



August 2018, vol.3

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Dear Colleagues,

As we wrap up the first eighteen months of the REL Pacific contract and look forward to the next year's plan of work, I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for the productive conversations we've had and your commitment to moving forward with our work together.

You'll be seeing a lot of us in the region over the next several months, as we work to support you in the areas of college and career readiness and success and professional learning, and launch work in early literacy.

In this issue of our newsletter, we'll share more about what we're doing around the region, point you to some resources you might be interested in, and introduce you to several new staff members. As always, we would be happy to hear about your work, your accomplishments, and your needs. Please feel free to contact me at 808-664-8187, or by email at pherman@mcrel.org.

Phillip Herman
Director, REL Pacific at McREL International

REL Pacific at McREL International

1003 Bishop Street, Suite 2200
Honolulu, HI 96813

www.mcrel.org • <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/pacific/index.asp>

808.664.8175 • 877.768.9222 (toll free from AS, RMI, and US)



Where in the World is REL Pacific?

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During the transition from high school to college, students often experience major adjustments in teacher expectations, independence, environment, and many other characteristics that can change sharply between the thrill of a high school graduation ceremony and the unfamiliarity of a college lecture hall. Last quarter, REL Pacific focused on fostering collaboration between K–12 and college systems to design transition courses that will support students’ development and position them to succeed in and after college. This collaboration will ensure that more students can successfully make this transition—to enroll in credit-bearing courses, feel that they belong in college, successfully complete their degree requirements, and follow the life path they have chosen.

REL Pacific in Palau

From April 9–13, REL Pacific staff traveled to Koror, Palau to meet with teachers, administrators, and other key leaders from the Palau Partnership for College and Career Readiness and Success to build on college and career readiness and success work done in Palau in the prior REL contract cycle and to discuss options for students who were not on track to succeed in credit-bearing math courses in college.

REL Pacific discussed students’ opportunity to learn in Palau and asked participants to update staff regarding current work in Palau to transition students successfully to and through college. Participants shared their ideas about ways to understand and improve the education system as well as questions they had about designing transition courses.

REL Pacific in Chuuk

Our next visit was to Weno, Chuuk from April 23–27,

where we observed math and English classes at Southern Namoneas High School on the island of Tonoas and then met with a small, focused group of 13 people to discuss possibilities for transition course design.

We talked about some of the ideas that undergird transition course design, including identifying what course content is important in Chuuk and how it should be taught, naming other key skills and abilities that should be supported as students transition into college, and how asking key questions can enable stakeholders to determine how to design a transition course that addresses issues specific to their context.

REL Pacific in the RMI

Next, we traveled to Majuro, RMI from May 6–12, where we held three one-hour sessions with college and high school math teachers, principals, and other key faculty and staff to discuss interest in designing a transition course. We also visited Laura High School at the far end of Majuro atoll to discuss this work with the school’s teachers and principal.

Our staff and the RMI Partnership for College and Career Readiness and Success discussed what a transition course in the RMI would look like (where in the course sequence would it go, who would be involved in the work, and so on) and what further data would need to be collected to determine what course objectives and structure should be.

REL Pacific looks forward to continuing to support members of our college and career readiness and success Partnerships and Alliances as they work to ensure that their students are prepared for the paths they choose beyond high school.

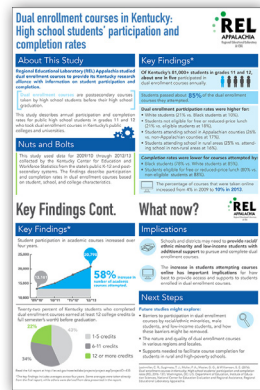


A view of the beach in Palau

Check Out These Resources From the Regional Educational Laboratories!

Dual Enrollment Courses in Kentucky: High School Students' Participation and Completion Rates

Interested in dual enrollment? Check out this infographic from our colleagues at REL Appalachia to learn about the impact of dual enrollment courses on students in Kentucky. The infographic illustrates annual participation and completion rates for public high school students in grades 11 and 12 who took dual enrollment courses in Kentucky's public colleges and universities.

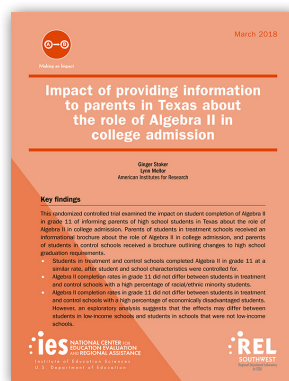


The infographic is available at https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/infographics/pdf/REL_AP_Dual_enrollment_courses_in_Kentucky_High_school_students_participation_and_completion_rates.pdf

Impact of Providing Information to Parents in Texas About the Role of Algebra II in College Admission

A recent report from REL Southwest examines the impact of providing parents with an informational brochure about the role of algebra II in college access on students' grade 11 algebra II completion rates in Texas. Parents of students in treatment schools received an informational brochure about the role of Algebra II in college admission, and parents of students in control schools received a brochure outlining changes to high school graduation requirements.

For full study results, link to <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/projects/project.asp?projectID=1470>.



REL Pacific Staff—Latest Additions

Betsy Callaway • *Administrative Specialist*



Betsy Callaway provides support to Task 4 Dissemination staff through distribution, communications, and quality assurance for Federal contracts.

Mya Birrell-Jackson • *Administrative Specialist*



Mya Birrell-Jackson, administrative specialist, provides administrative support to REL Pacific office staff, including formatting documents, assisting with data entry, and generating reports.

Dr. Marisa Crowder • *Researcher*



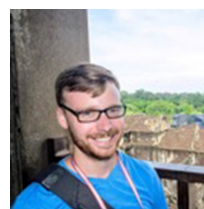
Specializing in culture and education research, Dr. Crowder has expertise in social and emotional learning, qualitative and quantitative study design, and collaborating on large, multi-year projects.

Erin D'Amelio • *Research Associate*



Erin joins us from Mount Bethel, Pennsylvania where she was a research assistant at the University of Pennsylvania and an operations assistant for the nonprofit Judith's Reading Room.

Dr. Brad Rentz • *Research Associate*



Brad comes to us from the Department of Linguistics at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa where he was an instructor. Brad has experience as an 8th grade teacher and research assistant and volunteers at We Are Oceania where he redesigned the website and set up various web services.



REL Pacific

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