

Director's Report November 2004

Drafting & Design Presentation. Paul Brenneman, Drafting & Design faculty member, has volunteered to do the November Program presentation. Mr. Brenneman always recruits very capable students and his placement into the workforce and post-secondary education is always strong. Paul utilizes high-level design software and teaches upper level engineering concepts.

Adults in the Secondary Program. As I shared with board members at the October meeting, we would like to begin the discussion amongst board members regarding adults enrolling in our secondary program. There are certainly concerns and issues we will have to address. However, there are many more opportunities and advantages associated with adults and high school students enrolled in the same programs. Please see the position paper and solicitor's opinion that will serve as resources for this discussion.

Recruitment, Application, Admission & Enrollment. The Leadership Council is continuing their investigation and discussion of this important process. To date, the Council has described the "current and desired states" and created a list of "close the gap action steps." Their work is far from done, but the Council will be taking a hiatus for the holidays and other school events.

District 10 SkillsUSA Competitive Events. We are currently investing a lot of faculty and staff time as we prepare for the District 10 SkillsUSA Competitive Events scheduled for Friday, December 10. The ECTS will conduct 40 contests, host over 230 student competitors and utilize judges from 32 different companies and organizations from across northwestern Pennsylvania. Gold medal winners at the district level advance to the Pennsylvania SkillsUSA Competitive Events. Students from a seven county region including Armstrong, Butler, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Lawrence and Warren will attend the event.

Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. We are continuing to gather samples of curriculum outlines from various curriculum resources. Of course, we have yet to come across something that matches exactly what we would like to offer, but we are seeing "pieces" of the program. Part of the challenge in developing a curriculum like this is the difficulty in "copying" what someone else has developed, as it does not always match our curriculum format and typically does not spell out timeframes. However, we are encouraged by what we are seeing.

The superintendents had questions about the start-up costs for the program. Again, we do not have firm figures to work with, in part because we have not established the curriculum. Estimates at this time include faculty salary and benefits (\$60,000), instructional materials and supplies (\$10,000), and equipment (\$15,000 to \$25,000). We have projected the equipment and instructional materials costs for only the first year of the program. As the program evolves into the second and third years, we would add equipment and materials at those times.

Happy Thanksgiving! The pace this fall has been rather hectic, I am sure our faculty and staff are looking forward to a well-deserved respite. Please accept our well wishes for a restful Thanksgiving holiday that includes good family, good friends and good food.