

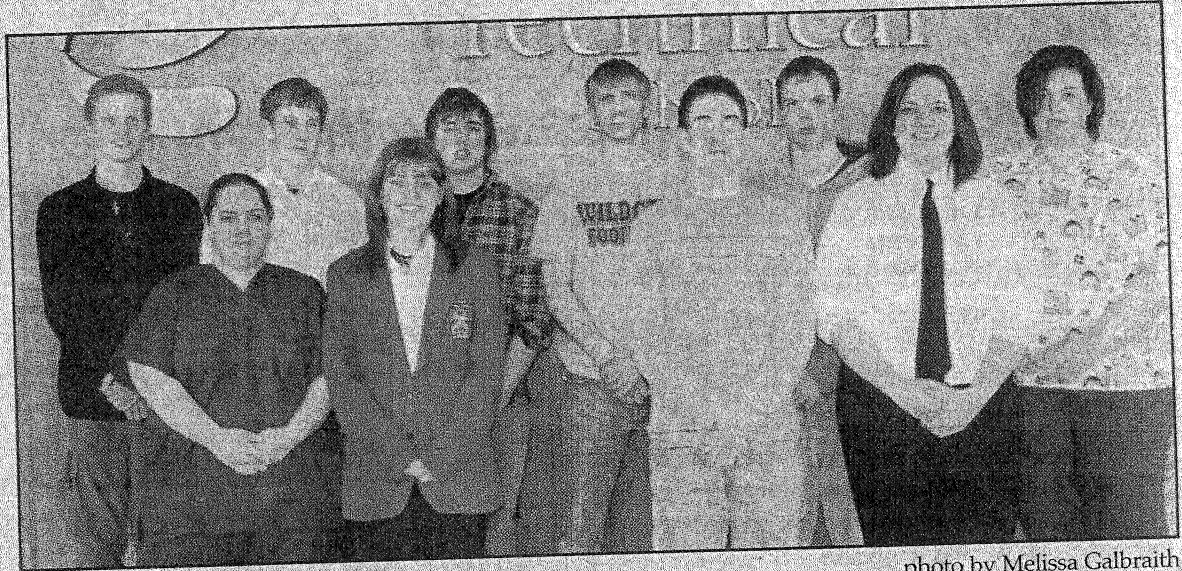


photo by Melissa Galbraith

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 Pennsylvania 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.)

ECTS announces winners of District 10 Skills-USA Competition

Erie County Technical School (ECTS) 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 H.S., Food and Beverage Service; Elizabeth Hill, Harbor Creek H.S., Preschool Teaching Assistant; Andrea Adams, Harbor Creek H.S., Nurse Assisting; and Sharon St. John, Union City H.S., Basic Health Skills.

Students who will also compete at the state competition include David Retkowski, McDowell H.S., Plumbing; Lori Zelepsky, McDowell, Photography; and Autumn Schubert, North East H.S., Graphic Communications.

Second place honors went to Natalie Orloff, Iroquois H.S., Cosmetology; Leanne Slawinski, Fort LeBoeuf H.S., Customer Service; Steve Coughlin,

McDowell H.S., Industrial Motor Control; Aaron Skarzenski, Seneca H.S., Related Technical Math; Nick Teribery, Girard H.S., Electronics Applications; Nathan Lasher, Erie First Christian Academy, Internetworking; Brian Sexton, Iroquois H.S., Teamworks; Anthony Booser, McDowell H.S. Teamworks; Tina Raeke, McDowell H.S., Architectural Drafting; Brittany Carr and Derek Swab, Northwestern H.S., Teamworks.

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

Other students who competed at the district level include Brandon Grossman and Geoffrey Rhoades from General McLane; Bridget Vorse from Girard H.S.; James Nicholson, Nicole Paradise, Sarah Pohl and Christopher Ward from Harbor Creek H.S.; Nathan Gaff from Iroquois H.S.; Aleksandr Denisyuk, Adam Hammer, Manuel Lopez, Ellyn Palermo, Amanda Smith and Katie Wellsby from McDowell H.S.; Mandi Dobson from North East H.S.; and Ryan Warren and Amber Wolfersteig from Seneca H.S.

SkillsUSA programs include local, state and national competitions in which students demon-

strate occupational and leadership skills. All first place winners at the district level will 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.

SkillsUSA is a national non-profit organization serving more than 280,000 high school and college students and professional members enrolled in training programs in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations. SkillsUSA has more than a quarter million student members annually, organized into 13,000 chapters and 54 state and territorial associations (including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands).

SkillsUSA prepares America's high performance workers. It provides quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development. It builds and reinforces self-confidence, work attitudes and communications skills. It emphasizes total quality at work, high ethical standards, superior work skills, life-long education and pride in the dignity of work. SkillsUSA also promotes understanding of the free enterprise system and involvement in community service activities.

Erie Times-News Monday, Feb. 19, 2007
Learning page

4 ECTS students earn first-place awards at skills competition

Four Erie County Technical School students were among the individual first place winners in the recent District 10 SkillsUSA competition.

The first place winners are: Lauren Thornton of North East High School; Elizabeth Hill of Harbor Creek High School; Andrea Adams of Harbor Creek High School; and Sharon St. John of Union City High School.

Second place honors went to Natalie Orloff, Leanne Slawinski, Steve Coughlin, Aaron Skarzinski, Nick Teribery, Nathan Lasher, Brian Sexton, Anthony Booser, Tina Raeke, Brittany Carr and Derek Swab.

Third place winners include: Jessica Bryant, Sean Temple, Eric Watkins, Tom Carney, and Brian Law.

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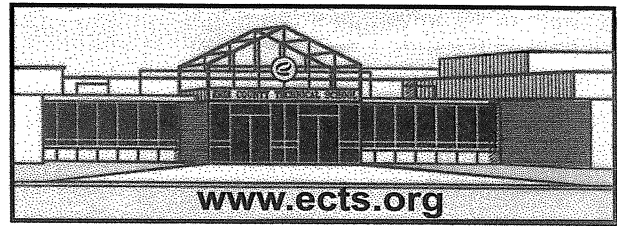
How to save a life

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 Blood Mobile 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.

Donating blood is Kasey Lear, a Plastics Technology student at ECTS and a senior at North East High School.

photo by Melissa Galbraith



Meet **Robert Suprynowicz**, the new Tool & Die and Plastics Technology instructor at the Erie County Technical School. Suprynowicz joined the staff at ECTS in November following an extensive interview and application process.

Prior to his new appointment, Suprynowicz was the plant manager at Suburban Molding in Union City where he was responsible for the direct supervision of 30 employees. During his 12 years at Suburban Molding, Suprynowicz was also responsible for maintaining production, increasing efficiencies, plant wide improvements and tending to anything else that needed attention.

Suburban Molding, established in 1982, was a supplier of thermal set compression molded components for the medical, automotive, telecommunications and other niche industries. Tragically, Suburban Molding was destroyed in a devastating fire in April 2006.

Today, nearly one year later, Suprynowicz is taking his 16 years of manufacturing experience into a classroom full of high school students. Suprynowicz is acclimating well to his new career and students in the Plastics Technology and Tool & Die programs are benefiting from his many years of manufacturing experience.

Suprynowicz is no stranger to the ECTS campus as he has taken many tool and die and machining classes at the Regional Career and Technical Center. In addition, he has completed various computer courses through the Manufacturers' Association of Northwest Pennsylvania.

"I'm enjoying my new career as a high school technology instructor and feel I have a lot of professional experience and knowledge to share with the students at ECTS," said Suprynowicz. *"The fact that I am right out of industry should be beneficial to the students for a number of reasons. In addition to teaching textbook theory and lab training, I can share 'real world' work experiences and explain current trends directly from industry,"* continued Suprynowicz.

"Another benefit is I've been employed in the manufacturing sector for many years and know from experience that this is a viable career choice for hard working and determined individuals. Plastics and tool & die are still critical elements in today's global economy and it is my hope to steer students in the right direction and encourage them to take this industry more seriously."

"Plastics and machinist related jobs are still prevalent in Erie, although all we hear about are the companies moving out of the area," Suprynowicz continued. *"There are many smaller companies that collectively make up a huge workforce all in need of qualified and skilled employees."*

Suprynowicz hopes to educate students and parents alike on the great potential in manufacturing careers. *"Manufacturing is no longer 'old school machinists' – we have evolved into a high tech environment. In order to compete with third world countries, we must continue to expand and develop our technology utilizing state-of-the-art equipment and a highly skilled work force."*

In addition playing a role with recruitment for the 2006-07 school year, Suprynowicz is excited about the addition of three new CNC machining centers and three new CNC lathes to the Tool & Die lab.

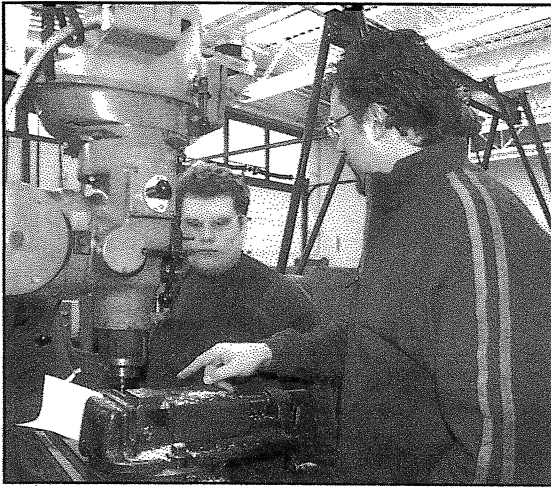
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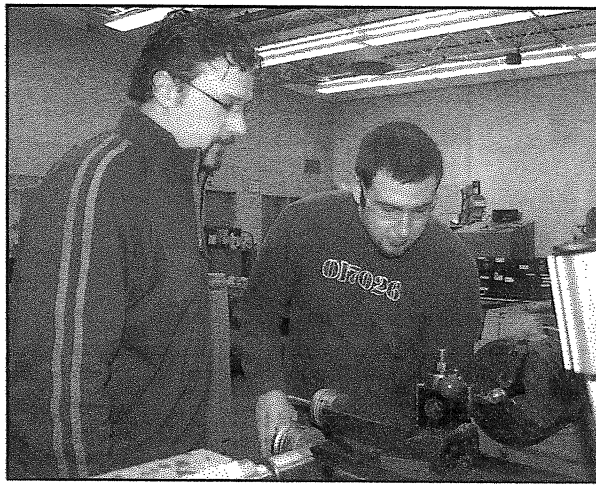
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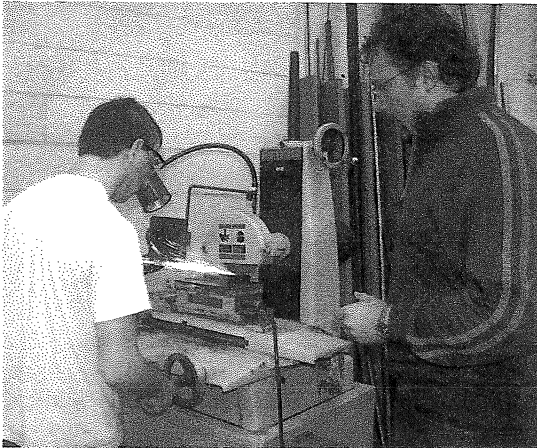
eDART System™ Cavity Pressure Training



Jesse Steinhoff (left), a second year Tool & Die student from Union City High School, works on a Bridgeport milling machine.



Erik Gaston (right), a second year student and a senior at Iroquois High School, is pictured operating a lathe in the Tool and Die lab.



Joe Bartone (left), a first year Tool & Die student from McDowell High School, reviews a 1-2-3 block with his instructor, Rob Suprynowicz.



Tyler Lyngarkos (left), a second year Tool & Die student from North East High School, works on a flat surface grinder.

"With the addition of several pieces of new equipment, students will have greater exposure to different types of tooling and molds all of which will provide more in-depth learning and knowledge of different types of equipment," added Suprynowicz.

"The more equipment we can train students to operate and the greater the diversity of training will only add to the demand for ECTS students in the workplace. Unfortunately right now there is more demand for students than we are able to accommodate," said Suprynowicz. "Most recently we had 49 requests from industry and we were only able to fill 12 vacancies."

In conclusion, Suprynowicz added, **"My goal is to provide high school students with the latest and greatest technology and training. In the long run, I hope to be able to stimulate greater interest in manufacturing related careers in order to provide the skilled employees that are so greatly needed in this country."**



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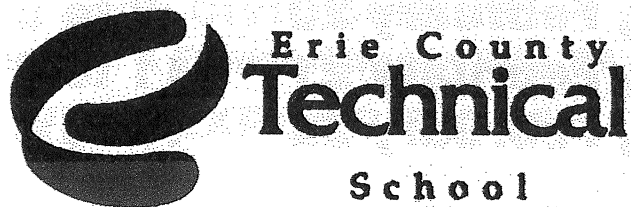
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Last fall, 40 students from the Erie County Technical School (ECTS) boarded a school bus for a field trip to the Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative located in Cambridge Springs, PA. The group included students from Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Facility Maintenance Technologies along with their instructors and several instructional aides.

Don Hofmeister, Electrical Engineering instructor, spearheaded the trip as he has done for the past 14 years. *"Every fall we make the trip to Northwestern REC,"* said Hofmeister. *"Students learn about the generation and transmission of electricity and they learn about fuses, insulators and transformers. They witness the dangers of high voltage transmission lines and the hazards associated with electricity. Most importantly, they learn about safety and how to avoid electrical shock."*

The Northwestern REC currently offers two electric safety education programs for area schools and civic organizations. A Hot Line demonstration is given at the Co-op headquarters while a portable tabletop unit called Electric Junction is also available. Both programs are designed to educate people, especially children on the dangers of electricity. On average the Northwestern REC provides 20 - 30 demonstrations per year.

"Creating a culture of safety for the employees, members and the public is one of our core values and safety demonstrations are one of the tools we use to share this message," explained Mary Mulligan-Haines, communications / marketing manager. *"Electricity is a familiar, but back of the mind convenience for people. We like to remind people to use it wisely and treat it with respect."*

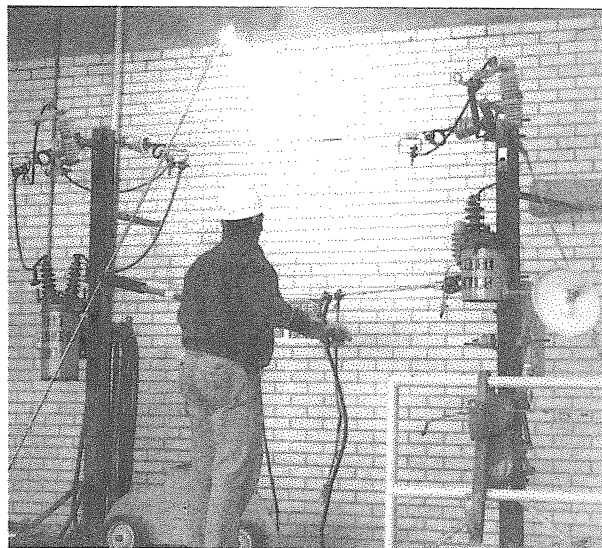
Students from ECTS viewed the Hot Line demonstration that utilizes live electric lines with real voltages. During the presentation, Mary Mulligan-Haines explained each step while Jeff Kachik, assistant operations superintendent, performed the actual demonstration. Together they addressed distribution line functions, how fuses and other line equipment operate as well as the dos and don'ts around power lines.

Complete with a hard hat, rubber gloves, safety glasses and boots, Kachik demonstrated different scenarios along with the potential hazardous result. Examples included blown fuses, damaged or destroyed insulators, downed power lines and blown transformers. It was also explained how many incidents occur as a result of storms, animals and birds while other situations are caused by destructive individuals who place others at risk as a result of their actions.

Edwin Taylor, a first year student in Electrical Engineering from McDowell High School, found the demonstration to be fun and very informative. *"The first demonstration was about what happens when a fuse blows,"* recalled Taylor. *"The sparks and loud pop got everyone's attention immediately. The entire safety demonstration was really interesting."*



Jeff Kachik, assistant operations superintendent, from Northwestern REC demonstrates how vehicle accidents pose electric contact risks.



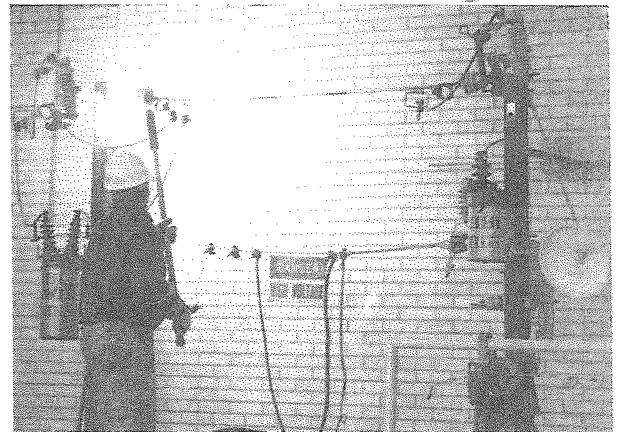
Jeff Kachik demonstrates how the improper location of antennas and flagpoles can result in electrical contact accidents.

First year Electronics students, **Justin Gajewski**, from McDowell, and **T.J. Ruf**, from Girard, are both really interested in electronics and anything relating to electricity. *"I enjoyed the demonstration and found that it alerted me to various dangers that you don't always think about,"* said Gajewski. Ruf agreed and added that, *"After viewing the demonstration I gained a new respect for electricity. It helped me to understand electricity and take the necessary safety precautions."*

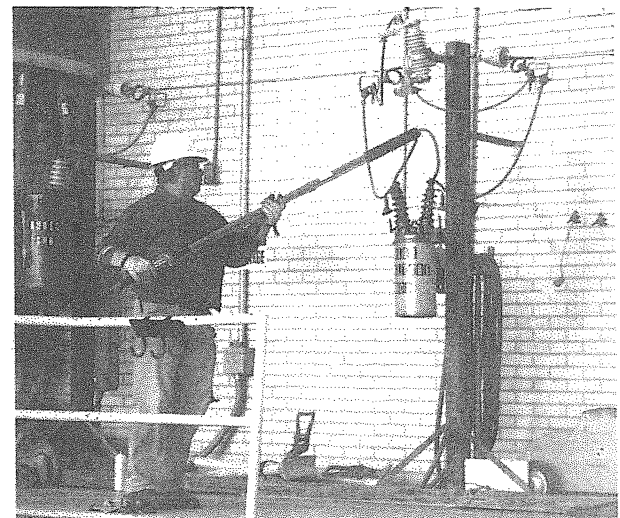
Mike Fisher, a first year student in Facility Maintenance Technologies from North East High School, agreed with the rest of the group that this field trip was a valuable learning experience. *"We witnessed how quickly even a blown fuse can become a dangerous situation and how even the smallest detail can make the difference in safety procedures."*

"Most of the students enrolled in Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Facility Maintenance Technologies have a true interest in electronics and electricity," said Hofmeister. *"Each program deals, to a varying degree, with electricity and it's essential for the students to fully comprehend all safety issues. The demonstration by Northwestern REC emphasizes safety while exposing the students to a variety of career opportunities available in the field. We are grateful to Mary Mulligan-Haines and the entire Northwestern REC for providing this service to not only our students but the community at large."*

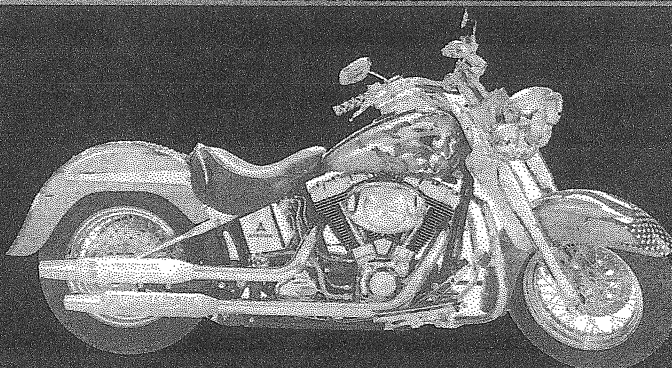
The Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative was organized in 1936 and is owned by the people who receive electric service. Today, they provide electric service to 20,500 members in Crawford, Erie, Venango, Mercer and Warren Counties in Pennsylvania and service 2550 miles of rural electric line. For more information on Northwestern REC or to schedule a group demonstration, contact **Mary Mulligan-Haines** at 1-800-472-7910 or visit www.northwesternrec.coop.



Jeff Kachik demonstrates how broken insulators can cause outages and fires.



Jeff Kachik shows how an Oil Circuit Recloser acts like an automatic fuse.



The Manufacturers' Association's *American Manufacturing Tribute Bike Tour* presents the technology and training required to achieve a high-paying career in manufacturing. Seen by more than 3,500 students to date, the presentation showcases a one-of-a-kind Harley-Davidson Softail Deluxe motorcycle. Visit www.manp.org for more information.

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Wednesday, February 7, 2007

ECTS announces winners of SkillsUSA competition

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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.



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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.

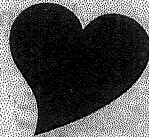
For details, see www.secowarwick.com. *

Volume 5, No.6

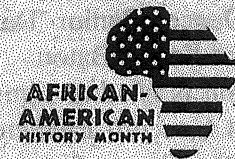
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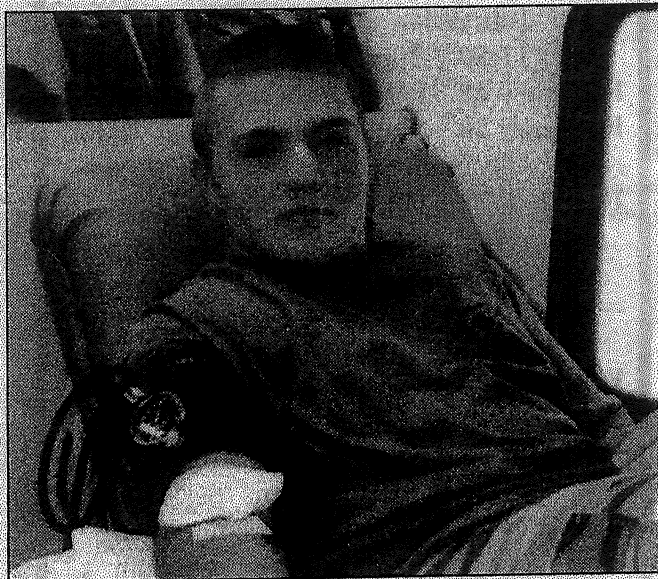
Village Voices



Weekly



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!

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

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ERIE see page 3



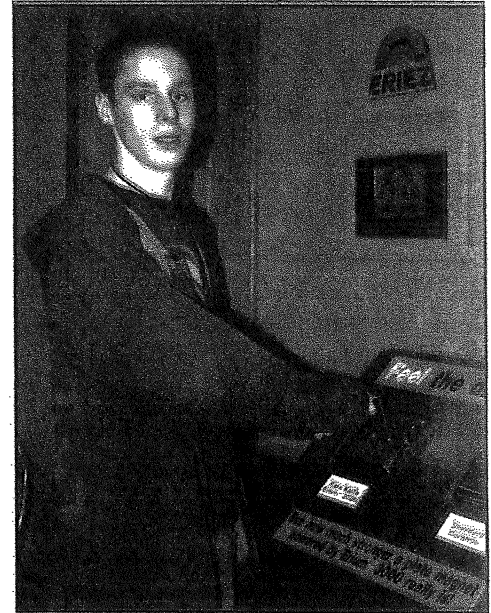
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What better way to expose high school students to the latest technology, software and equipment than by providing a variety of field trip opportunities. A majority of the Erie County Technical School's (ECTS) 19 technology programs offer field trips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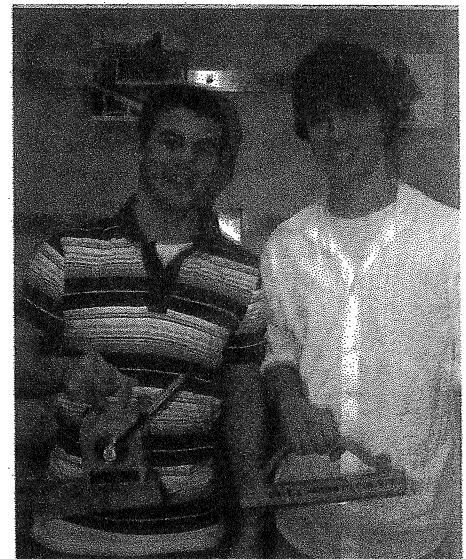
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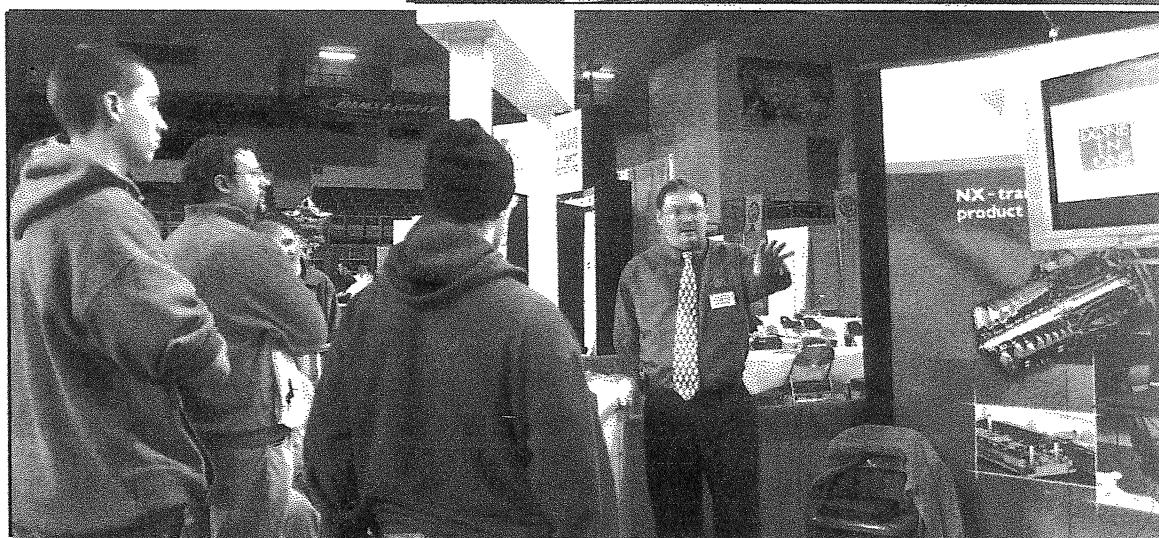


Electronics students, T.J. Ruf (left) and Devin Smith, both sophomores at Girard High School, hold examples of magnets used to lift flat steel plates while visiting Erlez Magnetics.



® 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.

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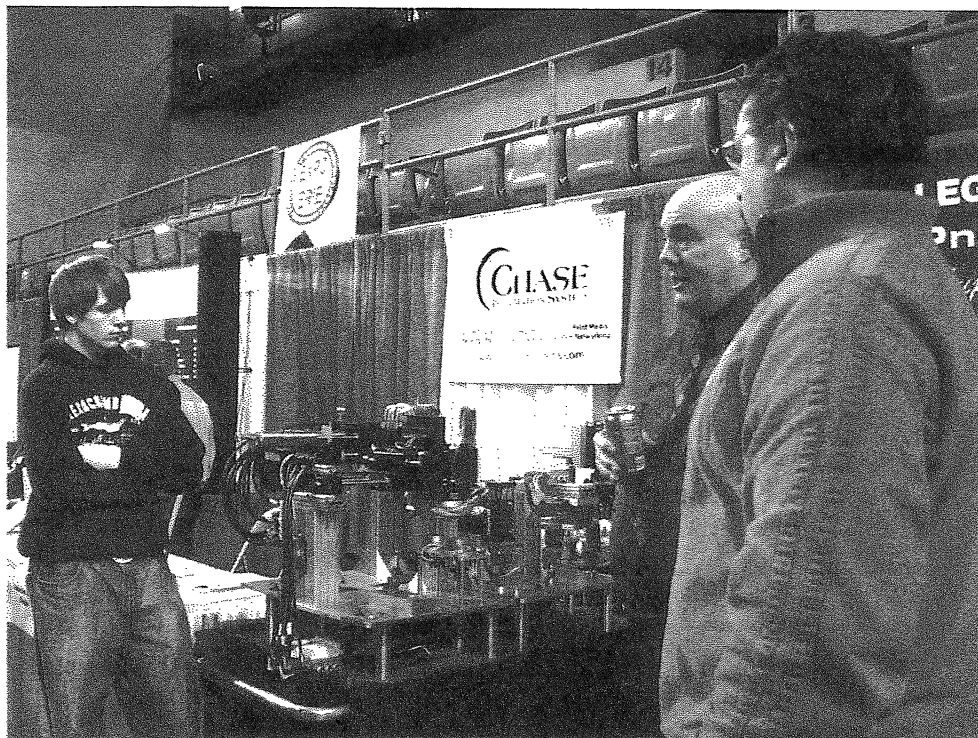
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Tim Mientkiewicz, Electronics instructor at ECTS commended Eriez Magnetics for welcoming high school students. "We have taken students from ECTS to Eriez Magnetics for a number of years and they have always graciously accommodated our students and 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.

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 David Retkowski, McDowell High School, Plumbing; Lori Zelepsy, 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



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 Pennsylvania 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.)

General McLane; Bridget Vorse from Girard High School; James Nicholson, Nicole Paradise, Sarah Pohl and Christopher Ward from Harbor Creek High School; Nathan Gaff from Iroquois High School; Aleksandr Denisyuk, 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.