

Director's Report March 2005

Automotive Technologies Presentation. Mr. Fred Brockman and Mr. David Michalak, Automotive Technologies instructors, will conduct our March Program Presentation. Automotive Technologies is one of our most popular programs. The instructors have also taken on a leadership role in national program accreditation and curriculum development. Through its national accreditation, this program has done very well in the area of donations from automotive manufacturers and suppliers. I am sure you will enjoy and learn much from the presentation.

Welcome Mr. Ed Kuhar. We are pleased to have Mr. Kuhar serve as our acting principal for the remainder of the school year. Ed has an extensive administrative background that includes the City of Erie, Wattsburg and Iroquois. His numerous “connections” with other administrators from our sending districts will serve Ed and ECTS well. While the transition period has been short, he has already taken several steps to build familiarity with our faculty, staff and students. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Kuhar to the ECTS staff!

Equipment Grant. The Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Career and Technical Education announced an equipment grant program for the 2004-2005 school year on March 14. The grant program has some unique twists compared to previous equipment grant programs.

There is a maximum application amount of \$50,000. Applicants must provide a dollar-for-dollar match. To be eligible, programs must fall within specific industry clusters and they must be pursuing accreditation to a national skill standard. It appears we have nine programs that will be eligible for the grant—Construction Trades, Drafting & Design, Electronics, Electrical Engineering, Facilities Engineering, Graphic Communications, Health Assistant, Metal Fabrication and Plastics Technologies. Any piece of equipment purchased through the grant must also have a minimum price of \$5,000 per unit. Faculty in each of these programs is compiling a list of equipment needs they have that meet the guidelines.

Board members will recall that the ECTS budget contains a budgetary reserve. I like to refer to this account as an emergency or “opportunity” account. This is certainly an example of an opportunity. There was no indication this grant would be available this year—consequently, we did not budget for it. We are also well into our fiscal year, so spending flexibility is minimal. In spite of these circumstances, our budgetary reserve allows us to pursue this opportunity.

Alternative Education. We are experiencing significant growth in our Career Alternative Education Program. Current enrollment is 30 students and there are another 10 students on a waiting list. We anticipated expanding the program during the 2005-2006 school year, but the current demand for seats from the districts has pressed us to shorten the schedule. We have arrangements with the Sarah A. Reed Children's Center to provide additional instructional and behavioral support staff. The final remaining issue is instructional and behavior control areas.

There are significant space restrictions already within the building. The CAEP only has two dedicated areas—a supervisory office and a room which houses both a “time out” area and the staff desks. By increasing the enrollment, the most significant need is an additional “time out”

area. We would like to resolve this issue by converting the supervisors' office area into another "time out" area and purchasing an office trailer to house the supervisors and staff. The Federal Surplus program currently has mobile office trailers available. The trailers are located near Buffalo. The purchase price is \$1,000 and the anticipated transport cost is \$500. There would be some additional costs to hook-up electric and gas. We are working with architect Chris Coughlin and the Summit Township Zoning office to make sure we comply with all local and state regulations.

Recruitment and Placement Demands. During November, December and January we experienced a "process pinch" (insufficient personnel) as we tried to cover all of the *recruiting appointments* and *cooperative education placements*. Our current job description for the Student Services Coordinator for Placement has this position responsible for both of these activities. We are currently reviewing job descriptions for all student services positions to see if we can redistribute these responsibilities. We are also trying to take into account the emphasis on "industry relevance" as noted in the Jobs for the Future report (JFF). The report recommends a closer tie between CTE programs and employer needs and labor market trends. This review may result in some changes in personnel assignments and staffing patterns.

2005-2006 Calendar. We will probably have to revise our calendar for 2005-2006. The countywide version showed Monday, January 2 as an in-school day. Our classified and administrative contracts regard that Monday as a paid holiday. Some of our participating districts have the day off and others are in session. It is also the nationally recognized holiday for New Year's Day.