

Erie County Technical School

Director's Report

July 2008

CTE Student Performance—Technical Assistance. Diane Castelbuono, Deputy Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education has invited the Erie County Technical School and nineteen other CTCs in Pennsylvania to participate in a technical assistance project to raise the academic and technical achievement of CTE students. In the invitation, Castelbuono described the rationale, purpose and activities as follows:

Despite a decade of reform and rising public expenditures for education, little has changed in most high schools to prepare students for the demands of work and further education. Students who enroll in general and career and technical studies generally do not perform well on Pennsylvania tests (i.e., PSSA, NOCTI). Many of these students graduate from high school thinking they have the skills for college and discover that they are unprepared for an increasingly high-performance work environment.

Career and technical education students need just as much encouragement, rigorous coursework, and instructor and counselor guidance as students who plan to enter a four-year college or university.

The technical assistance that is provided through this effort will assist centers by offering their sites multiple resources at minimal or no cost.

Purpose

The purpose of the technical assistance is to significantly raise the academic and technical achievement of all students at the CTCs which take advantage of this opportunity. Through this technical assistance project, PDE will assist career and technical centers with raising student performance on the PSSA and technical improvement plan for increasing student achievement, work with the Career and Technical Distinguished School Leader and participate in all professional development activities provided by BCTE.

Required Activities

The CTC administration and staff agree to participate in the following activities:

1. Participate in PACTA PIL.
2. Participate in Southern Regional Education Board Technical Centers That Work and all related professional development.
3. Participate in training provided by Education Trust and conduct transcript and master schedule analysis.
4. Participate in Literacy training provided by James Daniel Associates.
5. Work with the assigned Career and Technical Distinguished School Leader.
6. Work with the Professional Development Centers.
7. Work with the IU Curriculum and Special Education Distinguished School Leaders.
8. Develop academic and technical curriculum planning including the administration of 4Sight assessments, use of NOCTI study guides and pre-assessments.

The director will attend an introductory meeting on July 16 in State College. If the details of the project maintain the promise, ECTS will most likely agree to participate.

Complete information about the project is available in the supplemental section of the agenda.

Principal's Departure. It has been our pleasure to work with John Hansen for the past three years. His low-key, sociable style of leadership was very effective with ECTS faculty, staff and students—he was always good to break a little bread. As an 'academic', John had a lot to learn about career and technical education. He was making good strides to the 'other side of the house' as evidenced by his completion of this year's Perkins grant. I am sure what he learned in the past three years will influence the lives of middle school students for years to come. John understands the value of a career and technical education!

We wish him well in his new position as a principal at the Parker Middle School. The staff there is sure to quickly embrace John as a person and as their educational leader. With strong roots in the General McLane School District, he is certain to be a welcome and productive community member. Best wishes John!

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

- *County-level Workforce Development Meeting*, Penn State Behrend; July 8
- *Regional Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Meeting (STEM)*, Steering Committee; Oil City, July 22
- *Regional Career Education Partnership Meeting*; Oil City, July 22
- *American Welding Society Partnership Meeting*; with Earl Lipphart and other CTC directors to discuss support from AWS for welding and metal fabrication programs; Meadville, July 23
- *Pennsylvania Automotive Association, AYES Advisory Council Meeting*; State College, July 29
- *Pennsylvania Association of Career & Technical Administrators (PACTA)*; summer administrator's conference; State College, July 30 to August 1.