accomplishments of your First-Gen faculty, staff, and students (or alumni). Highlight students completing Admissions & Financial Aid Applications who will be First-Gen in their families.

- Create a bulletin board highlighting campus staff, students, parents, and First-Gen alumni. Create a “First to Launch Banner” have First Gen students sign banner and share to social media and College Corner

**Want to share photos & updates?**

Use #HISDFirst2Launch #HISDFirstGen and tag @HISD2College and @HoustonISD to participate in district-wide social media campaigns. In addition, you can also tag @FirstGenCenter.
We are so excited to see you all at the Gaylord Texan Resort in Dallas, Texas! At CERTIFIED 2022 it will be more important than ever to share strategies and teaching methods that you have developed over the last few months in the classroom, hybrid, or online!

Are you an innovative teacher who loves to go above and beyond the call of duty? Have you implemented changes recently that have led to classroom success? Do you run a successful certification program? Is your school forging new paths or setting new standards in excellence that you just can't wait to tell others about? If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, then you may be exactly who we are looking for! The Call for Sessions for CERTIFIED 2022 has officially opened, and we want to hear from you.

In its eighth year, Certiport's CERTIFIED Educator Conference is the premier event for exploring the full promise and potential of certification testing in the classroom or at home. The need for excellent sessions from expert educators is at an all-time high. Submit a session proposal for your chance to be a part of one of the most exciting and fastest-growing events designed specifically for educators.

Fill out the form to submit your proposal for CERTIFIED 2022
While Career & Technical Education (CTE) is not a new practice for most schools and districts, many educators are turning to digital learning solutions to enhance and expand career-related offerings to students. Digital learning offers flexibility for students to learn in an environment that is personalized to their needs. With high-quality digital learning solutions, instruction is presented in multiple modalities; including text, visuals, videos, interactivities, and project-based learning (PBL) opportunities.

Here are three (3) key advantages to incorporating digital learning into your CTE programs.

1. **Support teachers with quality curriculum**
   Teachers need resources they can count on to ensure high-quality learning with the flexibility to customize the learning experience.

2. **Expand options for more students**
   All students deserve to be supported in their learning goals. Whether that means giving them options to earn industry-recognized credentials or opportunities to explore relatable career paths.

3. **Enhance learning in the classroom**
   With quality digital learning options available in the classroom, students will learn through blended learning while exploring topics that interest them at their own pace.

*continued on page 17…*
Are you looking for digital learning solutions for your CTE programs? Do innovative electives that encourage career exploration sounds like something that would benefit your students?

The solution...

Pointful Education online courses offer students opportunities to learn about topics that will prepare them for their future!

Some of our top courses include:

- Adobe Illustrator, InDesign, and Photoshop
- Architectural Design I & II (AutoCAD Certification Courses)
- Career Exploration in Healthcare
- Drones Remote Pilot Certification Course
- Early Childhood Education I & II
- Introduction to Education & Teaching
- Project Management Certification Course

Schedule a no-obligation demo today!

Pointful Education is an approved HISD Vendor.

www.pointfuleducation.com