

**HB 5 Webinar #1 Q&A
November 13, 2014**

Q: Where can I get a copy of this presentation?

A: A recording of the webinar can be found at: <http://twc.adobeconnect.com/p4q756lp9ur/>

Q: What is the website for Texas CARES?

A: <http://www.texascaresonline.com/>

Q: Can you set up a table on parent night to offer this info to parents and students?

A: Absolutely.

Q: What topics are you interested in presenting to parents. Can you travel to Lubbock, TX? Next November 2015?

A: I can travel anywhere in the state of Texas. For specific dates of availability, I would need to consult my calendar. Currently, my list of speaking engagements is growing rapidly and my calendar may not be flexible until February. Please call me at 512-463-4879 or email me at lorena.knight@twc.state.tx.us to check on a specific date.

As far as topics are concerned, I can provide all sorts of presentations from labor market statistics and realities to career exploration or the college selection process, or HB 5 endorsements. Any of the information I have available can be used to tailor a presentation specific to the needs of your students or staff. If you are interested in a presentation for your campus, please call me and let me know your needs or interests. We can work together to build a presentation to best meet those needs.

Q: How long does it take them [students] to go through the Texas Reality Check game?

A: The first time students go through the game, it may take them roughly about 15 minutes from start to finish. Once they have completed the game, however, many students like to go back and change their selections to see how their lifestyle choices affect the total amount for the salary needed to supplement their decisions. Some students even like to run a tally on all of the selections they make and the costs involved, and they will play the game several times to do this. Initially, I'd say the first run through will take approximately 15 minutes, but after that, each subsequent attempt will go by much quicker.

Q: What kind of resources can you provide us?

A: There are a wide variety of materials that the TWC can provide. For example, later this month, we will be releasing an updated book entitled *Charting Your Course*. This book was written for an audience of high school students and parents, and it walks them through the college selection process. We also have a lot of resources to assist students with career exploration and research. There are too many to list now, but if you are interested, you can email me at careerinformation@twc.state.tx.us and provide me with your name and school contact information (including physical address) and we can send you a free Counselor packet that includes one free sample of all of our products along with an order form. These packets are available for all academic teachers and staff, not just Counselors.

Also, many of our magazines or booklets are available online for a free download and you are all welcome to download and print them if you like, but if your school does not provide a budget for

copies or paper but does allow a budget for classroom materials, you can order the completed products directly from us at a minimal cost. You can visit our website at <http://www.lmci.state.tx.us/> to see our list of products and free resources.

Q: Will you come down as far as South Texas? Harlingen?

A: Yes. My job is to provide these services to all parts of the state. I can travel to your campus anywhere within the state of TX.

Q: Can you briefly explain HB5 and what you mean by "endorsements"? I have no background on this issue and would appreciate a quick overview

A: Sure! House Bill 5 was passed by legislature in 2013 in an effort to serve the needs of two major audiences; To provide students with specific pathways of course selections that could either prepare them for college or the workforce by immersing them in curriculum that focused on subject matters that relate to their careers of interest or long-term career goals. In some cases these specialized curriculum paths or programs may also provide students with the opportunities to earn specific licensing or certifications that will allow them to join the workforce right after high school with specialized skill sets. Forcing students to consider long-term career goals in order to select the right HB 5 endorsement is a way for them to make the connection between career interests and education options. At the same time, HB 5 answered the needs of the business sector as employers were hungry for high school graduates who would be able to immediately join the workforce as skilled labor without needing additional training.

The legislature now requires that all students in their freshman years of high school (9th grade) declare their endorsement selection so that the school is aware of which curriculum path they will follow, thus determining which math, science, and elective courses they will need to take to graduate with that specific endorsement attached to their diplomas.

There are five endorsement options students can select from: 1) STEM- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math; 2) Business and Industry; 3) Public Service, 4) Arts and Humanities, and 5) Multi-Disciplinary Studies.

Q: Can you correlate it to HB5 when you present?

A: In short, yes. All of the presentations I put together can connect HB 5 and career interests into educational paths and choices. Again, if you are interested in a presentation and want a specific message shared with your audience, call me, and I can accommodate your needs by tailoring the presentation for you.

Q: Is this information available in Spanish?

A: Currently, we do have some of our documents available in Spanish. Because what we are working on with HB 5 is so new, and still in the working stages, we have not acquired a translator to work on transforming the content from English to Spanish, but that is definitely something we can look into in the future.

Q: What is the cost for you to travel to Lubbock?

A: Again, TWC participation in your events is absolutely free. Our mission at the TWC, as a government agency, is to serve the public. My job is to be where I am needed by Educators, Counselors, Academic staff, and students. My travel expenses are therefore taken care of by my employer to ensure that I am able to fulfill the duties and mission of my role.

Q: How soon do you foresee TWC and TEA coming to a consensus on what those general certs [HB 5 endorsement assignments to occupational titles] will be?

A: I cannot provide an exact date, but I can tell you that this is something we are working on currently to get done. I have submitted the list of occupations with my suggestions for HB 5 endorsement assignments, but because the TEA are the HB 5 experts, I must wait for them to give the final approval of which assignments will be accepted and those that we will need to renegotiate to come up with an agreed designation. Someone on their end is currently working through the list and we have been in contact, so I am hoping that we can finalize this part of the process by the start of the new year.

Q: What kind of resources do you have for planning a career fair?

A: That is a great question. I have attended several career/college fairs, and I love being present at them and talking to students while there. The most common occurrence, however, is that students approach my table thinking that I represent a college or university or that I am there to tell them about my role as a government employee. Although I am more than happy to do that, I am more interested in talking to them about their career interests and plans after graduation as my table is filled with resources to help them with career exploration and research.

Some schools have approached me about presenting to students *before* a college/career fair to talk to them about career exploration or researching careers and colleges and how deciding your career path also leads to helping students find the right college fit and making informed college major decisions. The goal here is to ensure that when they do attend the college/career fair the next day or the following week, the time they spend at each table is much more focused and productive because their preparation will ensure that they approach those booths that were of the most interest and benefit to them.

Q: How were invitations sent out for this webinar and who were the invitations sent to?

A: An invitation to the webinar was mailed to all members of the TWC and TEA mailing list serves. If you are not already a part of our list serve, please scan the QRcode provided in the presentation or email your name and contact information to careerinformation@twc.state.tx.us.

Q: Did you all provide Achieve Texas in Action booklets by clusters

A: No. Those were not distributed by the TWC. I think they may have been distributed by the TEA.

Q: Do you work with the local workforce agency to do training for students?

A: The TWC does work closely with regional Texas Workforce Solutions offices for many other projects. If you want to have material presented to your students with the TWC working in tandem with your local Workforce Solutions office, simply call me and let me know. Either you or I can contact the Workforce Solutions office in your area to set up this team effort. As stated earlier, all presentations can be altered to accommodate your needs.

Comment: We use both Reality Check and Texas CARES here at the Freshman Academy. The students are very enlightened when they make their choices.

Response: That's amazing, Cathy! I'm so glad to hear that.

Q: Where do I go to get access to newsletters and future webinars?

A: Email me at careerinformation@twc.state.tx.us and provide your name and contact information to be added to our list serve.

Q: I found out about this webinar through a colleague and would like to be informed of future webinars as well.

A: That's great! Please do let others that may be interested in getting this information know about the webinars, and sign up for our list serve to get future notifications.