

Erie Times-News Monday, March 12, 2007
Learning page

3 ECTS students participate in Career & Technical Education Week

Three students from the Erie County Technical School recently traveled to Harrisburg to participate in Career & Technical Education Week.

Kristin Emhoff, Nick Teribery and Tina Raeke joined more than 100 students from other Pennsylvania technical schools to celebrate the event and to raise awareness of the importance of technical education.

ECTS students set-up a display in the East Wing Rotunda of the Capitol Building where they were greeted by state Reps. Flo Fabrizio of Erie, D-2nd Dist. 2; Curt Sonney of Harborcreek, R-4th Dist.; John Evans of Washington Township, R-5th Dist.; and Teresa Forcier of Venango, R-6th Dist. The students also had the opportunity to meet state Sen. Jane Earl of Fairview, R-49th Dist.

Following a tour of the legislative floors, students were presented with proclamations congratulating them on being selected as representatives of the ECTS student body.

— from staff reports

■ Saint Vincent, Stairways Rank as Best Places to Work

Erie is home to two of the Best Places to Work in PA – Saint Vincent Health System and Stairways Behavioral Health.

The Best Places to Work in PA is an award program that identifies and honors the best employers in Pennsylvania, benefiting the state's economy, its work force and businesses. The program is made up of 100 companies split into two groups: 50 medium-size companies (25-250 employees) and 50 large-size companies (250-plus employees). Saint Vincent Health System, the third largest employer in the Erie region with more than 2,900 employees, ranked 12th in the large-size category. Stairways Behavioral Health, with more than 450 employees, ranked 15th in the same category.

Both organizations also improved their Best Places rankings from last year. Saint Vincent moved up the list from 19th to 12th, as did Stairways from 23rd to 15th.

■ Villa Medical Supply Receives Accreditation

Villa Medical Supply in Erie, a specialty provider of personal mobility aids and in-home respiratory care, has successfully fulfilled the requirements for receiving the Exemplary Provider Certificate of Accreditation from The Compliance Team, Inc., a nationally recognized health-care accrediting body based in Spring House, Pennsylvania.

In addition to putting in place fraud and abuse awareness safeguards, Villa Medical Supply has implemented patient care improvement plans as part of a rigorous continuously measured accreditation process. The program features annual validation visits and requires scoring of 90 percent or better to achieve accredited status. It also requires that Villa Medical Supply perform patient outcome tracking that is reviewed quarterly by the Compliance Team.

Villa Medical Supply has been serving the community for more than 35 years.

■ Spectrum's EMI Filter Plates Offer Lightning Strike Protection

Spectrum Control, headquartered in Fairview, now offers models of their bolt-in style and custom EMI filter plates that meet the specifications of RTCA/DO-160 Section 22 Lightning Requirements.

In order to achieve this added protection, Spectrum adds a specially formulated potting compound into metal dams created around the filter pins. This potting insulates and protects the capacitive filter element allowing it to withstand exceptional surges such as those caused by lightning strikes. These filter plates are applicable for many applications, particularly avionics.

Spectrum Control, an ISO 9001 and QS 9000 certified company, designs, manufactures and markets a broad line of EMI/RFI filters and power components, power management systems, microwave components, sensors and controls.

For more information, visit www.SpecEMC.com.

■ ECTS Announces Articulation Agreement

The Erie County Technical School (ECTS) recently announced the formation of a new articulation agreement with Gannon University. The agreement will provide students in the Early Childhood Education program at ECTS with the opportunity to earn advanced placement credit toward completion of related degree programs at Gannon.

To be eligible for advance placement credit, students must meet all admission requirements and be enrolled in a Gannon University program within two years after graduation from ECTS.

With the addition of the new agreement, ECTS now has 70 articulation agreements with 32 post-secondary institutions.

For details, go online at www.ects.org.

■ Szymanski Consulting Renews Partnership

Szymanski Consulting, Inc. (SCI), a full-service IT solutions company based in Erie, recently announced it has renewed Gold Certified Partner status in the Microsoft Partner Program with competencies in Small Business Specialists and Information Worker, recognizing SCI's expertise and impact in the technology marketplace.

The Microsoft Partner Program was launched in October 2003 and represents Microsoft's ongoing commitment to the success of partners worldwide. The program offers a single, integrated partnering framework that recognizes partner expertise, rewards the total impact that partners have in the technology marketplace, and delivers more value to help partners' businesses be successful.

SCI, in business for more than 25 years, provides everything from Microsoft products, cabling and networking to custom software applications, portal technology and licensing.

■ SECO/WARWICK Unveils Joint Venture

SECO/WARWICK, headquartered in Meadville, and Tianjin Kama Electric Thermal Equipment Manufacturing Co. Ltd. entered into an agreement late in 2006 to create a new joint venture that will combine global engineering expertise with local manufacturing and service to Chinese customers.

The new joint venture, SECO/WARWICK (Tianjin) Industrial Furnace Co. Ltd., will provide Chinese customers equipment with advanced global technology, but manufactured with Chinese components and labor that meet both Chinese and global quality standards. SECO/WARWICK (Tianjin) Industrial Furnace Co. Ltd. will be responsible for Aluminum Group equipment in China including ingot/slab preheat, coil/foil annealing, log homogenizing, nonferrous melting and holding, and solution heat treatment and aging.

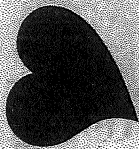
For details, see www.secowarwick.com. *

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Village Voices

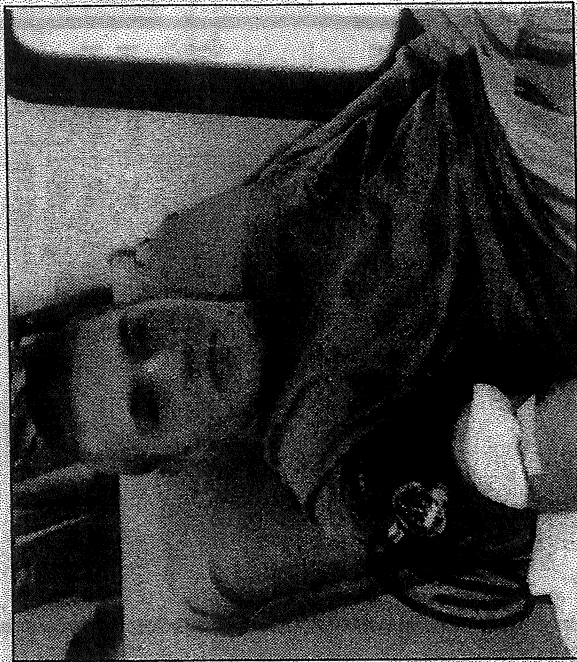


Weekly



AFRICAN-
AMERICAN
HISTORY MONTH

UNION CITY ★ WATTSBURG ★ WATERFORD



Shawn Brooks, a Plastics Technology student at ECTS and a junior at Union City High School, is pictured donating blood in the Bloodmobile.

NOW IS YOUR CHANCE! SAVE A LIFE-DONATE BLOOD!

Students at the Erie County Technical School recently rolled up their sleeves to donate blood to the Community Blood Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania. In three short hours, the Bloodmobile collected 18 units of blood from students and staff at ECTS. One unit of blood can be used to help save three different peoples' lives.

**ERIE COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL
ANNOUNCES
WINNERS OF DISTRICT 10 SKILLS-
USA COMPETITION**

Erie, PA . . . The Erie County Technical School (ECTS), 8500 Oliver Road, recently announced the winners of the annual District 10 SkillsUSA competition. This year's event took place at several technical schools including ECTS, Central High School and Lawrence County Career Center in New Castle, PA.

Over 300 high school students from ECTS, Warren County Career Center, Lawrence County Career Center, Lenape AVTS, Butler County AVTS, Bradford Area High School, Central High School and Crawford County AVTS participated in 40 different competitions.

ECTS had four individual first place winners. The students, home school and competition are as follows: Lauren Thornton, North East High School, Food and Beverage Service; Elizabeth Hill, Harbor Creek High School, Preschool Teaching Assistant; Andrea Adams, Harbor Creek High School, Nurse Assisting; and Sharon St. John, Union City High School, Basic Health Skills. Students who will also compete at the state competition include

ERIE see page 3



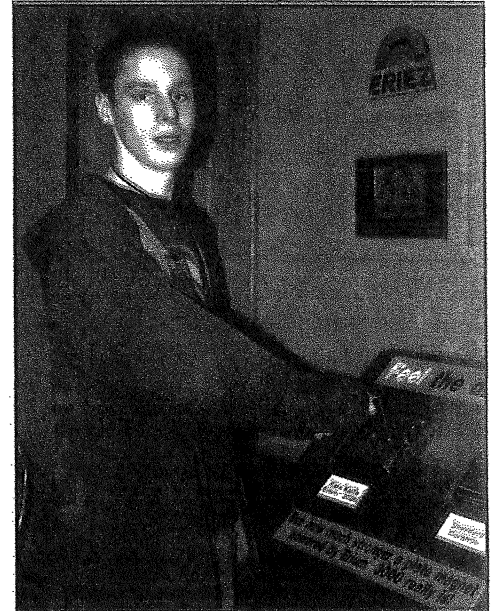
Nearly 40 students from the Erie County Technical School (ECTS) participated in the recent SkillsUSA District Competition. All first place winners will have the opportunity to compete at the state level during the PA Leadership and Skills Conference in March. Pictured are ECTS students who took first, second, or third place at the district level.-back row from left: Nick Teribery, Nathan Lasher, Anthony Booser, Derek Swab, Brian Sexton, Andrea Adams. Front row from left: Sharon St. John, Elizabeth Hill, Tom Carney and Lauren Thornton. (Missing from photo: Jessica Bryant, Sean Temple, Brian Law, Aaron Skarzenski, Eric Watkins, Natalie Orloff, Steve Coughlin and Brittany Carr.)



What better way to expose high school students to the latest technology, software and equipment than by providing a variety of field trip opportunities. A majority of the Erie County Technical School's (ECTS) 19 technology programs offer field trips throughout the school year as a means of enhancing the learning experience outside of the classroom.

Field trips also give students a greater insight into what employers are seeking in new employees, what types of skills they require to be successful in a given field and often enlighten students on potential cooperative education experiences. Each individual experience helps to reinforce all the concepts learned in class in a way a text book simply can not do.

This year alone, ECTS students have participated in field trips both locally and regionally. For example, Art & Design students traveled to Buffalo to visit the Darwin Martin Complex. Cosmetology students have visited day spas and salons and will soon travel to New York City for the International Hair Show. Health Assistant students attended a Health Quest sponsored by Gannon University. Culinary students have visited several local restaurants. Drafting & Design students participated in an Architectural Scavenger Hunt. Metal Fabrication students received a tour of Erie Ship Building. Plastics Technology students toured Plastek while Tool & Die students visited Accuride.



Steve Mowery, an Electronics student at ECTS and a sophomore at General McLane High School, feels the difference in strength between a rare-earth magnet and a ceramic magnet during a field trip to Erlez Magnetics.

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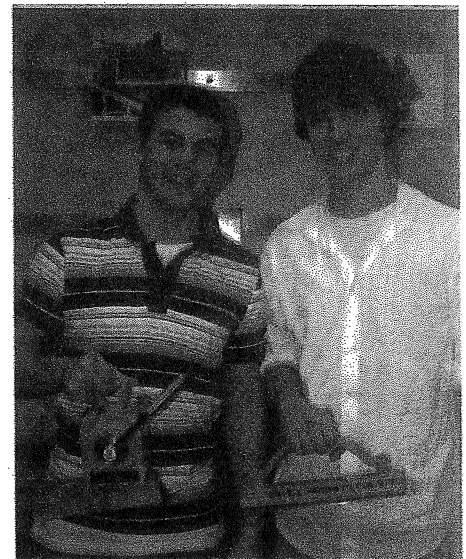
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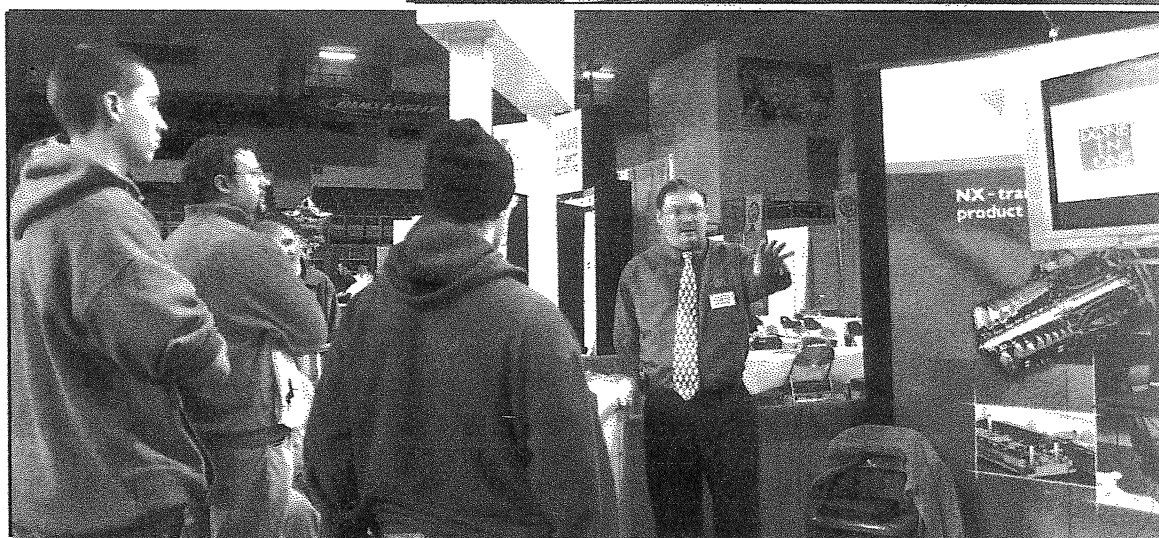


Electronics students, T.J. Ruf (left) and Devin Smith, both sophomores at Girard High School, hold examples of magnets used to lift flat steel plates while visiting Erlez Magnetics.



® Last fall, Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Facility Maintenance Technology students traveled to Cambridge Springs for a demonstration at the Northwest Rural Electric Co-op. The same group of students most recently visited Eriez Magnetics where they were given a brief background on the company and learned about magnetic, vibratory and metal detection products and applications. Students also watched an informative video and were given the opportunity to look at models of various pieces of magnetic devices.

During the visit to Eriez, several representatives walked students through a typical work day and discussed various requirements and responsibilities for various departments. Each speaker stressed the critical need for qualified and skilled employees. They also explained the qualities they desire in new employees and stressed the importance of dependability, flexibility and willingness to seek continued education and training.



A group of Plastics Technology students learn about CNC software from an exhibitor at the Erie Expo.

- Process Control Systems
- Cavity Pressure Sensing Technology
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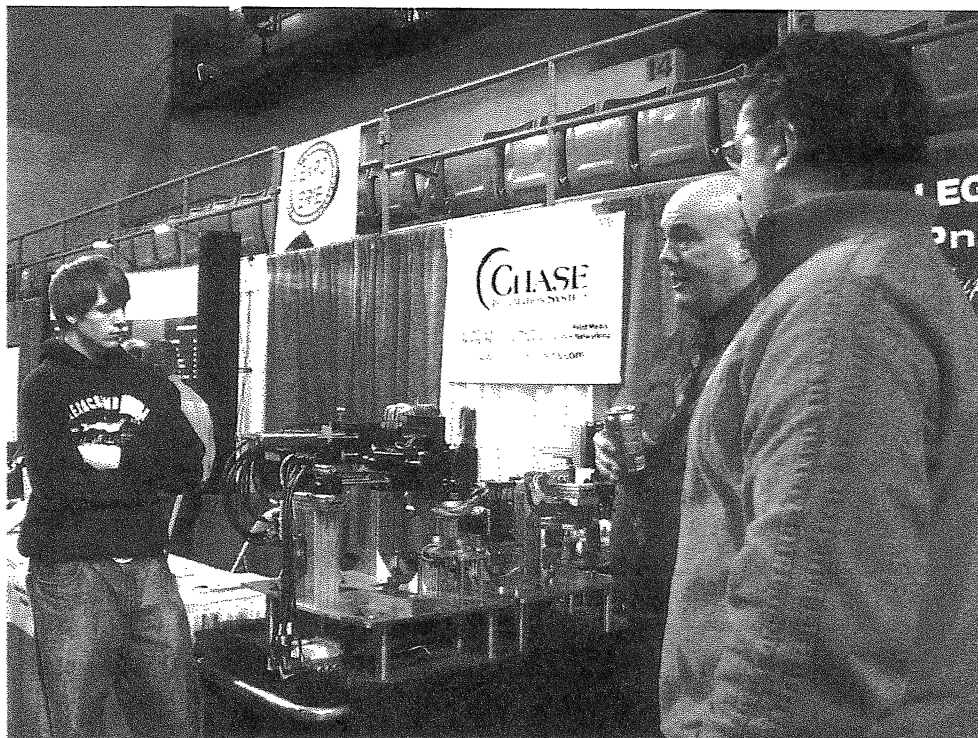
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Tim Mientkiewicz, Electronics instructor at ECTS commended Eriez Magnetics for welcoming high school students. "We have taken students from ECTS to Eriez Magnetics for a number of years and they have always graciously accommodated our students and have treated them as honored guests. The three technologies that participate all share the need for training in magnetism and magnetic applications," continued Mientkiewicz. "During our field trips to Eriez, we've had the pleasure of hearing from guest speakers, watching films showcasing the

company and the field of magnetics and touring the manufacturing areas when production conditions allow. Our students appreciate seeing real-life applications of what they learn in the classroom and it helps for them to be made aware of local employment possibilities in their field of study. We greatly appreciate the continuing efforts of Eriez Magnetics in helping ECTS to educate students in their chosen career fields."

Tracy Massello, Facility Maintenance Technologies instructor added, "The speakers from Eriez Magnetics were terrific. "They took the time to commend the students for choosing a technical education at the high school level and encouraged them to continue their education to keep up with changing technology," continued Massello. "The praise and encouragement was very valuable to the students."

The latest field trip for ECTS students was a visit to the 44th annual Erie Industrial Expo at the Erie Civic Center. Plastics Technology and Drafting & Design students joined other show attendees to visit exhibits, view demonstrations and state-of-the-art equipment, gather product literature and learn about career and post-secondary educational opportunities.

Drafting & Design students particularly enjoyed speaking with representatives from the Pennsylvania Inventors Association. "The students were able to talk about inventions and the process of moving a product from an idea to the actual manufactured item," noted Mariea Sargent, Drafting & Design instructor. "We are currently covering manufacturing processes in class and it was beneficial to talk with the exhibitors with CNC programmable mills and lathes to get a better understanding of the equipment and the capabilities of this type of machine."

Interested in sharing your company and manufacturing expertise with Erie County high school students? Please contact the Erie County Technical School at (814) 864-0641.

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Local students among winners of SkillsUSA competition

The Erie County Technical School (ECTS) recently announced the winners of their annual District 10 SkillsUSA competition. This year's event took place at several technical schools including ECTS, Central High School and Lawrence County Career Center in New Castle, Penn.

Over 300 high school students from ECTS, Warren County Career Center, Lawrence County Career Center, Lenape AVTS, Butler County AVTS, Bradford Area High School, Central High School and Crawford County AVTS participated in 40 different competitions.

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Students who will also compete at the state competition include David Retkowski, McDowell High School, Plumbing; Lori Zelepsky, McDowell, Photography; and

High School, Graphic Communications.

Second place honors went to Natalie Orloff, Iroquois High School, Cosmetology; Leanne Slawinski, Fort LeBoeuf High School, Customer Service; Steve Coughlin, McDowell High School, Industrial Motor Control; Aaron Skarzenski, Seneca High School, Related Technical Math; Nick Teribery, Girard High School, Electronics Applications; Nathan Lasher, Erie First Christian Academy, Internetworking; Brian Sexton, Iroquois High School, Teamworks; Anthony Booser, McDowell High School, Teamworks; Tina Raeke, McDowell High School, Architectural Drafting; Brittany Carr and Derek Swab, Northwestern High School, Teamworks.

Third place winners include: Jessica Bryant, Fairview High School, Web Design; Sean Temple, Fort LeBoeuf, Web Design; Eric Watkins, Girard High School, Carpentry; Tom Carney, Harbor Creek High School, Technical Computer Applications; and Brian Law, Harbor Creek High School, Electronics Technology.

Other students who competed at the district level include Brandon Grossman



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General McLane; Bridget Vorse from Girard High School; James Nicholson, Nicole Paradise, Sarah Pohl and Christopher Ward from Harbor Creek High School; Nathan Caff from Iroquois High School; Aleksandr Denisjuk, Adam Hammer, Manuel Lopez, Ellyn Palermo, Amanda

McDowell High School; Mandi Dobson from North East High School; and Ryan Warren and Amber Wolfersteig from Seneca High School.

SkillsUSA programs include local, state and national competitions in which students demonstrate occupational and leadership skills. All first place

compete in the SkillsUSA Pennsylvania Leadership and Skills Conference, March 28-30 at the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute in Schnecksville, PA.

First place winners in state contests will move on to the SkillsUSA National Competition this June in Kansas City, MO.