

Director's Report February 2006

Northwest Pennsylvania Technical Community College

The technical community college initiative is moving forward—albeit slowly. The proposal document, shared with the operating committee last month, was presented to the faculty on Tuesday, February 2. There were several questions from faculty members—most of which dealt with issues that have yet to be defined.

Dr. Judy Miller, David Kranking and I met with Jake Rouch, CEO/President of the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership on February 3. Mr. Rouch was accepting of the concept. He offered several good suggestions for the deployment of the initiative. He also offered to present the concept to the Chamber's membership through an "issues briefing."

Career and technical education directors from the eight-county region met on Friday, February 17 to discuss each county's progress in selecting members for the steering committee. The results of that meeting were not available at the time this report was written.

On February 20, Dr. Miller and I met with Ralph Pontillo, President, and John Krahe, Vice President of the Manufacturers' Association of Northwest Pennsylvania. The results of that meeting were not available at the time this report was written.

Erie County Land Purchase

At the time this report was written, only one school district, North East, had approved the sale of land to the county. Several districts have meetings the week of February 13. After some questions about indemnification and deed conveyance, which Atty. Sennett did resolve with Atty. Knox, the matter seems to be progressing satisfactorily.

Regional Collaboration & Satellite Programs

Meetings to discuss establishing satellite programs have been held with six of the seven school districts that operate career and technical education programs in their districts. Fort LeBoeuf has decided to discontinue operating its business education program.

District level administrators and I reviewed the concept, benefits and challenges of satellite programs at each meeting. The biggest challenge the districts face is bring their programs into compliance with a 360-hour per year requirement. Most district-based programs operate below the requirement. I anticipate there will be two or three districts that elect to agree to the satellite program arrangement for the 2006-2007 school year.

Welding Program

It appears another customized welding program will begin in early March. Four companies are working with the Northwest Industrial Resource Center (IRC) to establish funding

and scheduling. Companies participating at this time include Riley Power, Custom Engineering, PSB and Zeyon. The companies have decided to extend the program to 200 hours (or five weeks) to customize the skills of the student-employees'.

2006-2007 Budget Preparations

The superintendents are still reviewing the budget after we presented it to them on February 3. Most of them were willing to accept our 8% increase proposal. A couple of districts wanted to have their business managers review the proposal before endorsing the budget.