

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

Regional Technical Community College. All 11 school districts have received the technical community college (TCC) presentation. Of the 11, seven have passed, signed and returned the resolution. Several districts have the resolution in the works. We anticipate all eleven districts will approve the resolution sometime in late September or early October.

The call for TCC presentations continues to grow. Mr. Bucksbee and the director will be in Clarion County talking with school board directors, in a meeting-of-the-whole, about the community college on September 25. The JOC at Clarion County Career Center has approved a resolution. We hope to help Clarion County schools districts to approve resolutions at the district level. Also on an invitation from the Corry Industrial Roundtable, about 25 industry and community leaders received the TCC presentation on September 14. Legislators or their representatives attended. They included Rep. Curt Sonney, County Councilman David Mitchell, and staff members from Senators' Specter and Santorum's offices.

The TCC initiative is building momentum each week, so much so the time has come to appoint someone as a project coordinator. The superintendents discussed the issue of appointing a coordinator at the September PAC meeting. There is also the need for financial support if there is agreement to appoint a project coordinator. Based on the recommendation of the superintendents, the administration is providing a motion for the ECTS Foundation to allocate funds to contract with someone as the project coordinator. The project coordinator will begin the process of completing the PDE application (see the *PDE Postsecondary Application* in the supplemental information section).

There is also substantial work to do in terms of securing stakeholder and community support. The Warren County School District has experienced changes in the administration and CTE department. It would be helpful if Erie County representatives could discuss the concept with Warren County School District representatives. Locally, there are legislators, industry groups, community groups and governmental agencies that need to be included in the concept approval and development.

Strategic Planning. The administration conducted interviews with two local companies about facilitating our strategic planning process this year. After reviewing their proposals and conducting the interviews, the administration will be recommending Strategy Solutions, Inc. as the company to facilitate our strategic plan. Their proposal, through a variety of techniques, will allow us to reach all of our stakeholders—students, parents, business and industry, faculty and staff, participating school district officials and joint operating committee members. You can review Strategy Solutions' proposal in the supplemental information section. We intend to begin the strategic planning process in January.

Equipment Grant. On September 15, we submitted an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for equipment upgrades. The application process was complicated this year with requirements to align funding requests with high priority occupations, national skill standards and academic standards. The application totals \$100,000. The grant requires a one-to-one match of local funds, for a total of \$200,000. We have requested funding for following equipment:

- **Automotive Technologies:** Alignment System; Rim Clamp Tire Changer
- **Electrical Engineering:** Programmable Logic Controllers System
- **Health Assistant:** Video Microscopy System
- **Tool & Die:** CNC Lathes and Mills

As part of the equipment grant process, we have met with two vendors regarding CNC lathes and mills for the Tool & Die program. It appears we should be able to purchase some combination of six pieces of equipment—all lathes, all mills or a mix. We will work with local precision machining companies to ensure we have good specifications for the bid and purchase process.

Performance Check-ups. The director has met with all administrators to conduct quarterly performance check-ups. During this process, we review action items from the previous quarter and set action items for the upcoming quarter. Most action plans contain five or six items that administrators will accomplish in the next 90 days. The action items are mutually agreed upon by the administrator and the director. A summary of the performance check-ups is available in the supplemental information section.

2006-2007 In-service. The three days of staff development held before the start of the school year went very well. Faculty surveys from each session indicate the content of each session was helpful and interesting. The administrative staff attempted to address priorities and issues including customer satisfaction, SchoolDesx refresher, NOCTI test scores and curriculum alignment, and strategies for teaching reading. A copy of the in-service agenda is available in the supplemental section of the agenda.

Warren County Career Center Visit. A group of school, business and community representatives from Warren County visited with us on September 20. The career center is looking at expanding their capabilities to teach welding, including expanding their welding laboratory space. The group visited our high school metal fabrication laboratory where they saw our efforts to renovate that space. They also visited the Skill Center welding laboratory for ideas in space design and equipment.