

Erie County Technical School Director's Report April 2011

Yes, I am Interested, But No Application

Guidance counselors met with ECTS staff on Friday, April 1 to receive instructions on the focus group plan. They were to conduct the focus groups the week of April 4. We hope to have the results compiled for some preliminary analysis by the end of May.

New Student Greetings

Throughout the month of April, Lisa Sorensen, Admissions Coordinator, and the director have been visiting each of the high schools welcoming the ECTS Class of 2014. At the new student greeting, each student is called up to receive a congratulatory handshake from the director, a book bag as a small welcome gift, and a reminder card for the Dinner with Teacher event. Mrs. Sorensen also gives an overview of what to expect at ECTS and answers any questions the new students may have.

We extend our thanks to each of the guidance counselors for arranging the greetings. Thanks too to the principals that have joined us and offered their congratulatory comments.

Enrollment Review

A sub-committee of faculty members, administrators and board members has been meeting on a regular basis to come up with an enrollment review process that allows for proper communication, clear criteria, consistent data, and collaborative decision-making. The committee has yet to finalize their work.

Based on discussions at recent meetings, ideas the operating committee can expect to see from the committee include a one-year notice for programs that fall below a threshold, an assessment for programs below the threshold that will lead to a prescriptive improvement plan, and an overall process that is fair to students, faculty members and the operating committee.

Chapter 339 Audit Results

The administration submitted our updated corrective action plan. We are awaiting a reply from the Bureau of Career & Technical Education as to whether they are accepting our updated plan.

Non-HPO Programs

The Pennsylvania Departments of Labor & Industry and Education are coordinating efforts to allocate state funds based on a system called High Priority Occupations (HPO). The Department of Education has guidelines and consequences for technical education programs that do not

align to an HPO. The most significant consequence is declaring a program not approved by PDE, making the program ineligible for state vocational subsidy. The state subsidy for ECTS averages about \$500 per student.

ECTS has five programs that are non-HPO: Auto Body Repair, Automotive Technologies, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts and Tourism & Hospitality Management. We are working with the six other career and technical schools in our workforce investment board to submit a petition to our local WIB to place aligned occupations on the regional list. We have received letters of support from 24 employers, most in the automotive area. They have declared 92 new employment opportunities in each of the next five years. A list of the employers who sent letters can be found in the supplemental section of the agenda.

Director's Travel and Meetings

The director's recent and scheduled meetings include:

- ❖ *Growth Partnership Meeting*; Erie; March 31; quarterly meeting of business leaders; this meeting featured a presentation by the four local universities
- ❖ *Professional Advisory Council*; ECTS; April 1; monthly meeting with superintendents
- ❖ *Programmatic & Policy Committee, NWPA WIB*; Erie; April 13; bi-monthly meeting of WIB sub-committee
- ❖ *Communities That Care*; Erie, April 21; organizational meeting for a local board which will focus on preventing youth problem behaviors such as violence, delinquency, school dropout, teen pregnancy and substance abuse. This Community Board will seek to implement the "Communities That Care" prevention planning system designed to help community stakeholders and decision makers promote healthy youth development and effectively address the specific issues facing their community's youth.
- ❖ *Industry Club Expo*; Titusville, April 28; to serve as a judge at the Youth Council's Industry Club Expo. Middle school students involved in Industry Clubs from across the Northwest region will be in attendance to participate in hands-on demonstrations relating to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math as well as conduct presentations on industry clusters that they have spent time researching in the presence of a panel of judges.
- ❖ *Harbor Creek School District*; ECTS, May 12; hosting district's monthly meeting for dinner and tour
- ❖ *Workforce Investment Board*; Erie; May 13; bi-monthly board meeting