



InterLink Annual Report 2010

Bridging the gap between business and education

INTERLINK, A VALUABLE PARTNERSHIP, BRINGING EDUCATION AND BUSINESS TOGETHER

By: Linda Anderson, Ph.D.
Director of Career and Technology Education, Birdville ISD

InterLink is a valuable resource for school districts. The organization provides linkages to directly connect school districts and colleges with business/industry partners in North Central Texas. Through workforce linkages and current and timely research, InterLink provides relevant projections of workforce needs within key industries in the region. Through this valuable partnership, school districts are able to stay current and connected with business/industry and are able to provide students with valuable direction for planning post-secondary education and required industry licensures/certifications in career pathways of choice.

InterLink provides workforce information, through presentations to school districts (both students and teachers) throughout North Central Texas. For our district, InterLink is the first stop when we need to gather information and business partners to help plan instructional programs that are relevant to key industries.

Another important aspect of services provided is assistance with the required Career and Technology Education (CTE) annual evaluation. InterLink is available through contract to perform a very thorough industry driven evaluation for school districts. Our district has been the beneficiary of this service more than once, with the latest evaluation by InterLink being conducted this past spring. We were provided with a comprehensive electronic document of over 260 pages with vital information to help our CTE teachers and programs improve.

On the state level, it is important to know that InterLink industry partners have had a direct impact on the legislature and State Board of Education by communicating with them when matters arise that are not in the best interest of students being served by CTE programs. They have traveled to Austin to testify when critical issues that have an impact on CTE are being discussed.

Finally, one of the most valued aspects of a school district partnership with InterLink is the quarterly meeting that provides a forum for school districts, colleges and business/industry partners to come together to hear other members provide updates in order to keep everyone current with what is happening in the region.

InterLink is a vital partner with CTE, and on a final note, it is clear that CTE is better in North Central Texas because of the long-standing relationship with InterLink.

INTERLINK'S WEBSITE
Averages more than 424,000 visits every quarter.

KUDOS FROM THE FRONT LINES

"Your presentation was quite possibly the most applicable thing I've ever been to! Your information is totally applicable to our kiddos, and I can't tell you how helpful it is that you came out today. Both myself and the other/newest marketing teacher come from the Business/Marketing world and so many of the points you made, hit the nail on the head so to speak."

Many thanks,
Tiffany Groom
High School Marketing Education Teacher
Keller ISD

INTERLINK PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

31 business practitioners evaluated 55 Career & Technology Programs for Birdville ISD, making recommendations on current industry software, technology, and curriculum.

A NOTE FROM TECH PREP

InterLink is a valued partner and resource to Weatherford College Tech Prep and our students as they endeavor to navigate the meandering and often uncertain and unsettling job market. InterLink offers a critical link to information on current and emerging occupations in the North Central Texas region and the education and training required for career success.

David Russell, PhD.
Tech Prep Director
Weatherford College

InterLink Speakers Bureau

33 Business Members of brought their business acumen to teachers, counselors and students this year.

WE GET BY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

The following organizations provided in kind services that benefited InterLink this year.

Avaya Communications ~ Conference Bridge

Collin County College Convergence Tech . Center ~ Hi TEC Conference

BNSF ~ Board Meeting Host

Metroplex Technology Business Council ~ Meeting sponsorship

InterLink's Regional Labor Market Survey
Was distributed to over 2000 North Central Texas employers with a 60% return.

HOW THE REGION BENEFITS FROM INTERLINK

By: Kevin Ferrell, InterLink President

InterLink has over 30 business board members, 30 education board members, and 4 government representatives. We are all committed to contributing the amount of time necessary to InterLink because we recognize the direct benefit to the quality of the workforce the region and the companies we work with are seeking.

Those from Economic Development Organizations say that when a company is considering a relocation, the top query on the list is the quality and quantity of the workforce.

When InterLink was organized 23 years ago, the founding visionaries had the herculean goal to help strengthen the region by developing a skilled workforce which would offer students graduating from our public schools and colleges the opportunity to work in quality careers. InterLink is a unique organization and the only program of its kind in Texas.

We've achieved success through matching regional employers future career and skill needs with committed educators who produce students to match these needs. The vehicle for this magic is InterLink's annual labor market survey through which regional employers forecast future labor market demand, that secondary schools and community college districts use to implement Career and Technology Education programs, curriculum and counseling to develop career ready students.

By bringing a snapshot of different types of careers into the educational realm and having interaction between educators and students, InterLink's Speakers Bureau contributes by bringing clarity to the reality of the workplace.

When I see the growing number of school districts that have committed to their students futures by building Career and Technology Centers and Academies whose programs are proven to produce effective learners, I know that the time that I and my fellow board members have spent with InterLink is making a difference in the lives of students and the region. Because well prepared students contribute to dynamic businesses that make North Central Texas a wonderful place to live and do business.



Kevin Ferrell, Regional Sales Manager, Avaya Communications served as InterLink's President from 2008 ~ 2010.

INTERLINK SERVES ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

- Birdville ISD**, Career & Technical Education Advisory Board
- Career & Technical Educators of North Texas (CTENT) Assoc.**, Member
- Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD**, Math, Engineering, Technology & Science Academy Task Force
- Convergence Technology Center**, Business Advisory Council
- Dallas ISD**, BEST Committees
- Garland ISD**, Teen Parent Advisory Committee
- Global EDGE Tech Prep Consortium**, Board of Directors
- Grapevine Colleyville ISD**, Career & Technical Advisory Committee
- Hurst-Eules-Bedford ISD**, Career & Technical Facility Task Force
- Irving ISD**, Career & Technical Advisory Council
- Mansfield ISD**, Career & Technical Advisory Council
- NTC Logistics Task Force**, Member
- North Central Texas Tech Prep**, Board of Directors
- North Texas Commission**, Advisory Board
- North Texas Regional P-16 Council**, Member
- Workforce Solutions of North Central Texas Supply Chain Mgt.** Advisory Committee
- Northwest ISD**, Academy Planning Task Force
- Plano ISD**, Career & Technical Advisory Committee
- Rockwall ISD**, Business and Education Council
- Small Business Development Center**, Advisory Board
- Texas Business & Education Coalition**, Science Technology Engineering Math Action Planning Team
- Weatherford College Tech Prep**, Board of Directors

InterLink responded to 91 Labor Market requests including 24 presentations to audiences of approximately 1034 teachers, counselors, students, administrators, parents, and business persons.

InterLink's Mission:

North Central Texas InterLink, Inc. is a regional nonprofit alliance bridging business, education and government by providing timely and relevant information on labor market trends, occupations, education, skill, and training needs of employers and employees.

Carrying out this mission will result in a quality workforce, with a globally competitive advantage, which supports the region's economic development activities.

2010 INTERLINK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sushma Aggarwal, Texas Health Resources (THR) ~ **John Allison**, Weatherford ISD ~ **Dr. Linda Anderson**, Birdville ISD ~ **Dan Belcher**, Region XI Education Service Center ~ **Judy Bell**, Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County ~ **Shawn Blessing**, Irving ISD ~ **Mark Bosher**, Waxahachie ISD ~ **Pat Boutier**, TMAC/ARRI ~ **Rick Bracy**, Grapevine Colleyville ISD ~ **Felicia Brooks**, Dallas ISD ~ **Douglas Chaney**, D.C. Logistics, Inc. ~ **Dr. Shirley Chenault**, Weatherford College ~ **Paula Clements**, AIA Dallas ~ **Monica Comeaux**, Cingular ~ **Max Davis**, Consultant. ~ **Dr. Brent L. Donham**, Texas A&M University Commerce ~ **Lauren English**, Choctaw Nation Career Development ~ **Michael Engstrom**, BNSF Inc. Communications ~ **Dr. Ed Foster**, Mansfield ISD ~ **Dr. Joann Frantzen**, Dallas ISD ~ **Dr. Phil Gilbreath**, Garland ISD ~ **Jon Gustafson**, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co. ~ **Jane Hanna**, Construction Education Foundation ~ **Carl Hecht**, North Texas Future Fund ~ **Nicole Hicks**, UPS ~ **David Hitt**, Plano ISD ~ **Val Hodges**, North Texas Commission ~ **Dr. Harold Housley**, Navarro College ~ **Anthony Huggins**, TXDOT ~ **Bettye Hutchins**, North Central Texas Tech Prep ~ **Daniel L. "Luke" Jackson**, JEA Hydro Tech Engineering, Inc. ~ **Dr. Janet Jaworski**, Global EDGE Tech Prep ~ **Michael Jamee Jolly**, Greater Dallas Restaurant Association ~ **Valorie Jones**, Duncanville ISD ~ **Dr. Brad Killingsworth**, Lewisville ISD ~ **Mario Malacara**, Service King Collision Repair ~ **Cynthia Fisher Miller**, Fort Worth Chamber ~ **Tom Morton**, Independent Bank of Texas ~ **Jeanette Moser**, Atmos Energy ~ **Tony Neely**, Northwest ISD ~ **Mary Park**, Commerce ISD ~ **Renee Parker**, Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County ~ **Don Perry**, Dallas County College ~ **Zach Perry**, Frank Kent Dealership ~ Tarrant County College Tech Prep ~ **Deborah Roark**, Texas Wesleyan University ~ **Judy Rollins**, Mesquite ISD ~ **Jim D. Runzheimer**, Attorney and CPA ~ **Dr. David Russell**, Weatherford College Tech Prep ~ **John Scovill**, Doss Heritage & Culture Center ~ **John Shellene**, DFW Semiconductor Technology Executive Council ~ **Candy Slocum**, InterLink ~ **Danny Stotts**, Richardson ISD ~ **Helen Sullivan**, Collin County College ~ **Ginny Truitt**, MANPOWER, Inc. ~ **Tracy Underwood**, MANPOWER, Inc. ~ **Sue Walker**, Metroplex Technology Business Council ~ **Lathan Watts**, TEXO ~ **Rob Wetli**, Sandlin Homes ~ **Nancy Williams**, The Health Industry Council ~ **Glenn C. Wintrich Jr.**, Dell ~ **Craig Wright**, Arlington ISD

★ Executive Committee

★THE HISTORY OF INTERLINK★

In 1987 a group of Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex business and education leaders were concerned about the implications of the quality of the workforce in Texas. They approached the governor of Texas to become one of nine pilot Quality Work Force Planning regions, a public/private sector initiative to prepare a skilled workforce.

Chartered in 1988, as a 501 C (3) organization, InterLink became the vehicle to bridge the gap between business and education in North Central Texas.

InterLink was the only program funded completely by the private sector until 1989 when the Texas Legislature approved the establishment of 24 Quality Work Force Planning regions, funded equally by state grants.

The founding visionaries included **Bell Helicopter**, **Dallas County Community Colleges**, **EDS**, **Fort Worth Chamber**, **General Dynamics**, **The Greater Dallas Chamber**, **INFOMART**, **LTV-Aircraft**

Product Group, **Southwestern Bell Telephone**, **TD Industries**, **Tarrant County College**, **Texas Instruments**, the **University of Texas at Arlington** and the **University of North Texas**.

These visionaries realized that unless people have the skills and knowledge to meet the needs of business, the region would be unable to attract or maintain companies, therefore lowering the standards and opportunities for students and the community. They further recognized that the development of a strong work force should start at least by the secondary level of education to prepare youth with skills that would take them from school to higher education and ultimately into the workplace. The State's **Career and Technology Programs** became the vehicle through which to deliver these skills and knowledge.

InterLink provides regional labor market information to 133 independent school districts, 25 college districts, and 5 Tech Prep Consortia in North Central Texas.

In 1991, InterLink affiliated with the **North Texas Commission**, a regional economic development organization.

As of 1996, InterLink once again became privately funded.

In 2001, InterLink became the only remaining Quality Workforce Planning

organization in Texas.

InterLink is sustained by industry contributions (mostly in-kind services) and contracts for services with the public and private sectors.

Career and Technology Education in Texas continues to be recognized as an effective way for young people learn because knowledge comes through applied learning. Studies also indicate that these programs have a positive effect on the drop out rate.

Employers, educators, and students in North Central Texas benefit from the high skills and knowledge developed through programs that come from InterLink's recommendations. *****

INTERLINK ACCOLADES

Model Program ~ State of Texas

Outstanding Community Volunteer ~ Career and Technology Educators of North Texas (CTENT)

Outstanding Community Volunteer ~ Career and Technology Association of Texas (CTAT)

Civil Rights Partnership Award ~ U. S. Department Of Transportation

Human Resource Leadership Award ~ Association of Training & Development

National Technical Honor Society ~ Collin County College Tech Prep

ADVISORY ORGANIZATIONS

ACCA ~ Air Conditioning Contractors Of America ~ North Texas

AGC ~ Associated General Contractors
AIA Dallas ~ American Institute of Architects, Dallas

CEF ~ Construction Education Foundation

Consortium of Logistics Managers

DFW Hospital Council

Dallas & Fort Worth New Car Dealers Associations

Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas
Greater Dallas Restaurant Assoc.

Manufacturing Association of NTX
Metroplex Technology Business Council

North Central Texas Science and Technology Coalition

North Texas Commission

North Texas Commission Logistics Task Force

Skills NET

Texas Department of Transportation

Texas Workforce Commission

TEXO

The Health Industry Council

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