

Superintendent's Report
Erie County Technical School
Joint Operating Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 26, 2006

On January 6, 2006, the Erie County Superintendents' Professional Advisory Council met to discuss the following topics:

- **ECTS Budget 2006-07:** Dr. Jackson shared a **very** preliminary look at a first draft of the 2006-07 budget. This budget presents a nine percent increase over last year's budget. Further discussion will take place in future superintendents' meetings.
- **Countywide School Calendar:** A small group of superintendents have formed a committee to make recommendations for a countywide school calendar. More information will be forthcoming at a later date.
- **Special Education Programming at ECTS:** Two hundred thirty-one (231) students out of the 794 students attending ECTS have IEPs and need special education programming. The main question for discussion was "How can we best serve IEP students participating in ECTS programs?" A small group of superintendents, ECTS staff, and home school staff will tackle this issue and bring recommendations back to the whole group of superintendents for further discussion. Issues the group will be reviewing include how to develop stronger home school transition programs, whether to work with the IU to develop appropriate transition services for our students, and how to provide effective training for ECTS teachers who have IEP students in their classes. Dr. Jackson will set a date for the first meeting.
- **Regional Community and Technical College:** At this time we are looking at a Community and Technical College that would serve all of Northwestern Pennsylvania. Should that model not be feasible, we will move ahead with a model for Erie County. The key focus point at this time includes bringing together all the parties/agencies that need to be involved in the development of a community and technical college. Such groups include, but are not limited to, the Erie Growth Partnership (Chamber) and Erie Community Foundation.
- **Regional Collaboration:** County school districts with vocational-technical programs are having a difficult time meeting the 360-hour requirement set by the state in order to receive reimbursement for the courses. Most school districts will drop the vocational-technical classification, as state auditors will be expecting to see that schools with these courses have complied with state requirements. Some schools are not able to run their vocational-technical programs without reimbursements. Dr. Jackson will work with those districts to identify issues, including enrollments and curriculum.

- **ECTS Application and Admissions Process:** Four school districts—Fort LeBoeuf, Harbor Creek, Iroquois, and North East—are piloting the new application/admissions process. These four districts will be able to identify what works and what doesn't at the end of the applications/admissions process. Dr. Jackson feels that it is important to give ECTS faculty and staff some input into the selection of students who attend the school. More information will follow at the conclusion of the pilot program.
- **Second Shift Programming at ECTS:** Dr. Jackson reported that at this time the cost of running a second shift program for 11th and 12th grade students only would be too expensive—cost of staffing, etc. In the future, we will have discussions about the possibility of including adults in the evening program. Their tuition could help make a second shift possible and thus increase opportunities and slots for high school students to participate in ECTS classes of their choosing.