

**Erie County Technical School  
Director's Report  
April 2007**

**Strategic Planning.** A strategic vision meeting was held on Friday, April 12. Twenty community members including students, parents, faculty and staff, superintendents, board members and the business community participated in the meeting (a list of participants is available in supplemental information section). The group reviewed the current mission and vision. They also established five goals and several objectives for each goal. The goals for our strategic plan include:

1. Erie County Technical School plays an integral role in creating a regional career and technical education system
2. Elevate the public perception of the value and opportunity of technical education
3. Develop programs that provide opportunities for students to meet regional needs resulting in sponsorship from employers, government and school districts
4. Provide student services and support to ensure success
5. Provide and update facilities, equipment and technology to meet current and future needs

Other recent and planned events in our strategic planning process include:

- Action Plan Teams Orientation Meeting, April 19
- Action Plans Development, April and May

The action plan teams and their co-chairs are:

- 1) Academic Achievement—John Hansen and Donna Erdman
- 2) Student Services—Jan Kennerknecht and Patty Palo
- 3) Professional Development—Natalie Fatica and Andrea Lucarotti
- 4) Special Education—Pat Holland and Janet Grossman
- 5) Educational Technology—Jeff Smith and Phylis Zimmermann
- 6) Facilities—Steve Sceiford and Tracy Massello
- 7) Organizational Growth—Aldo Jackson and Dave Michalak

**Equipment Purchases.** Significant efforts have gone into equipment purchases this spring. This month we ordered an alignment machine and a tire changer for the Automotive Technologies program. We are also making final purchase arrangements for playground equipment for the Early Childhood Education program. The automotive equipment totaled \$26,000 and the playground equipment totaled \$8,000. The Perkins grant funded both purchases.

**2007-2008 Grants.** The administrative staff is working on two grants for next year. The Bureau of Career and Technical Education released requests for proposals very early. Proposals have typically been released in the late summer or early fall. The practice often resulted in short project periods. The early release is a good move on the part of the Bureau. It should make for timelier implementation of grant activities.

The administration is submitting an equipment purchase grant. We intend to purchase another set of CNC machine tools to upgrade the Tool & Die laboratory. While we did not budget for this purchase, we feel we can secure funds from either the capital reserve account or the budgetary reserve. The grant requires a 50-50 split in local and state funding. The grant and local match each will likely total \$80,000.

The second grant we are working on is titled *Committed to Excellence*. This state grant focuses on developing programs of study that push career and technical education students into rigorous academic classes. The grant ties in well with our strategic planning issues and initiatives. It should establish the foundation for improving the academic performance of our students. ECTS is eligible to apply for up to \$75,000 under this grant.

**Legislative Support for CTE.** A recent announcement by ACTE indicated that Congressman Phil English, in cooperation with Congressman Brian Baird (D-WA) are circulating a "Dear Colleague" letter focusing on an increase for Perkins in FY2008 and getting membership for a new Congressional CTE Caucus (you can review the letter in the supplemental information section). Congressional representatives distribute "Dear Colleague" letters to show support for a particular legislative initiative or funding request.

In order to comply with Congressional Members' agendas ACTE, Rep Baird's staff, and Rep. English's staff have agreed to keep the language for an increase general. We are hoping that this letter will show enormous support for an increase in funding, and support for CTE schools.

**Welding Training.** The seventh class of the customized welding program was to begin on April 16. The contracted instructor was unavailable to start the program. The start date has been moved to May 14.

**Travel and Meetings—April.** The director's recent and scheduled meetings include:

- *Statewide Regional Career Education Partnership Meeting*, April 5, Harrisburg, serving as a partner with the Regional Center for Workforce Excellence (WIB) strategic planning for the career education partnership
- *County-level Workforce Development Meeting*, April 10; participate in a Workforce Investment Board sub-committee that addresses workforce development efforts in Erie County
- *Millcreek Township School District Strategic Planning*, April 10; serving on the steering committee for the district's strategic planning effort
- *Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership Legislator Appreciation Dinner*, April 12; ECTS was a 'table sponsor' at this annual event, interact with the business and legislative communities
- *Erie Regional Chamber Economic Development Partners Meeting*, April 18; a quarterly meeting of agencies involved in the county's economic development efforts

- *Manufacturer's Association of Northwest Pennsylvania, Patrick Locco Awards Reception*, April 19; an annual event that recognizes successful CTE students from across the region
- *Northwest Pennsylvania Technology Council*, April 23; meeting with Perry Wood, Executive Director, co-hosted with Elaine Shaffer and Jeff Smith to discuss partnership opportunities between ECTS and the council
- *Middle States Association Accreditation Visit—Somerset County Career and Technology Center*, April 30 to May 3; serving on an accreditation review team