

**Erie County Technical School  
Director's Report  
December 2008**

**Budget Process.** The administration and staff have constructed a preliminary budget proposal for 2009-2010. The budget proposal was on the Professional Advisory Council's December agenda, but other discussions did not allow for a review by the superintendents. The superintendents will review the proposal at the January PAC meeting.

As a quick summary, the budget calls for a 5.6% increase in district contributions. The percentage is the average of the index for our 11 school districts. The increase in district contributions totals \$188,431. There are no significant purchases planned. With the exception of computer replacements for faculty, we have allocated all equipment purchases to the Perkins grant.

We hope to have a 'superintendent approved' budget ready for the JOC's review in January.

**Community College.** The Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership and the Northwest Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center have *adopted* the planning process for the community college. These two organizations have hired a consultant, the [Clements Group](#) of Salt Lake City, Utah, to research the need for a community college. The research initiative is known as [Rethink Erie](#) and is guided by a project manager, Judith Fagin. The director participated in an interview on December 10 regarding regional economic development, workforce development and education issues and opportunities.

**Special Education Transition Center.** Under the guidance of Steve Sceiford and Chris Coughlin, the construction trades, facilities maintenance and networking programs continue to make progress on the construction of the center. The project is still on schedule to be completed this spring.

In another aspect of the transition center, the superintendents have inquired about the technical school's ability to staff the transition center. The Gertrude A. Barber Center was initially contacted to provide staffing, but was unable to accommodate the transition program. The superintendents foresee a need for one fulltime teacher and two part-time instructional assistants. The administration has indicated our willingness to hire the staff for the center.

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

- *Pittsburgh City Schools, Chapter 339 Audit*; November 18-19; panel member of compliance review team.
- *Transcript Review, Technical Assistance Project*; November 20; Pittsburgh PaTTAN; with Patty Palo, Kim Dawson (Union City counselor), Brad Derrow (Girard assistant principal) and Darrin Mayes (Girard guidance counselor); to receive training on analyzing transcripts to improve academic rigor for students
- *Regional Career Education Partnership*; December 9; to review applications for mini grants.
- *Erie Regional Chamber Growth Partnership meeting*; December 11, Bayfront Convention Center; community update on proposed improvements to Tullio arena

**Season's Greetings.** Warmest wishes to the members of the operating committee for a blessed and joyous holiday. Have a Happy New Year and thank you for your service during the past year!