

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

Strategic Planning. Our strategic planning efforts truly got underway this month with a stakeholders' forum for superintendents. Debbie Thompson, president of Strategy Solutions, conducted a focus group session on Friday, February 9. The one and one-half hour session generated a lot of good information. The superintendents have a clear opinion on a vision for ECTS and career and technical education. The superintendents agreed to assign themselves an action plan dealing with career pathways across the school districts.

The next major events in our strategic planning process include a stakeholders' forum for faculty and staff on Tuesday, March 1 and student focus groups. The JOC will have their forum as part of the March board meeting.

Regional Technical Community College. The news regarding the technical community college revolves around two events. The first is an effort by the Erie Community Foundation to facilitate a workforce gap analysis for the region. The Foundation created an ad hoc committee of 20 individuals to work with a facilitator to identify gaps in employment and training. The ad hoc committee will aim to provide a final report by June. A list of invited committee members is available in supplemental information.

The other item of interest was Governor Rendell's 2007-2008 budget proposal. His proposal included a \$2 million line item to "to establish two new technical college programs to provide underserved areas of the Commonwealth with certificate and associate degree-granting programs for high-skill technical occupations. The Governor envisions creating up to 10 such programs in coming years." It is unknown whether any of this proposed funding is intended for northwest Pennsylvania, but it is encouraging news.

Souper Bowl. Culinary Arts faculty members Janet Grossman and Curt Oaks, along with students Jessica Brown, Manuel Lopez and Jeff Southward, participated in the ninth annual Sarah A. Reed Children's Center Souper Bowl on Sunday, January 28. The group's stuffed pepper soup stood up very well against the other 19 restaurants and food establishments. This was the first year for ECTS to participate in this event.

Equipment Purchase. In preparation for the purchase of the CNC mills and lathes, ECTS staff members worked with four representatives from three vendors to build the bid specifications. Rob Suprynowicz, Steve Sceiford and Paul Fritz assisted with the session. The input from the staff and equipment vendors was very insightful and thorough.

Marketing Strategy Committee. We made significant investments in marketing tools (video, display unit, etc.) several years ago and the time has come to update and upgrade those tools. But before we proceed with this, we have convened a committee of faculty and staff to examine our marketing efforts. There are questions as to whether we are doing the right things, for the right reasons, with the right people, at the right time. The aim of the committee will be to

develop a documented marketing strategy or plan for the Erie County Technical School. Hopefully, the plan will lead to a more efficient and effective marketing effort.

Welding Training. The sixth class of the customized welding program ends on February 16. Over 120 individuals have been trained to industry standards through this collaborative program. The initiative is looking to attract new companies to the partnership. The group is also looking forward to a program and funding plan for 2007-2008.

Travel--February. The director will participate in statewide activities over the next several weeks, including:

- Pat Holland and the director will participate in the Ch. 339 Audit for Mercer County Career Center on February 13-15.
- The director will attend the Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Administrators Symposium on February 26-28. At the symposium, the director is co-presenting on the use of NOCTI results for school improvement.
- On the last day of the symposium, the director will attend a steering committee meeting for Automotive Youth Education Services programs in Pennsylvania.