

Supervisors of Instructional Support Services Report

February 2011

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Student Certifications- NIMS

During the month of February, our Precision Machining students took their first national certification exam- the Measurement, Materials and Safety I credential from the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS). Of the 29 students who took the on-line test, 24 passed and will receive a certificate from NIMS for their portfolios. The Precision Machining students will continue on to take five additional NIMS certification exams while enrolled in our program; these additional tests will require preparation of a machined part as well as an on-line exam.

National certifications are portable evidence of a student's skill mastery and are a valuable outcome of many of our ECTS programs. When we communicated the good news, we received some nice feedback:

- That is awesome news!!!! He is going to make an employer really happy with his skills, attitude and great work ethic. (Girard HS case manager)
- Wonderful news!! He is a great kid! (Girard Supervisor of Special Education)
- Thank you so much for the information. I'm so happy to hear that and we will congratulate him. (Parent of PMT student from McDowell HS)
- Thanks for letting us know!! I definitely will give him a big Congratulations!!! (McDowell HS case manager)

The cost of NIMS on-line testing is covered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Thank you to Rob Suprynowicz, PMT instructor; Patty Palo for coordinating the testing and to Amy Nichilo for providing accommodations to several of the students who have special needs.

Special Education

Jeff Zibelman, the director of Special Education for our intermediate unit, toured ECTS on Thursday, February 17, 2011. While Jeff was at ECTS he visited our programs and reviewed with us our literacy initiatives and the supports that we offer for our students with disabilities.

Literacy

Our Pennsylvania Literacy Team is putting together some model lesson plans to meet the requirements of the year long PLN training course that our teachers are participating in. These lessons were developed by our ECTS instructors using a variety of best practices to help students to interpret and analyze the content information. At the end of the training we will be asking our Graphic Communications program to bind these lesson plans together for all of our instructional staff to access as a model of great instruction.