Documentation of AVATAR Technical Assistance Conversation

Participants: Christine Holecek, ECS Region 12, and Mary Harris, AVATAR

Date: Tues. Feb. 25, 2013 Time: 10:00—10:30 a.m.

Status of documentation:

1. Documentation has been received through December, 2012. Notes are needed from February 8, 2013.

Topics discussed:

1. Chris described the February meeting before which some of Module 3 had been completed in advance using Google Docs. The group was engaged in further discussion of Conley’s work and Texas initatives in the face to face meeting.
2. At meeting planned for March 22, ELAR specialists will talk about the end-of-course test rubrics and their implications for assignments and grading of English composition. The focus is on English IV persuasive and analytic writing. There is good alignment of these rubrics with the CCRS and the post-secondary core objectives.
3. The theme of the planned April meeting is research that has implications for secondary and post-secondary education in curriculum and in student development of “soft skills.”
4. The goal of the VAT is development of a replicable tool that will enable secondary teachers to grade essays like post-secondary instructors. Sharing will occur over time through the Heart of TX P-20 website and also the Connect 3 Regional Career and Technical Education Conference at which that are hands-on opportunities for educators.
5. Superintendents are aware of the VAT work through the P-16 Council meetings.
6. Glad for the stipends provided for participating teachers.
7. McLennan Community College is planning that next year all disciplines will focus on curriculum alignment as connected to secondary education. Dr. Fred Hills, Dean of Arts and Sciences, plans a faculty exchange as part of this emphasis.
8. The “One Book, One Waco” program in which essays submitted by students along with their permission for the essays to be reproduced and shared will serve as a source for essays to be scored by ELA teachers.
9. Mary shared activities related to alignment of grading expectations from Region 16.
10. We talked about possible use of AVATAR resources for training or sharing during the summer.