Documentation of AVATAR Technical Assistance Phone Conversation

Participants: Christy Barnett, ECS Region 14, and Mary Harris, AVATAR

Date: May 2, 2013 Time: 3:30-4 p.m.

Status of documentation:

1. Christy asked for correction in member list on the website, which was made. The most recent minutes that appear on the website are for 11/16/2012.

Topics discussed:

1. Christy reported on AVATAR at the P-16 Council meeting held the first Friday of each month.
2. She applied for a second year of funding on behalf of ESC 14.
3. A June final meeting has been scheduled.
4. VAT members agreed that problems in student progression in the curriculum tended not to be due to lack of content mastery, but of soft skills. Students must be able to be active in accepting responsibility for their own learning, to see mistakes as an opportunity to learn, to reach a “fix-it” moment.
5. A student panel shared issues in the transition from high school to college with the VAT.
6. We discussed VAT membership and the contributions made by members in various roles. It’s important to include K-12 district administrators as well as teachers because of their role in setting the policy for grading, for example. Higher education people who have worked with or have keen interest in K-12 are the most invested. Chairs and deans are the most likely to have influence on course content and policy across the institution.

Follow-up actions:

Christy will check to see if the posted membership is now corrected.

Christy, will you please send records of the VAT meetings that took place after November and of final June meeting, if it has occurred?