

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

Strategic Planning. Action plan teams continue to meet on a regular basis to develop action steps for each of the objectives within our strategic goals. Our strategic goals include:

- 1) Erie County Technical School plays an integral role in creating a regional career and technical education system.
- 2) Elevate the public perception of the value and opportunity of technical education.
- 3) Develop programs that provide opportunities for students to meet regional needs resulting in sponsorship from employers, government and school districts.
- 4) Provide student services and support to ensure success.
- 5) Provide and update facilities, equipment and technology to meet current and future needs.

The action plan teams and their co-chairs are:

- 1) Academic Achievement—John Hansen and Donna Erdman
- 2) Student Services—Jan Kennerknecht and Patty Palo
- 3) Professional Development—Natalie Fatica and Andrea Lucarotti
- 4) Special Education—Pat Holland and Janet Grossman
- 5) Educational Technology—Jeff Smith and Phylis Zimmermann
- 6) Facilities—Steve Sceiford and Tracy Massello
- 7) Organizational Growth—Aldo Jackson and Dave Michalak

Technical College Programs. The governor's 2007-2008 budget proposal includes \$2 million to start technical college programs in two 'underserved' regions of the state. The proposed legislation for the technical college programs requires post-secondary institutions to be the lead sponsor (a copy of the bill authorizing the technical college programs is available in the supplemental section of the agenda). The Department of Education recently requested letters of interest. The House Education Committee also held a hearing on HB 965 in Erie on May 10. The director gave testimony at the hearing (a copy of the testimony is available in the supplemental section). While there are many positive aspects of the legislation, there are matters that would make it more effective in addressing regional workforce development issues.

Dual Enrollment. The administration is working with the Intermediate Unit to allow ECTS students to participate in the Regional Choice Initiative (RCI) classes offered through the Erie County Academy of Collegiate and Advanced Studies. A survey of ECTS students indicates about 75 students are interested in taking classes offered by Edinboro and Gannon. Some of the scheduled classes fulfill the requirements for associate degree programs offered by the two universities. Despite the high student interest, we anticipate that perhaps 25 students may actually enroll in the classes.

A state dual enrollment grant covers tuition, textbooks and transportation for the classes. We are surveying superintendents to ensure RCI seats are available under the dual enrollment grant. If seats are not available under the dual enrollment grant, the JOC might consider using ECTS

Foundation funds to underwrite the tuition and textbooks (about \$350). We might also consider using funding from the Committed to Excellence grant, made available by the Bureau of Career and Technical Education. That action is predicated on grant approval.

PSBA Article. The August edition of *PSBA Bulletin* will feature career and technical education in Pennsylvania. The lead article will feature three career and technical centers including the ECTS. A contract writer conducted a telephone interview with the director on May 14. Items discussed for the article included ISO 9001 registration, nationally accredited programs, curriculum development and issues facing career and technical schools.

Administrative Performance Check-Ups. The director is meeting with each administrator this month to review spring action items and to establish summer action items. The summer action items cover June, July and August. The director will also be meeting with each administrator in June to conduct the annual performance assessment. This year's assessment will be the first used in conjunction with the recently approved administrative compensation package.

PACTA Officer. For the past two years, the director has served as the vice-president for the Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Administrators. PACTA is the state professional association for CTE administrators. Effective July 1, the director will start a two-year tenure as the president of PACTA. This leadership role will require additional travel for the director to fulfill the responsibilities of the office. The high quality of our administrative team will ensure appropriate and effective services are provided during any absence of the director.

Welding Training. The seventh class of the customized welding program began on May 14. Eleven students from three companies are participating in the program. Program organizers are also arranging for another welding class to begin in June.

Director's Travel and Meetings—May. The director's recent and scheduled meetings include:

- *Middle States Association Accreditation Visit—Somerset County Career and Technology Center*, April 30 to May 3; serving on an accreditation review team
- *Executive Pulse Training*, May 4, Erie Regional Chamber; training on a statewide system that collects data on agency interactions with businesses
- *Diversified Occupations Review—Wattsburg Area School District*, May 4, with Elaine Shaffer; to review the past year's performance and to improve procedures for the 2007-2008 school year
- *Erie County Executive Mark DiVecchio and Director of Administration Sean Wiley*, May 7, campus visit and tour with Jim Bucksbee; to meet with National Technical Honor Society inductees
- *County-level Workforce Development Meeting*, May 8; participate in a Workforce Investment Board sub-committee that addresses workforce development efforts in Erie County

- *Testimony before the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Education Committee—House Bill 965, Technical College Programs*, May 10, Blasco Library, (see earlier discussion)
- *State Correctional Institution—Albion, Vocational Advisory Committee Meeting*, May 17; to advise on vocational training services offered by the prison
- *Northwest Pennsylvania Tech Prep Consortium Meeting*, May 18; to establish budget and programming for 2007-2008 Tech Prep programming
- *Regional Career Education Partnership*, May 22, Titusville; to establish budget and programming for an initiative operated by the Regional Center for Workforce Excellence (WIB)
- *Erie Community Foundation, President Mike Batchelor*, May 23, with Paul Fritz; to discuss operation of ECTS Foundation
- *Manufacturer's Association of Northwest Pennsylvania*, May 30; to discuss progress of and planning for the Your Employability Skills program
- *Mon Valley Career & Technology Center—Pennsylvania Postsecondary Vocational Education Accreditation Review*, June 6-7; serving on an accreditation review team