

**Erie County Technical School
Director's Report
July 2006**

Regional Technical Community College. This project is operating on several fronts. First, each school district board has a presentation scheduled. At the time of this report, three districts have received the presentation (Iroquois, Millcreek and Wattsburg). Largely, the reception to the concept has been favorable. Questions from board members have concerned issues about competition with other schools, the funding and operational costs, types of programming and cooperation with other community colleges. The presentations will be completed by August 17.

The grant application to the Erie Community Foundation is nearly complete. The narrative required with the application has gone through several iterations. We extend our thanks to Steve Bishop of the Corry Higher Education Council, Neil Donovan of the Crawford County Area Vocational-Technical School and Paul Fritz for their assistance in composing the narrative. A copy of the application is available in the supplemental information section of the board packet.

Lastly, part of the Foundation grant application entails the engagement of a community college design consultant. In 2003, the Erie Conference on Community Development and the ECTS school districts commissioned Dr. Jim Jacobs of Macomb Community College in Warren, Michigan to study the career and technical education system in Erie County. Dr. Jacobs is known for his expertise with community colleges. We contacted Dr. Jacobs to see if he is interested in consulting on the development of the technical community college.

Administrative Performance Reviews. The director has met with all administrators and completed performance reviews for the 2005-2006 school year. It is my pleasure to report that the entire administrative team received excellent reviews. Especially noteworthy in all reviews was the "team approach." Despite two new administrators in the last year, the group as whole functions very well together.

Mathematics in Career and Technical Education. The director has received an invitation from institute organizers to present at the Governor's Institute: Mathematics in Career and Technical Education. The presentation will cover the analysis of program NOCTI score reports to improve curriculum and instructional practices. The institute will occur the week of July 31 to August 4 in Gettysburg.

An Extreme Makeover. Please take a moment to visit our Metal Fabrication laboratory this evening. Our maintenance staff, in cooperation with two vendors, has virtually "made over" the laboratory. Our staff:

- painted most of the walls and doors
- re-lamped the area
- cleaned the light fixtures
- removed all of the equipment, and
- dismantled a huge exhaust system

Steve Sceiford did an excellent job coordinating the internal work in conjunction with the ceiling and floor painting vendors. The “new” lab will make a very favorable impression on young people as they consider careers in the metals industry. It will also be well received by business representatives.

Textbook Review and Approval. This month's agenda includes a list of textbooks for your approval. We need to commend the efforts of the faculty and Jan Kennerknecht. As part of summer curriculum development, Jan arranged for several vendors to display the technical textbooks. Faculty members then took the time to review carefully several texts. Part of the review process involved a new checklist to ensure the quality and effectiveness of the proposed purchase.

Welding Training. Custom Engineering and Riley Power currently have twelve employees enrolled in a 240-hour welding program. This first class will conclude on August 1. A second class will begin on August 7 and conclude on September 8.