

**Erie County Technical School
Director's Report
February 2010**

Recruitment & Retention Update

Attention to recruitment and retention continued through February. The comprehensive marketing plan was reviewed with the faculty at the February 18 faculty meeting. Special emphasis was given to the upcoming 'Dinner with Faculty' event scheduled for April 19 and 20. This intent of this event is to build goodwill and comfort with accepted students and their parents. This is an important step in making accepted students 'real members' of ECTS. They are ECTS students 'the day we accept their application,' not the first day of school. Historically, we have had little interaction with students once we accept their applications in February.

We are also extracting data from our student information management system to analyze the withdrawal phenomenon. We collect this data but typically do not analyze it closely. The first extract has identified some concerns with how we code data. It also presented some situations where we will have to make some analysis decisions. For example, when a student fails the year at the technical school, do we count that as a loss in the year of the failure or in the year following? So far, we have pulled and reviewed data for 2009-2010. We hope to pull at least another two years of prior data.

Feasibility Study

Our feasibility architect, Chris Coughlin, attended the superintendents' meeting to review the feasibility study for renovation and expansion of ECTS facilities. There was discussion about how to keep the project moving. The superintendents suggested moving the project to a 'shovel-ready' status until economic conditions are more favorable. Some questions remain regarding adding space for new programs and space to embrace the comprehensive academic model of delivery. The administration will present the feasibility study to the operating committee at the February meeting.

Faculty Survey—Technology Centers That Work

Our faculty participated in a national survey sponsored by the Southern Regional Education Board. This is the second year that faculty participated in the survey. The survey provides important information on the experiences and perception of technology center teachers. The TCTW Teacher Survey is designed to provide teachers an opportunity to share their insights into school and classroom practices and to indicate the professional development they have received and would like to receive. The survey allows technology centers to explore the views and practices of their faculties and work as a team to find ways of improving student learning, performance and placement.

Director's Travel and Meetings

The director's recent and scheduled meetings include:

- *Employer Luncheon*, Beverly Fetzner, Comfort Care Resources; with Elaine Shaffer and Sherry States; to discuss employment opportunities in residential care and health care industry 'pipeline' strategies
- *County-level Workforce Development Committee*; Erie Regional Chamber offices; February 9; local workforce development discussions
- *WIB Research & Quality Committee*; February 10; meeting of WIB sub-committee
- *Standards Aligned Systems, PDE*; Hershey; February 15; workshop regarding PDE's curriculum delivery and assessment model
- *PACTA Executive Committee Meeting*; Hershey; February 15
- *PACTA Symposium, Increasing Student Achievement Leads to a Successful Workforce*; Hershey; February 16; various workshops
- *Meet & Discuss—ECTS Federation of Teachers*; February 19; regular monthly meeting of administrators and federation officers
- *State Mediator, George Loomis*; ECTS; February 22; with Charlie Lytle, Rosanne Gangemi and Paul Fritz; mandated meeting of mediator and negotiating parties
- *NWPA Tech Prep Consortium Meeting*; Douglass Conference Center, Meadville; February 23; quarterly meeting of Tech Prep participants
- *Career & Tech Ed Distinguished School Leader—Site Visit*; ECTS; February 24; with Dean Karns; Technical Assistance Program advisor visit