

Supervisors of Instructional Support Services Report December 2009

Jan Kennerknecht and Patrick Holland

Professional Development

Jan attended the national ACTE conference held in Nashville, Tennessee from November 17-20th. A pre-conference workshop on Literacy in CTE was especially interesting. Our efforts in promoting literacy were right on track with an increasing national emphasis.

Jan conducted two Program of Study (POS) workshops on November 23rd and 24th at the Bessemer Center in Meadville. The first workshop was to assist Auto Body Repair and Automotive Technology instructors in understanding their new POS, while the second assisted instructors from Art & Design, Computer Networking, Graphics, Business and Administrative Assistant programs. The workshops were funded by a Tech Prep grant written by IU5 staff. Six of our faculty members attended and each received \$1300 to spend on classroom instructional materials as well as an offer of \$400 for developing lesson plans on evenings and weekends.

Special Education

Senior Transition Meetings: Meetings conducted by Nancy Downey, Transition Supervisor from Northwest Intermediate Unit #5, pulled together district representatives, base unit mental health workers and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation representatives to discuss the post-secondary plans of our graduating seniors with special needs. These meetings are held to coordinate referrals for services that might include tuition assistance, job coaching and placement assistance in the workforce. Pat and Jan provided input from ECTS teachers, as well as grades and attendance.

Visitations of Prospective Students: In November we opened up the visitation schedule for any student considering Career and Technical Education to spend time in one or two programs that they are considering for next year. The hope is that these students will be able to make a more informed decision on which program best meets their interest and abilities. To date over 50 prospective students with Special needs have visited the program(s) that they are interested in

Literacy

Jane Boyd, our Instructional Aide and Robin Grimes, our part time Reading Coach, are working with 66 of our juniors who scored at the basic or proficient levels on the eighth grade PSSA Reading Assessment. Our reading support program is currently in week nine. To address the PA Academic Standards for Reading, we intend to provide 21 different reading skill assignments to these students. These areas include reading comprehension, interpretation and literature analysis. Our goal is to help improve the number of students who perform at the proficient or advanced level in this year's PSSA Reading Assessment in April.