

Director's Report September 2005

Curriculum Review & Approval. We hope the operating committee has enjoyed reviewing the curriculum outlines. It is so important the *foundation for our product* is current and truly depicts what is occurring in our classrooms and laboratories. The committee members, as well as prospective students and parents, will have a better appreciation for the sophistication of our programs' content.

The faculty has done an excellent job in revising their curriculum. They have created documents that will truly improve the teaching and learning in their programs. Their work will be a model for other career and technical schools to follow. They also face the challenge now of keeping their content current, which they will surely be able to do.

Student Information Software. We are probably like other schools that change their student information management systems—facing a minor headache! The new system offers so many positive features that the headache has been worth it. We have a number of audiences to bring up to speed on the new system. We have focused on the teachers to start the year because of their role in grading and attendance. We are following up with clerical and administrative support staff. Support from the vendor has been good and we need to continue to work with them as we grow into the system.

Business and Industry. We are having more and more interactions with local business and industry. The Workforce Investment Board (WIB), based in Meadville, is leading two initiatives in which we participate. The first is a “careers in manufacturing” campaign. The WIB is working in conjunction with the National Tooling and Machining Association, Crawford County AVTS, local manufacturers and ECTS. The WIB is also establishing relationships with school districts and career and technical schools to support different projects coming out of the PDE and Department of Labor & Industry.

An initiative similar to the NTMA project is also underway with the Manufacturers' Association of Northwest Pennsylvania. Five superintendents met with 12 business representatives on Wednesday, September 14. It was an excellent meeting and should result in a solid action plan to promote manufacturing in Erie County.

Two local manufacturers that conduct welding and fabrication have met with the RCTC office to explore welding training. The Northwest Industrial Resource Center (NWIRC) is leading that project. They are also working with the WIB to secure resources to conduct the training.

We have also had conversations with representatives from Modern Industries. They are very interested in conducting a machining training program. The discussions are early. Their interest came out of the WIB/NTMA project.