



California Federation of Teachers
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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TEACHERS LAUNCH NEW WEBSITE: HELP FOR TEACHING SCHOOL TO CAREER SKILLS

OAKLAND, CA – The California Federation of Teachers (CFT), AFT, AFL-CIO, announced today that it has launched a new website containing an online Toolkit to help educators link classroom learning with the real world skills and organizations needed to launch a successful career. The “School to Career” website [<http://www.schoolandbeyond.org>] contains an online Resource Guide to help educators prepare students for success in a complex and changing world. Although designed for teachers, the website can be accessed by anyone with a computer and Internet access, and contains many useful links to learning resources with value beyond school to career issues. “Teachers are expected to prepare students to solve problems we haven’t yet seen, using technologies not yet invented, in jobs not yet created,” said CFT President Mary Bergan.

“With today’s economic troubles, it is critical that educators have easy access to the best tools to integrate education for a career with academic learning. This online toolkit provides connections between the school, community and career learning activities for all students. The website can be helpful to anyone seeking learning activities in their communities.” The Toolkit provides links to such diverse learning and career resources as Healthy Start centers, afterschool programs, corporations, trade associations, Union apprenticeships, and even California’s Junior Achievement chapters. It can help anyone answer a wide variety of questions about schools and careers.

The online School-to-Career Professional Development Toolkit and Resource Guide provides individualized online instruction activities. The toolkit is filled with one-click links to an amazing number of relevant websites. The Toolkit was created through a grant by the Governor’s School-to-Career Advisory Council. It provides material for educators in k-12, adult education, community colleges and universities.

Dennis Smith, an Accounting Professor at Sacramento City College and Chair of the CFT School-to-Career Committee, “We make this Toolkit available for free to stimulate authentic learning to help educators bring school-to-career teaching into their curriculum and practice. It’s no longer enough to teach students reading, math and other subjects without a meaningful context. We have to bring those concepts to life and link them to the working world students will enter after they leave the classroom.”

Grant Project Director Joan Horikoshi, a history teacher at Berkeley High School and liaison for the

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CFT on Career Education and the Governor's School-to-Career Advisory Committee, said that the materials are available free for educational non-profit purposes, "This Toolkit is an exciting, informational, computer based, and easy to use professional development opportunity that is freely available to all California public educators. We hope that it will help strengthen the link between learning and working for educators and those seeking to grow and find career opportunities. Check it out."

The California Federation of Teachers represents over one hundred thousand educators and classified employees at all levels of California public and private education.

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