

Bridging a Path to “Careerademics”

Embedding CTE & Academic Standards in Collaboration

Presented by:

Curtis M. Clough

Principal

Cordova Junior-Senior High School



Overview of Key Points

- ◆ Introduction of My Background and Experience
- ◆ Alaska's Exemplar Framework Project
- ◆ Current Strategies in Use (TWO HANDOUTS)
- ◆ Current Issue in Play Impacting the Success of Model
- ◆ My Current Involvement in Implementation

My Background

- ◆ 27 Years Experience in K-12/Higher Education, including stints in postsecondary as Academic Chair for Academics & CTE (AZ) and CTE State Director (AK) during my career.
- ◆ I have an extensive background in CTE Curriculum & Program Development with an emphasis in Community Partnerships for employment opportunities—as well as educating students and parents on “Career Pathways to Success” at both High School and Community College levels

Background, Cont'd

- ◆ Been involved in Workforce Development Partnerships and Career-Ready Initiatives in various positions, including a seat on the Alaska Workforce Investment Board (2 yrs) and Raising Tuscarawas! (OH)
- ◆ Developed Fast-Track Training Programs connecting HS/Postsecondary programs as well as dislocated workers changing careers



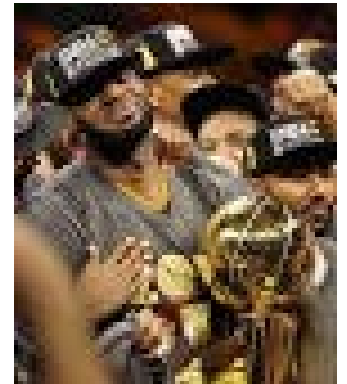
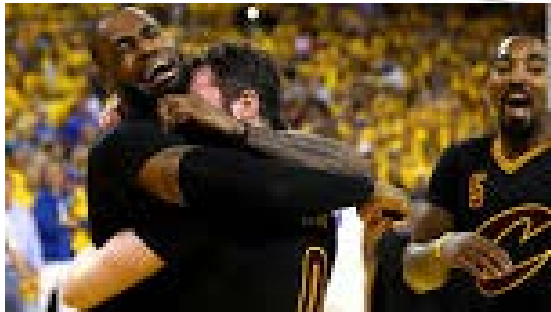
Background, Cont'd

- ◆ **FULL DISCLOSURE:** Lifelong Buckeyes, Browns, Indians and Cavs fan that thought I was going to the grave without a professional championship.....



until.....

Finally, a Championship!!!



Exemplar Frameworks

Exemplar Frameworks is establishing “base levels of performance expectations for ALL students” that are in a given CTE pathway/cluster. This includes performance expectations in the following areas:

1. Math
2. English & Language Arts
3. Employability Skills
4. Cultural Understanding & State Standards (Diversity)
5. Technical Skill Attainment
6. Life Skills for Success

Frameworks, Cont'd

- ◆ This is a **STACKABLE APPROACH** to **DEVELOP** a STUDENT'S **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & ABILITIES** (KSA's) over a **PERIOD OF TIME** so HE OR SHE can be **SUCCESSFUL** in the **TRANSITION to POST-SECONDARY EXPERIENCES**.
- ◆ Embedding of all concepts in one, coherent pathway to student success in all areas of interest!

Goal #1 is HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION!

Issues Currently in Play

- ◆ State Budget crisis has put many CTE activities for advancement on the chopping block or on hold.
 - ◆ Reduction of Per Student CTE allowance for cost overruns
 - ◆ Reduction in Base Student Aid for districts to fund education
 - ◆ Elimination of Cost of Living Adjustments for State Personnel that impacts hiring of teachers in rural areas
- ◆ Lack of alignment of Career Pathways that are clearly delineated and aligned for student opportunities and success—K12 to Postsecondary (Territorialism)

Issues, Cont'd

- ◆ No state statutory authority or EED regulations that make this a required element of curriculum development or part of the student's educational plan.
 - ◆ **REQUIRED:** Cultural Standards by Statute, but Technical Skills Assessments or Employability Skills not on most people's radars
- ◆ Local Control Issues for the State School Board as an unfunded mandate from EED—lack of state of assessment

Issues, Cont'd

- ◆ State Technical Standards for CTE are from 1991 and have not been updated to 21st Century Standards for proper installation into the programs and curriculum
 - ◆ Lack of Consensus from stakeholder meetings on the necessary “soft skills” or “career ready” skills needed for students to be successful and ready for transition
 - ◆ Age appropriateness—levels, skills, activities, etc. (K-12 or 20)
- ◆ By State Regulation, Perkins Funds can only be used for 9-12 activities in support of Career Priority Pathways

Issues, Cont'd

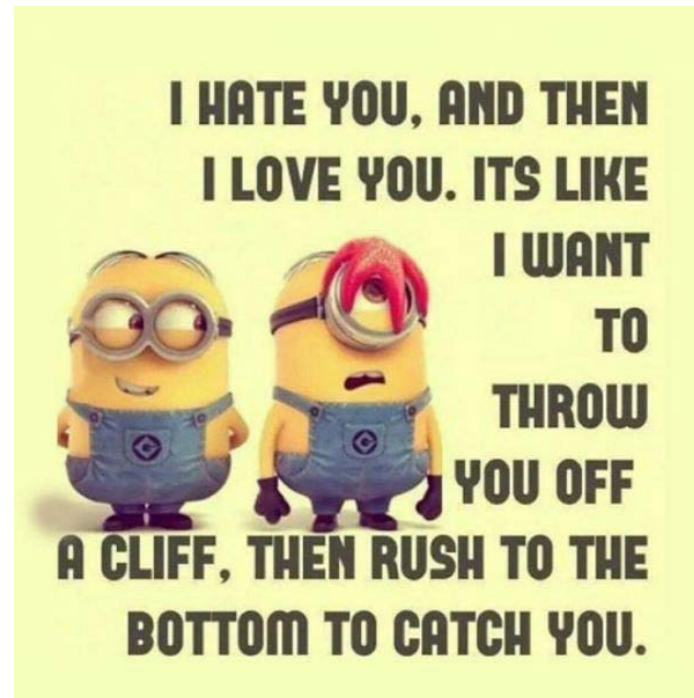
- ◆ The uncertainty of ESSA impact on school accountability and the role that CTE plays in adding value to the success of our schools and districts
 - ◆ CTE was not involved in initial discussions of ESSA implementation
 - ◆ Change in leadership in many critical areas at the State Level that is impacting momentum and success of implementation
 - ◆ Unknown Status of State Response to Federal Audit findings
 - ◆ Consortia/Collaborative model placed on hold!

What Now?



- ◆ As Principal at Cordova Junior-Senior High School, working with other similar districts (small, rural, isolated) in Alaska to keep the momentum.
- ◆ Sharing curriculum and professional development opportunities as well as taking Best Practices and Models trying to embed academics and career-ready in all courses—and willing to expand beyond our borders

Closing Remarks



THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

Contact Information

Curtis M. Clough

Principal—Cordova Junior-Senior High School

Phone: 907-424-3266 ** **Cell:** 330-933-5357

Email: cclough@cordovasd.org

Address: 100 Fisherman Avenue

PO Box 1330

Cordova, AK 99574-1330