

## **Director's Report January 2006**

### Strategic Review

It is always helpful to periodically step back from the day-to-day activities and assess your strategic process. This month's work session will include a brief review (or introduction for our new board members) of our vision and quality action plan. In so much as we are at the mid-point of our operational year and we have new board members, it seems pertinent that we take a few minutes and review and refresh our commitment.

### Northwest Pennsylvania Technical Community College

The ECTS superintendents have been discussing the reasons and opportunities associated with a technical community college in Erie County. A similar discussion has been happening amongst career and technical school administrators from a seven-county region. On Friday, January 20, U.S. Congressman John Peterson (5th District, Pennsylvania) will host an informational meeting in Titusville to further the discussion and create some energy for the development of a regional technical community college.

The initial concept would use the career and technical schools in each county as branch sites. As such, the participating school districts would serve as the sponsor for the college. More information will be available at the board meeting, as this report was written before the meeting.

### Erie County Land Purchase

As Attorney Sennett will explain, the county is anxious for some decision on the acquisition of 20 acres for the construction of the county safety building. We have received an independent appraisal from Mr. Glowacki. At this point, it seems like it is merely a matter of making a decision.

### Business and Industry

*Your Employability Skills.* Work continues with this program. As you will recall, the program involves 120 hours of instruction in various topics (communications, teamwork, safety and health, technology, quality and mathematics). Students can acquire a certificate by completing the program and meeting other criteria, which include a drug screen, high school diploma, or GED, good attendance and passing scores on standardized tests. Five school districts are reviewing the curriculum for adoption in their districts. The class would be available to high school students during the 2006-2007 school year.

### Welding Program

Riley Power has contacted ECTS with interest in conducting another 160-hour welding training program. We have submitted a training proposal of just over \$40,000. Riley is evaluating the proposal. No time frame has been established for the program.

### Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership

The eleven participating school districts, by way of ECTS, joined the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership (ERCGP). The chamber has conducted two meetings recently—an annual meeting and a Growth Partnership meeting. On behalf of the superintendents, the director has attended both of these sessions to gather information and report. The Growth Partnership is entertaining support for three regional projects—Erie Unity Project to authorize a study for the merger of Millcreek Township and the City of Erie; the International Trade Center development located at the Erie International Airport; and, the runway extension project at the airport.

### Special Education

Please see the note in Dr. Miller's report regarding special education services at the technical school. We are please this sub-committee of superintendents has agreed to assist the technical school with a review of our special education services and perhaps a subsequent redesign of our special education program.

### 2006-2007 Budget Preparations

We are well into preparing next year's budget. There is every indication an increase in district contributions will be needed. The director and business manager hope to have a draft version of the 2006-2007 budget for the superintendents to review at their February meeting.

### Director Roundtable Meetings

The director instituted monthly after-school faculty meetings this year to build communication between faculty and administration. However, the meetings do not include our support staff. In response, the director is meeting each month with the three groups of support staff (secretaries, instructional assistants and maintenance/custodial staff). Each group has participated in two meetings. The discussions have been informative for both staff and the director.

### Regional Collaboration & Satellite Programs

The director is scheduling meetings with representatives from seven of our 11 districts to discuss the feasibility of converting local CTE programs into ECTS satellite programs. The superintendents have reviewed the operational and fiscal advantages and authorized the meetings. There are several factors to examine as the conversion process begins. Some programs may cease to exist, the districts may modify some programs, and it is possible for the districts to create new programs. The essence of the effort is to provide a single point of coordination for all of the county's CTE programs.