Women of UVU Club and CTE make Legacy Christmas visit

Last month, after major efforts in collecting Christmas gifts and donations, the Women of UVU club, along with CTE, made the yearly visit to Legacy High school to put smiles on faces and spread the message of the importance of higher education.

The project at Legacy High, a Springville high school for teen moms, included making sure the mothers at the school, many who are struggling, would have Christmas gifts not only for themselves, but their children.

As the Legacy students were called to get their gift boxes, club members would ask them what the wanted to be, or what profession they wanted to have once they graduated high school, and the students were able to share their goals.

“As a teen mother, I think one of the challenges is that some of them may lack role models,” said Kim Chiu, CTE assistant director. “Without role models or someone to help them see their potential, it can be hard to set those kind of goals.”

She said one of the purposes of going to the school is to let the students know that there are resources available to them that can help them succeed in higher education.

“We want them to see that even though they have obstacles, because of the help available, they don’t necessarily need to be deterrents to higher education,” Chiu said.

Similar to last year, club members plan on returning to the school this spring to help the students fill out UVU applications.

CTE News

The national association of SkillsUSA is calling for pin and T-shirt design entries for the 2014 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, which will be held June 23-27, 2014 in Kansas City, Missouri. This design competition is open to all registered SkillsUSA student members who are enrolled in a Career and Technical Education program at a high school or postsecondary institution with an active SkillsUSA chapter. Mail entries to:

SkillsUSA National Headquarters
14001 SkillsUSA Way
Leesburg, VA 20176

The winning designs will become the official pin or T-shirt for the 2014 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. Entries must be received (not postmarked) no later than Saturday, February 1, 2014. For more information.

UPCOMING DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Empowering Your Tomorrow</td>
<td>Jan 11</td>
<td>12 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction Fundraiser</td>
<td>Jan 17</td>
<td>11 am - 2 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horizonte CTE Conference</td>
<td>Jan 29</td>
<td>8 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>UACTE Conference</td>
<td>Jan 31-Feb 1</td>
<td>all day</td>
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JANUARY 2014
Policymakers in Utah are examining recommendations that students receive more opportunities to learn computer-coding skills before graduation.

The recommendations come after a summer State Board of Education task force examined the issue of increasing the achievement expectations of high school students’ when it comes to computer skills.

Among the recommendations from state leaders and the task force are to require students to take advanced computer courses before graduation and move the existing basic course to middle school from high school.

About a third of the state’s high schools currently offer a computer science or coding course, an official said.

About 20 Utah schools are also now teaching a new ninth-grade elective called Exploring Computer Science, and state leaders hope to see that number expand to 50 next school year.

Advocates of requiring more advanced computer instruction in Utah schools, such as classes that could include coding, say those skills are becoming increasingly important.

While many educators would like to see more advanced computer classes required of Utah students, some say they would rather see such classes kept as electives, saying students should be allowed to follow their own interests when choosing courses.

State education leaders are now sharing all the recommendations with the districts and seeking feedback before they make any decisions.

held last month, Arne Duncan, the U.S. Secretary of Education, reminded CTE educators to make sure that every CTE program is rigorous and relevant and that degrees and certificates align with industry-recognized credentials. He specifically said, “Forging deeper ties with business and labor will help ensure that instruction and assessments keep pace with workplace changes. We can’t afford a mismatch. Our end goal is preparing students to excel in college, long-term occupational skills training, registered apprenticeships, and employment. We can never, ever again distinguish between preparing students for either college or a career. From now on, it’s always got to be “both/and.”

As we review the incoming proposals, we will be looking for elements of business/industry partnerships when considering who will be funded. We are aware that this is already happening in many of the CTE programs and we encourage a more focused effort. The CTE required advisory board is a good way to start engaging educational/industry conversations.

In addition, we encourage every CTE instructor to attend the UACTE Conference on January 31. The conference is an opportunity for higher education to network with the CTE high school instructors statewide. The CTE department is happy to pay for your registration and mileage to and from the conference. Please take the opportunity to attend.

STATE HIGHLIGHTS

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