

Director's Report November 2005

Business and Industry. Workforce development seems to be a key issue in our region and across the state. A summary of interactions follows:

Manufacturer's Association of Northwest Pennsylvania Partnership. A group of five superintendents has been meeting with MANP representatives. The group has decided to pursue "employability/soft skills" training and a corresponding certificate through a program that originated in York County, Pennsylvania. The program is called Your Employability Skills (YES).

Welding Training. The welding training program is nearing start-up. Plans call for a December 5, 2005 start date. The Three local manufacturers are in the process of hiring or scheduling employees for the training program. The Northwest Industrial Resource Center (NWIRC) and WIB are leading that project.

Pennsylvania Automotive Association (PAA). The director and Mr. Fred Brockman, Automotive Technologies faculty member, attended a meeting in Harrisburg on November 16 sponsored by the PAA and. The PAA is the licensee for the Automotive Youth Education System (AYES) in Pennsylvania. ECTS is one of 26 sites in Pennsylvania that sponsors an AYES program. PAA hopes to make the AYES program more responsive to the schools and its member dealers.

On November 9, ECTS staff members Dave Michalak, Fred Brockman, Elaine Shaffer and Aldo Jackson attended a dinner meeting with the Erie Area Automotive Dealers Group. Mr. Tim Sennett, secretary to the group, invited the ECTS staff and J. Paul McMillen, President of PAA to the meeting with local dealership owners to see how we can enhance our partnership.