

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

Regional Technical Community College. A community college in northwest Pennsylvania has received media attention in the last week, due to interest in the concept by County Executive Mark DiVecchio and Erie Schools superintendent Dr. James Barker. An article appeared in the Saturday, November 11 edition of the *Erie Times-News* (see supplemental section of agenda). The *Erie Times-News* followed-up the article with an editorial on Tuesday, November 14 (see supplemental section of agenda). While we do not know at this time what their plans entail, it is good that their interest has garnered the community's attention to the concept.

As noted in the November 11 ETN article, a meeting of stakeholders will be held on Thursday, November 30. The Erie Community Foundation (ECF) is hosting the meeting. The director has received an invitation to attend this meeting (see supplemental section of the agenda). Mike Batchelor, Executive Director for the Foundation, indicated in October that the ECF board of directors is interested in the community college idea, but needed more information before offering its support.

We recently update the technical community college concept paper to reflect conditions in Mercer County. Mercer County superintendents, in cooperation with Mercer County Career Center board members, will be making presentations to their respective school boards and asking for endorsements through a resolution. There are 13 Mercer County school districts. Rachel Martin, Director at the Mercer County Career Center, indicates there is strong support for the technical community college concept amongst the Mercer County superintendents.

Dr. Joseph P. Grunenwald, President of Clarion University met with Dr. Jean Atkin Gool, Keystone School District Superintendent, on Thursday, November 16 to discuss the technical community college concept in Clarion County.

A newsletter is under development to keep stakeholders informed about the progress of the community college concept. Career and technical school administrators are reviewing the draft newsletter prior to its release (see supplemental section of the agenda). We hope to electronically mail the first edition in early December.

2007-2008 Preliminary Budget. The administration has composed a preliminary budget for 2007-2008. The superintendents reviewed the budget at the November Professional Advisory Council meeting. The superintendents asked for another month to review our proposed budget. The administration will provide an overview of the preliminary budget during the November work session.

Public Safety Building. The County of Erie has plans for a radio tower on its property. The height and fall zone of the tower may require a zoning variance from Summit Township. Since the fall zone could cover part of Erie County Technical School property, we have scheduled county public safety officials to discuss their plans with the JOC at the November meeting.

Tech Prep Programs. Tech Prep education is a 4+2, 3+2 or a 2+2 planned sequence of study in a technical field beginning as early as the ninth year of school. The sequence extends through two years of postsecondary occupational education or an apprenticeship program of at least two years following secondary instruction, and culminates in an associate degree or certificate. Tech Prep is a school-to-work transition strategy, helping students make the connection between school and employment.

The Perkins law requires that Tech Prep programs have seven elements:

- an articulation agreement between secondary and postsecondary consortium participants;
- a 2+2 , 3+2 or a 4+2 design with a common core of proficiency in math, science, communication, and technology;
- a specifically developed Tech Prep curriculum;
- joint in-service training of secondary and postsecondary teachers to implement the Tech Prep curriculum effectively;
- training of counselors to recruit students and to ensure program completion and appropriate employment;
- equal access of special populations to the full range of Tech Prep programs; and
- preparatory services such as recruitment, career and personal counseling, and occupational assessment.

At the request of the superintendents, the director has submitted a proposal to the Intermediate Unit to include some Erie County Technical School programs in the IU's Tech Prep Consortium. ECTS is proposing to include up to seven programs in the consortium and carry out a number of activities to make the programs approvable to Tech Prep standards (see supplemental section of the agenda).

Performance Check-ups. The director is meeting with all administrators to conduct quarterly performance check-ups. The check-ups are used to set performance priorities for the upcoming quarter and to review priorities from the previous quarter. These one-to-one meetings are good dialogue sessions for the director and each administrator. The sessions ensure each administrator has the appropriate resources to make progress on their priorities.

Strategic Planning. At the request of Millcreek Township School District administrators, the director has agreed to participate in their strategic planning process. The first meeting is scheduled for November 29.