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OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

OLLI AT CSUDH OMNILORE

OMNILORE NEWS is a publication of OMNILORE, a Learning-in-Retirement Organization, a program of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the California State University Dominguez Hills

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Rancho Dominguez in the History of the South Bay

by Carol Kerster

rom being an inexperienced 17-year-old cub reporter on the "Minnesota Daily" to an officer of the California State University Emeritus Faculty Association is quite an impressive career arc. When you read about the work and positions that constituted that journey, "impressive" might seem a modest description.

Dr. Judson Grenier, our speaker for the First Forum Luncheon of 2012, was an associate editor of the "Daily" when he left for California, where he obtained a Master's Degree in communication from the University of California. A brief stint with the International Press Service in



Dr. Judson Grenier

Washington D.C. was followed by three years in the Army Security Agency.

He returned to reporting, but this time for the Los Angeles Mirror News. In LA he entered two other professions: teaching and writing. He started at El Camino College teaching journalism. After passing orals for his Ph.D in history from UCLA, he also taught history at ECC. His appointment as the first chair of the history department at the newly-formed California State University at Dominguez Hills, in 1966, resulted, in part, from the publication of a section of his dissertation on the Muckraking Movement, done in collaboration with noted historian, George Mowry.

From, roughly, 1991 to 2003 he received teaching honors, published many books, articles and textbooks on California history, some of which were also awarded honors. ("Taming the Elephant Politics" deserves recognition for the title alone!) Grenier also reviewed books for many publications, served as editorial consultant for the periodical, *California History*, and for a KCET local history series, and was a contributor to the Universal Pictures film, "Pueblo of Promise." For his role as principal commentator on the documentary, "The Dominguez: a family who shaped the history of California," Grenier taped nearly forty oral histories, including writer Upton Sinclair and former Governor Pat Brown. In addition to serving on a state panel that selects history/social science textbooks for use in California public schools, Grenier was elected to a variety of faculty leadership positions: three terms on the CSU Academic Senate, and, since 2000, either archivist or secretary of the California State University Emeritus Faculty Association.

For those of us who live in the South Bay (I believe most of us do), we are fortunate to have obtained this outstanding educator/writer/historian, Dr. Grenier, who is clearly an expert on this area of California, and we can be assured that we will start this New Year with an informative and relevant presentation.

The Forum Luncheon will take place at the ever-reliable Los Verdes Country Club, at 11:30 a.m. on January 30th. Using either the registration form on page 7 of this newsletter, or the flyer which will be in your regular mail early in January, choose a chicken, or a vegetarian meal and send to **Lori Geittmann** before January 20th.

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<i>Omnilore News</i> is published six times annually. We welcome short feature articles		DON'T MISS - IN THIS ISSUE		
and news stories. Plea		 President's Message 	Page 2	CARPPY
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT by Bill Gargaro

s you probably know, the Roman god Janus had, among his other duties, responsibility for overseeing transitions and guarding gates, and now represents oversight of the gateway to the New Year as the month of January. He is usually depicted as having two heads, one facing forward and one backward, the backwardlooking eves with 20/20 vision of course. Looking at 2011, we should be happy and satisfied with our past year's activities, especially the growth in our membership, S/DG participation, our new equipment acquisitions, and, despite the terrible economy, our healthy financial position. What can we look forward to in 2012?

Although I have written this before, I just want to reiterate that in my opinion the new year will see, in November, one of the most important elections in our history because of its probable impact on our economy, health care, foreign policies, energy policy, etc. As good, intelligent citizens motivated to continue learning and doing in retirement, I believe that it is incumbent upon us to be as well informed as possible so that our best decisions can be reached. Our S/ DGs this summer will likely cover, in one form or another, most or all of the issues that face us, not just for the near term but for the long term as well, thus impacting our children and grandchildren as their lives develop. So I am asking you to consider including one or more of these S/DGs in your plans for summer study, along with what might be

more enjoyable subjects. I am bringing this up now because you may be asked to choose your summer subjects before the next Newsletter is published in March. To participate more fully, you might take the time to nominate S/DGs for the summer trimester along the lines just discussed. Members are always encouraged to submit suggestions for potential S/DGs -- in the format of the Curriculum descriptions that you receive every trimester to guide you in making your choices.

This will be the third year that we will have had our Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in Room 7. Thankfully we have not had to use it yet. We provided free training for a number of Omniloreans in 2010; the names of those who have been trained are identified by an asterisk on the S/DG rosters. However, the period of validity of the first training sessions will expire in 2012. Steve Miller, former Omnilore treasurer, will be in charge of recruiting and arranging for the training of up to 30 Omniloreans at NO charge to our members. Those who volunteer to be trained can be either members who received the initial training or new volunteers who did not participate in the sessions last year. These training sessions are tentatively planned to begin in April.

I would like to mention a series of "talks" Omnilore sponsors that you might find both interesting and useful, and should consider attending, namely,

the periodic Computer Talks supported by the Computer Working Group. These talks are often on subjects that are both timely and of specific interest to the general computer user,



not just the "techie." For instance, the talks lately have addressed the subject of computer security for the general user of the Internet. This is a vital subject for all of us to be familiar with, to prevent ID theft and other mischief with our private information. Watch for upcoming events in this Newsletter and on our website for topics and schedule.

Another activity that will be especially interesting this month is the Forum on January 30. The speaker is Cal State Dominguez Hills professor emeritus and renowned historian, Judd Grenier. I have heard him speak, and I know you will find his rendition of the early history of our area to be especially enlightening and enjoyable. For instance, have you ever wondered, "Who *were* all those women who have streets named after them in Redondo Beach?"

Finally, the troops are out of Iraq. Politics aside, this is a terrific transition, especially for all of you who have loved ones, perhaps grandchildren, who recently arrived home or are homeward bound. May Janus's forward-looking face soon see a similar transition of our troops from Afghanistan.

February Date Set for New "Introducing Omnilore" Meeting

by Linda Jenson

The Membership Committee has scheduled an *Introducing Omnilore* meeting for prospective members who may want to join *Omnilore* for the Summer trimester. The date is:

Tuesday, February 21st 10 a.m. at the Franklin Center in Room 7



Attendance at an *Introducing Omnilore* meeting is mandatory for new members, so please tell anyone you know who might be interested about this upcoming date. We know that most of our new members join as a result of referrals by current members. We have a wonderful organization with a great deal to offer, and classes that are very enjoyable and informative.

Help Spread the Word!

OMNILORE PROFILE-MARIA ASHLA

by Kate Nelson

"There are so many interesting Omniloreans--why profile After graduation, she took a me?" Maria Ashla asked when we sat down to chat. Here's why. St Vincent's Hospital in Los

Maria grew up in Bogota. Her parents, both prominent journalists connected to the Liberal political party, fled to the US with Maria and her younger sister in the aftermath of a bloody civil war in Colombia. They thought their stay in the US would be temporary, but it was several years before another regime change allowed her parents to return to their homeland. Her father died soon after, but her mother reinvented herself and became something of a celebrity as the *Dear Abby* of Colombia.

By the time she arrived in California in 1951, Maria had completed two years of college in Biology, and enrolled at Immaculate Heart College. No one in her family spoke English. Typically, Maria didn't see this as an obstacle, but a challenge. She remembers taking notes in class, racing home to look up unfamiliar words in the dictionary until the English was correct, then translating everything back into Spanish to study it. She was named Junior Class Princess, an honor that included presiding over a formal dance. Without a boyfriend, she turned to a friend who arranged a blind date. Maria's traditional parents weren't sure about having their daughter out alone in a new country with a man, so they decided to buy their own tickets to the formal. They sat at a table next to the dance floor and kept their eyes on Maria and her nervous date all evening. She laughs about it now, and her date must have gotten over his nervousness: they've been married for fifty-eight years.

After graduation, she took a trainee position in the lab at St Vincent's Hospital in Los Angeles, but was frustrated that new hires had little guidance. Maria saw another opportunity—she volunteered to set up and supervise a training program. She turned that idea into a 23-year career



as a Health Care Administrator at Children's Hospital. Along the way, she managed to earn two Master's degrees and raise two very successful children.

Her kids live in the area and Maria now enjoys the company of four grandchildren. As with other areas of her life, Maria is enthusiastic about this new role. When one grandson was in high school, Maria, who loves history, bought copies of all of his textbooks so that they could talk about his classes when he came to visit. She must be good—he was high school valedictorian. After teaching the grandchildren about computers ("that's a switch these days," she notes), she stayed current in Her daughter is fond of saying to the technology. grandkids: "Grandma does the computer and I do the sewing." Maria is active in the AAUW (American Association of University Women-PV Branch) and has used her strong organizational abilities to lead the group. Maria's skills may be formidable, but her personality isn't. Warm and friendly, she has an easy laugh and an infectious smile.



PRESENTATIONS 101: THE WORKSHOP Thursday - January 19th 12 Noon - Room 7

by Jade Suzanne Neely

A re you a new member of Omnilore and a little uncertain about your first presentation? Perhaps you have been a member of Omnilore for a while and want to polish your presentation skills. In either case, we have some help for you. On Thursday, January 19th from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m., you are invited to join **Presentations 101: The Workshop.** Need help on selecting a topic? Don't know what audio/visual equipment is available? Not sure how to schedule your class presentation? Don't know how to operate the audio/visual equipment? The Workshop will answer these questions and any others you may have relating to one of the most enjoyable elements of the Omnilore experience. It's all about making our presentations better and enjoying livelier discussions.

If you can't attend the Workshop and want some help pulling your presentation together, check the list of Presentation Mentors on the bulletin boards. You will find the names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of Omnilore members who have volunteered to work with other members on preparing presentations. Just give one of them a call or fire off an e-mail to make arrangements for advice and perhaps to make a new friend.

Presentations 101: The Workshop Thursday, Jan. 19th at 12:00 noon, Room 7, Franklin Center-Redondo Beach



The Spring 2012 Osher Lecture Series - Theatre and Dance

by Jim Bouchard Senior Program Development Specialist Coordinator, Lifelong Learning, OLLI AT CSUDH



special event on the CSUDH campus was attended by several OLLI members last fall. Prior to the opening of the play "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" on campus, OLLI members were invited to a "tea" on the stage with the cast of the play and the faculty in the Theatre and Dance Department. What transpired was such an enjoyable experience that it was clear that interaction with the Theatre Arts Department should be expanded.

Therefore, the OLLI Curriculum Committee developed the spring 2012 Osher Lecture Series featuring faculty members from the Theatre Arts Department. (The Osher Lecture Series is offered each spring and fall, and is free to OLLI members). In the first presentation, the ever-entertaining Bill Deluca, Chair of the Theatre Arts Department and Doris Ressl, Coordinator of Dance will introduce us to the rich history of theatre and dance at CSUDH. They will also discuss performances scheduled for the spring. The remaining lectures feature faculty members discussing costume design, performance, dance and musicals.

The lectures are designed to coincide with three scheduled performances (a play, a musical and a dance concert) which OLLI members can attend at various times throughout the semester, and for which OLLI members will receive a student discount. For information regarding each performance, please visit <u>http://csudh.edu/theatre/</u>.

Other courses of interest this semester include:

- ► Several presentations in February from CSUDH faculty members regarding Black History Month
- The return of Daphne Bradford and her Apple-certified Crenshaw High School Students to teach OLLI members how to make movies in the Osher Mac Lab using a high-definition video camera recently donated to OLLI.

I look forward to seeing everyone in the spring!



We Have 4 Classroom Laptops (including a Mac)



by Hal Hart, Omnilore Equipment Manager (Hal.Hart@ACM.ORG)

In 2011 we added these two new laptops to our classroom inventory:

- Macintosh MacBook Pro (pictured at left below)
- ▶ Windows-based Dell Inspiron 15R running Windows 7 (pictured at right)

Both new laptops are currently stored in Room 7, and anyone is welcome to take the Mac to Room 8 if it's not being used in Room 7. (*The Mac is stored in the red carrying case on the middle shelf of the Room-7 equipment closet.*) If you're interested in learning about Macintosh basics, see the description of the January 26 Computer Talk, page 5 in this issue.



Both our 3-year-old Dell Inspirons running the Windows XP operating system are now in Room 8. A problem with the leftmost keyboard keys on the old Room-7 Dell has been fixed, and that laptop is stored on the bottom of the Room-8 equipment closet and labeled as a backup. I would love it to be used occasionally to test the durability of the repair. (*Please let me know.*)

We now have a backup laptop in each classroom in case of problems. . . . or to facilitate setup of two presentations before an S/DG class starts or for any other purpose requiring an extra laptop. As always, please report any issue with our laptops to Laptop Administrator **Rick Spillane** or myself.



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The Descendants

t would have been painful, and painfully wrong on every level, if director Alexander Payne had stooped to sentimentality and slapstick to promote The **Descendants**, a film about real people. Not that the director of the wildly inventive *Sideways* of seven years ago could have ever really considered those ingredients. What he did instead is make a terrific film which includes, as in real life, the tragedy and comedy that elicit genuine emotion. He did this with a smart script (from a book by Kaui Hart Hemmings), with a group of "right on" actors, and with the sights, sounds, the very atmosphere of Hawaii fairly oozing from the screen.

The actors are led by George Clooney, surely one of the world's most famous and (need I say) best looking actors. Although mostly seen in rather lightweight,

wise-cracking films, Clooney, as self-described "back-up parent" Matt King in The Descendants, plays a man faced with huge life challenges, still witty but increasingly wisened. To watch him interact with his daughter Alexandra's sort-of boyfriend, Sid, is to see a man excruciatingly near the end of his rope, and it's one of his many exquisite scenes.

Shaileen Woodley as 17-year-old Alexandra, Amara Miller as 10-year-old Scottie, and Nick Krause as the aforementioned boyfriend Sid, are headed for stardom in the best sense of the word. Their vocabularies may make you cringe, but they present accurate portrayals of the kids we know. Others in this film, adding their own singular and achingly real characterizations, are Judy Greer and Matthew Lillard, as a couple with their own marital problems; Beau Bridges, long-haired and pot-bellied, who figures significantly in what one reviewer called the "real estate side of the story," and Robert Forster, portraying Matt's irascible, fist-punching father-in-law, as a real curmudgeon with a very tender inner self.

I loved the movie, and while I commend it, I caution you that the choice presented to the hero is heart-breaking. If you have ever been in the position of having to choose one of two unacceptable outcomes, you might, understandably, want to skip it.

Jay Belsky

native of Buffalo, NY, Jay enlisted in the Army reserves in 1942, and then graduated from the University of Buffalo School of Medicine in 1951. After a residency in internal medicine at the VA hospital in Long Beach, he began a career with Kaiser Permanente in 1955, rising to become Area Associate Medical Director. He later returned to clinical practice from 1976 to 1988, and joined Omnilore upon his retirement in



2000. Jay brought many friends to Omnilore during his five year stay. He was 86 when he passed last month.

In Memoriam

Margaret Ellis

argaret, who had been an active Omnilorean for nearly seven years, passed away at home December 24 at the age of 81; she had been in hospice care for the last few months. She had worked for the Arizona Corporations Commission and, when her husband died, moved from Phoenix to the South Bay to be closer to her grandchildren; her son, daughters and their children live in Redondo Beach. A photographer caught her



in costume at one of the **Omnilore** Halloween-themed annual meetings.

Mary O'Neill



beloved Omnilorean whose style and grace helped to keep Omnilore humming for nearly 20 years, Mary succumbed to cancer on November 12th; her husband Jim, also an active **Omnilorean**, preceded her

in death in 2010. A respected librarian with credentials from the University of Illinois and a 19-year career with the Palos Verdes Library system, Mary's theatrical flair showed in her marvelous costumes at **Omnilore's** Halloween-themed annual meetings (think Marie Antoinette); she also was a popular member of as many as three S/DGs per trimester, yet volunteered her talents and time to serve several community groups.

About the Luncheon Rate . . .

s anyone knows who has been to the grocery store lately, the cost of food has gone up. So has its cost to our caterer at Los Verdes Country Club. As a result we now have to pay \$20 for our luncheons. When I explained our increased cost to some of our board members, they were not surprised. They believe that the kind of meal we get and the beautiful setting is worth the cost.

bv Lori Geittmann

Also the caterer is being more demanding on an early count. So please get your checks to me by January 20th. (Please see reservation form on page 7.)





year ago Omnilore bought a Macintosh laptop computer (*stored in Room 7*) as an alternative to the Dell Windows-based laptops. Also, many Omniloreans have recently acquired Macs (*including Mac laptops which they bring into our classrooms*) or are considering a Mac as their next computer.

This Computer Talk is intended to answer basic questions of Omniloreans concerning the Macintosh. Topics to be covered include:

- é Popular applications for web browsing and email
- **EXAMPLE** Basic applications for office productivity functions (*presentation charts*, *word processing*, *spreadsheets*)
- 💰 File and folder organization
- **(**The Macintosh Dock
- Bringing files from a home Windows computer and putting them on the Omnilore Mac,
- Similarities and differences of basic operations between Windows and Macs
- Connecting a Mac laptop to Omnilore's projectors
- Accessing the internet from our classrooms

Additional topics will be covered in response to audience questions. Or, email <u>Hal.Hart@ACM.ORG</u> ahead of time to suggest an additional topic.



February 23rd - Noon to 1:00 - Room 7

February and March Computer Talks Bring Back Our Acclaimed Two-Part Series on the Use of PowerPoint for Presentations

by Rick Spillane

By ased on the total number of responses to the Computer Working Groups email asking what topics the membership would like to have covered at the Computer Talks, the second month of the New Year brings help to those who would like to upgrade their presentation skills. Following up on our Presentations 101 class, we focus on making PowerPoint understandable and thus easier to use. Coming to the Franklin Center February 23rd and March 22nd, Omnilore Computer Talks will be focusing on everything you need to know and were afraid to ask to successfully use PowerPoint on both Macs and PCs.

PowerPoint is a software program that can be used to organize your notes and graphics in a simple to understand and easy to use manner. No more scrambling through your note pages or juggling pictures for presentation on the screen. There will be handouts with the talks to enable you to use the information at home to build your own presentations. The various versions of PowerPoint (2003, 2007, and 2010) will be compared including OpenOffice's free version. You are encouraged to come with questions and problems related to your use of PowerPoint. Indeed, bring your own laptop and follow along.

The February talk by **Rick Spillane** will start at the very beginning: creating a presentation. We will first create an outline of a talk in PowerPoint, and then build and organize slides with your discussion points. We'll briefly look at customizing your presentation by adding notes to any slide and working with the slide master to set a style for the presentation. We will cover how to use PowerPoint to aid in your presentation and how not to confuse or put people to sleep. We will end by showing how to save the presentation on a flash drive to move it from your computer to the Omnilore classroom computer.

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est wishes to each of you for a healthy and vital year ahead

The College of Extended & International Education (CEE) will begin 2012 with programs that serve both traditional campus audiences, such as Winter Session, and special programs that address broader community and workforce needs.

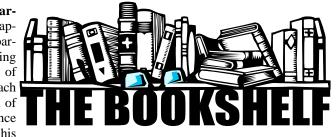
As you know, CEE offers an array of credit and noncredit programs and courses for individuals seeking to enhance their job and skills through training, workshops and courses of study. In the California State University system, extended education units are designed to be flexible with staff who develop partnerships with public and private entities in order to develop, for example, programs that address workforce needs. This is illustrated by CEE's current involvement in a program to assist laid-off teachers in regaining employment as teachers in crucial subject areas of foundational math and science. The Foundational Math & Science Teacher Preparation Program is funded through a U.S. Department of Labor National Emergency Grant (NEG).

From January through May 2012, CSUDH Continued on Page 8

uthor Erik Larson never disappoints! His particular talent of knitting two concurrent yarns of historic value, each building its own level of intense interest, is once again apparent in his

of Beasts. This account of "Hitler's Berlin" gives us insight into both William Dodd, the idealistic U.S. ambassador to Germany in the early 1930s, whose unusual diplomatic career is surely unparalleled in U.S. history, and his divorced daughter, who moved to Berlin with her parents and found some intriguing companions and experiences along the way at this fascinating time when the Nazi regime was emerging as the influential political force it eventually became.

The Sandalwood Tree by Elle Newmark This gem of a novel is a richly told story set in India. The descriptions of the land and the customs are fascinating as are the parallel stories of two women: one taking place at the time of Partition (leading to the creation of Pakistan) in 1947, when chaos and violence



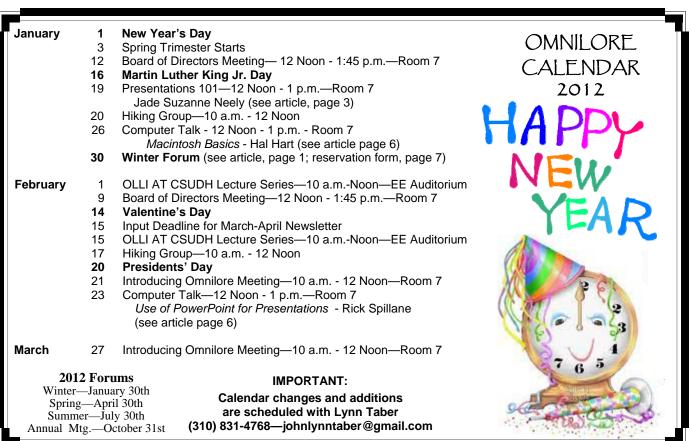
latest non-fiction work, In the Garden follow the inevitable clash between Hindus and Muslims, and the other during the Sepoy Rebellion of the late 1850s. The Sandalwood Tree has all the hallmarks of a great story -- mystery, conflict, and a remarkable historical period. Add to that some heart-wrenching scenes, a nicely complex plot, and characters that remain with you, and you'll find yourself reading far into the night, gleaning some relevant messages about forgiveness, acceptance, love and happiness.

> (Book suggestions from Omniloreans make this column work. Our thanks to Helen Leven for contributing to our list. Please send your titles, with author name and a very brief description, to Patricia Edie (jpedie@ca.rr.com). Please put "Omnilore Books" as the subject of your email. We look forward to hearing from you.)

Independent Bookstore Opens in Redondo Beach

Omnilorean Carol Lopilato has brought to our attention the opening of a new, independent bookstore located close to the South Bay Galleria -- "Mysterious Galaxy" -- at 2810 Artesia Blvd. Founded by a book lover with a penchant for alliteration, the store features "Books of Martians, Murder, Magic, Mayhem & More." Mysterious Galaxy contributes to PEN, a non-profit that funds writing programs for at-risk students.

		OMNILORE Winter Forum Lunch			
WHE	EN:	Monday, January 30th, 2012-11	:30 a.m.	ons are oth	
WHEF	VHERE: Los Verdes Country Club 7000 W. Los Verdes Drive Rancho Palos Verdes			Reservations are required by January 20th	
Please make		reservations for the Omnilore Winter Lunch	eon at \$20.00 each:		
Name(s):			Phone #	<i>t</i> :	
		(Please Print)			
		(Please Print)			
		Enclosed is a check for:	\$20.00	Other	
		as out to CSUDH , and put in the s box or send to:	Forum Committe 420 Avenue E Redondo Beach,	ee, c/o Lori Geittmann CA 90277	



Continued from Page 7 will prepare displaced elementary school teachers to be credentialed and therefore employable as middle or high school teachers in foundational math and science classes. Specifically, ninety teachers from Los Angeles city and county school districts who will receive intensive instruction on math and/or science concepts as well as effective teaching methods for these subjects. Courses and workshops are led by expert CSUDH faculty from the School of Education and Department of Mathematics. The College of Extended & International Education serves as the campus's organizing and administrating partner in this initiative.

The Foundational Math & Science teacher preparation program will take place on several CSU campuses. Preparation and professional development of educators has always been a core function of the California State University. The Hawthorne-based South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SWIB <u>http://www.sbwib.org/</u>) was awarded a \$45 million NEG grant in fall 2011 to develop job training and employment services for California's displaced workers, including teachers and aerospace employees. The SBWIB turned to the CSU Chancellor's Office and asked that office to coordinate the educational component of this teacher reemployment program on selected campuses.

Extended Education units are playing a key role in coordinating their campus foundational math and science programs as well as managing communications especially with staff of reemployment service and counseling centers (One-Stop Career Centers) who refer qualified teachers to these campus-based programs. The College of Extended & International Education has a history of successful partnership programs with workforce development agencies so we are pleased to be involved in an effort that seeks to improve the economic outlook for displaced teachers as well as enhance teaching of math and science to middle and high school students who may become interested in further study of math and science-related fields.



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