

business buzz

I believe the time has come to assess what we're getting for the money we put into education."

The Eggs 'n' Issues forums will continue to be held monthly. To register for future forums, contact Amanda at 814/833-3200, 800/815-2660 or e-mail ajantzi@manp.org.

ECTS Program Receives National Certification

The drafting and design program at the Erie County Technical School (ECTS), 8500 Oliver Road, recently received national certification from the American Drafting and Design As-

sociation (ADDA), according to an ECTS press release.

In order to receive certification, a curriculum and program review was completed based on the ADDA's national standards. Certification provides recognition to schools whose curriculum in drafting and design meets the standards established and approved by the ADDA. The program also provides a means of encouraging schools to develop and upgrade drafting and design curriculum to better prepare students to meet job requirements.

"The students of the drafting and design lab are extremely proud of this national certification," noted Paul Brenneman, the drafting and design instructor at the ECTS. "It verifies that our curriculum and equipment are relevant and state of the art. We will strive to maintain this certification in the years to come, ensuring the viability of the program for all current and future students, and remain a trusted training alternative for local business and industry."

A certified curriculum assures competent design drafting professionals for the future. The ADDA Certification Program, and the commitment to excellence it represents, provides a quality assurance program, which benefits both education and industry.

The drafting and design certification represents the 11th program at the ECTS to achieve national accreditation.

Forecast Shows Vigorous Manufacturing Recovery

National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) President Jerry Jasinowski recently released a new economic forecast predicting a strong recovery of the U.S. manufacturing sector this year, as well as detailed results from the NAM's annual membership survey on economic and policy issues, at National Manufacturing Week, February 23-26, in Chicago.

According to a NAM press release, "The Outlook for Manufacturing and the U.S. Economy" projects that the gross domestic product (GDP) will increase a healthy 4 percent in 2004, following a 4.3-percent burst in 2003. "As for manufacturing, after edging up 2.7 percent in 2003, we expect production to increase by over 6 percent in 2004," Jasinowski said. "That's the fastest pace since 1999."

Responses to the survey varied significantly but offered numerous positive signs. Companies planning to hire new workers outnumbered those expecting layoffs by a ratio of 5 to 1 and identified the types of slots they expect to be

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