

School

The Albion News
Wed., April 11, 2007

Erie County Technical School announces formation of new articulation agreements

The Erie County Technical School (ECTS), 8500 Oliver Road, recently announced the formation of several new articulation agreements with the Pittsburgh Technical Institute (PTI). ECTS's articulation agreements with PTI now include the following programs: Art & Design, Computer Information Systems, Culinary Arts, Drafting & Design, Electrical Engineering, Electronics, Graphic Communications, Health Assistant, Networking Technologies and Tourism & Hospitality Management.

As a result of the new agreements with PTI, students successfully completing their program of study at ECTS will be eligible to receive from four to 16 credits at PTI provided they meet specified criteria. Upon completion of the application requirements at PTI, students will receive a \$1,000 credit per course toward their tuition.

"Our previous articulation agreement with PTI benefited students from only four of our 19 career and technical education programs," said Jan Kennnerknecht, supervisor of instructional support services at ECTS. "With this update, students from 10 of our programs will be able to receive credit for coursework they've completed at ECTS. This type of partnership not only benefits our students and their families, it also validates the curriculum we offer as being state-of-the-art, high quality education."

In addition to the new agreements with the Pittsburgh Technical Institute, ECTS also added Byrant & Stratton to their growing list of post-secondary partners. Several new agreements have been developed for students in Health Assistant, Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Computer Information Systems. Students who enroll at Bryant & Stratton will be eligible to receive from three to 15 credits, depending upon program,

which equates to \$415 per credit.

Articulation agreements are developed to facilitate a smooth transition from high school programs to training at the post-secondary level and allow students to gain college credit for work completed in their ECTS studies. Students in specific courses at ECTS will begin

their post-high school education and training with significant advantages and increased opportunities while saving time, money and avoiding duplication.

With the addition of the new agreements, ECTS now has 81 articulation agreements with 35 post-secondary institutions.

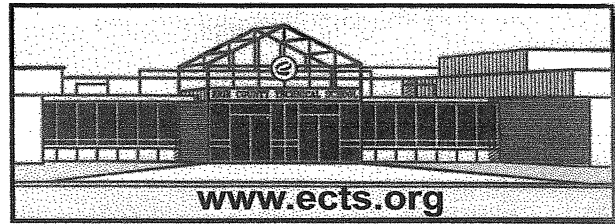


submitted photo

Students who graduate from the Graphic Communications program at the Erie County Technical School are eligible to receive up to eight undergraduate credits from the Pittsburgh Technical Institute. Amanda Adamczyk, a Graphics student and senior at Northwestern High School, has added PTI to her list of considerations for post-secondary education.



Erie County Technical School



After spending several summers helping his uncle with housing construction, **Dave Corsi** thought he wanted to pursue a career designing residential homes. In ninth grade he was able to take a basic drafting class at Girard High School which turned out to be just enough to spark a greater interest in the field. Corsi soon learned about another high school option available to him through the Erie County Technical School (ECTS).

ECTS currently serves over 2,500 high school students from 11 Erie County sending school districts. With 19 intensive career and technical programs to choose from, Corsi was thrilled to discover Drafting & Design as one of the educational offerings. Today, he is nearing the completion of the three year program and will graduate from Girard High School later this spring.

Although his interests have shifted from architectural design to tool design, Corsi is well on his way to a successful and rewarding career. Over the course of three years, Corsi has gained a basic understanding of mechanical and architectural design. Through his course work in drafting,

mechanical drafting and CAD, he has learned to create precise computer-aided drawings that show how to construct machines, buildings and infrastructures. Corsi has also gone one step further and can add tool design to his list of accomplishments.

Corsi has been a model student during his years at ECTS and was one of few students to participate in a co-operative education experience beginning in his junior year. Now nearing the end of his senior year, Corsi spends every weekday afternoon at his co-op job at **Reiser Tool Design** in Girard.

Reiser Tool Design provides plastic injection mold and tool design for a variety of industries including medical, automotive and consumer products. Dave Reiser, owner of Reiser Tool Design, had never been an employer in the co-op program before but knew he could use an extra designer and liked the idea of providing a work-based learning experience at the high school level.

"As a former graduate of ECTS myself, I was happy to provide on-the-job-training and work experience to a qualified high school student," said Reiser. *"Dave Corsi came to us with a good basic understanding of detailing drawings as well as dimensioning techniques. He had a solid background in AutoCAD and Inventor which made it easier for him to transition into our software preference, ProEngineer. Dave now takes three dimensional drawings and creates cross section views and adds dimensions as needed,"* continued Reiser.

"Dave Corsi is doing a great job for us and I've been pleased with his performance since he joined our design group over a year ago. He worked throughout the summer and has been with us ever since. I am impressed with his work ethic and he is

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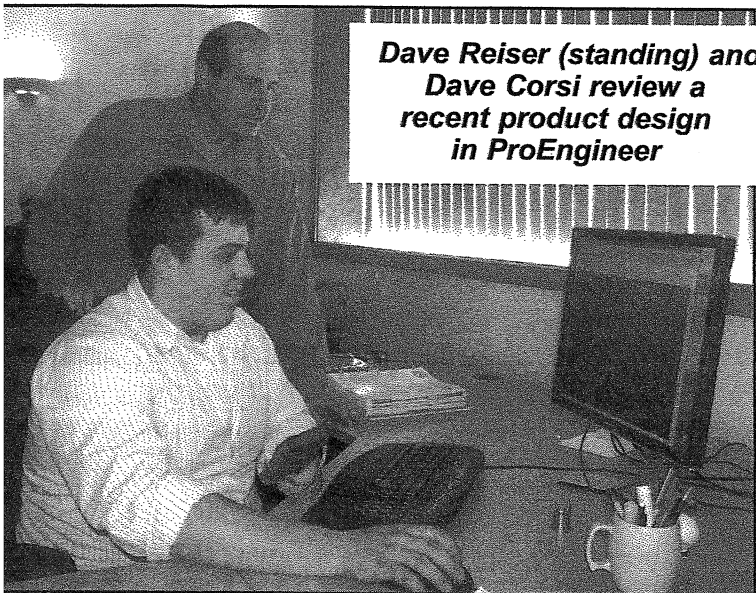
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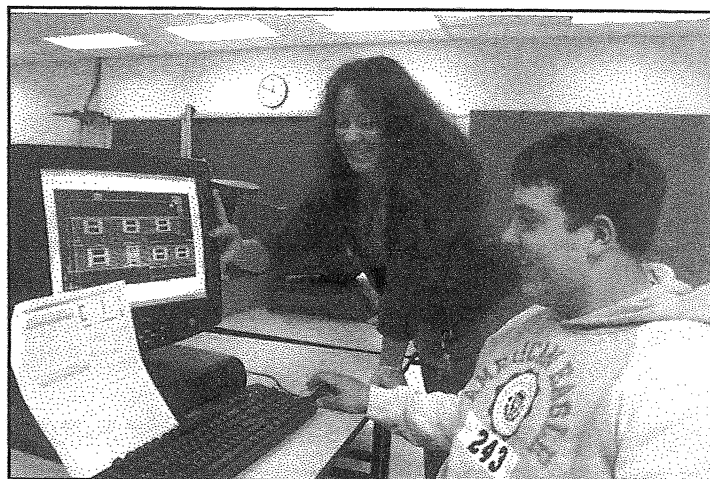
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Dave Reiser (standing) and Dave Corsi review a recent product design in ProEngineer

Dave Corsi and Mariea Sargent, drafting & design instructor at ECTS, review an architectural drawing in AutoCAD



always prompt and reliable. Dave is a good listener and is eager to learn new things and to take on more responsibility."

In order to facilitate a greater understanding of injection molds and how they are transformed from a computerized drawing to an actual tool, Dave Reiser took Dave Corsi on a tour of Precision Tool in Girard. An excited Dave Corsi said, *"It was really interesting to actually see how a tool was made from one of our drawings. I watched the CNC machine cut the steel to make the mold and I got to see other parts of the shop."*

Elaine Shaffer, business partnership coordinator at ECTS, takes great pride in placing qualified high school students in appropriate co-op positions. *"Right*

now we have nearly 60 students out on co-op and I continue to get calls from business and industry seeking qualified employees," explained Shaffer. *"Cooperative education is an important program at the Erie County Technical School and a valuable work-based experience,"* continued Shaffer. *"The co-op program is reserved for those individuals who are considered to be the most likely to succeed on the job. In addition, our co-op students are representatives of ECTS and because of this important responsibility, there are certain qualifications in place to insure that only conscientious and proficient students participate."*

Shaffer added, *"Co-op is a great opportunity for our students and helps open their eyes to employer expectations such as good attendance, responsibility, work ethic and dependability. Whether headed off to college or directly into the workforce, the co-op program provides valuable work experience and is a good addition to a resume."*

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Corsi was recently selected as the ECTS recipient of the Patrick R. Locco Award, sponsored by the Manufacturers' Association of Northwest Pennsylvania. Corsi was nominated along with four other ECTS students. Corsi will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for continuing education, while the other nominees will receive a \$100 savings bond.

Mariea Sargent, Drafting & Design instructor at ECTS, is proud of Corsi's achievements and excited about his future potential. "I've had Dave in class for three years and selected him as

a nominee for Patrick Locco Award based on a variety of reasons. He is intelligent, hard working and carries himself in a professional manner. Dave is a team player and expresses himself well in the classroom and at his place of employment. Although he came to ECTS without a plan, he has embraced the education available to him and is gaining excellent on the job training. He now has a clear career path and a very bright future ahead of him," added Sargent.

In addition to his academic accolades, Corsi has competed in various competitions through SkillsUSA at ECTS and participated in football and track and field at Girard High School. Corsi has been accepted in the Plastics Engineering program at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College and will start school this fall.

Past Presidents at the March Meeting

Mark DeHaven

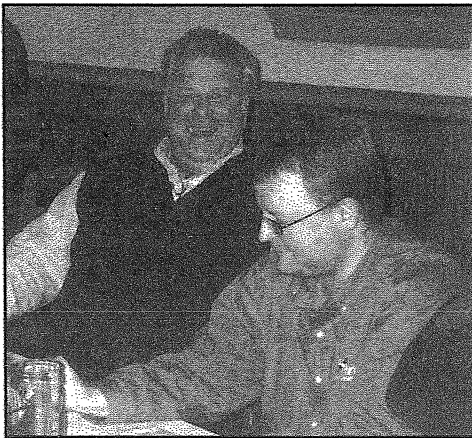
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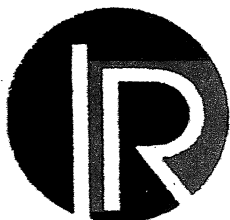
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Community Album



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students meet legislators

Three students from the Erie County Technical School recently traveled to Harrisburg to participate in Career and Technical Education Week. From left are Elaine Shaffer, student services coordinator at ECTS; Kristin Emhoff, a cosmetology student and a senior at McDowell High School; state Sen. Jane Earll; Nick Teribery, an electronics student and senior at Girard High School; and Tina Raeke, a drafting and design student and a junior at McDowell High School. In addition to meeting with Earll, the students met Reps. Flo Fabrizio, Curt Sonney, John Evans and Teresa Forcier.