

HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITY REPORT

MARCH 2012

ABR Students Win Challenge: Nick Berdis of McDowell High School and Alec Lijewski-Maines of Seneca High School represented the Erie County Technical School at the Edelbrock Carburetor Challenge at the Pittsburgh Auto Show. The two boys competed against eight other teams from other technical schools from Pennsylvania. Mr. Balsiger, the ABR instructor is proud that Nick and Alec won the challenge, but also of the effort that both put into preparing for the competition. Nick and Alec both will receive a \$5,000 scholarship to the Ohio Technical College where both are attending in the Fall of 2012.

CIS Student Semi-Finalist for Exchange Program: Ariane Kramer of McDowell High School has become a semi-finalist for the Congress-Bundestag Exchange Program. The CBYX program is for motivated students who would like to experience the Germany culture and language through a full integration. ECTS is extremely proud of Ariane, and wishes her the BEST of LUCK to be one of the lucky 20-25 students to be awarded this scholarship opportunity. See attached essay and certificate.

Locco Scholarship Interviews: On Thursday, March 1st the Manufacturer and Business Association conducted the 2012 interviews for the Patrick R. Locco Scholarship. The Erie County Technical School had three students from three labs engaged in the interview process.

Dominic Gardunio	North East High School	DDE
Emmett Rennie	Harbor Creek High School	PMT
David Shaw	Union City High School	MTF

Each of these young men will receive a \$100.00 savings bond for being nominated and will be honored at a luncheon in April where the winner will be announced for the \$1,000 Scholarship.

Guidance Counselor Meeting: The Erie County Technical School hosted the guidance counselors from the 11 sending schools on Friday, March 9th. Lisa Sorenson did a tremendous job organizing and facilitating the meeting. The topics of conversation were: Enrollment Review, New Student Dinner, PSSA and NOCTI testing, Home School electives similar to ECTS offerings, and Special Education. In addition, each Guidance Counselor spent 15-20 minutes visiting one of their students in a lab.

ROVA Leadership Conference: Mr. Rob Suprynowicz, the PMT instructor chaperoned three of our students to the annual ROVA leadership conference held on March 11th and 12th at the McKeever Learning Center. The students that participated were Ryan Smathers of North East High School (ELC), Matt Washburn of McDowell High School (ELC) and Cody March of General McLane High School (EET).

The local Rotary Clubs sponsor the students for this engaging conference which provides a positive training experience for the students to cultivate their leadership skills.

PSSA Tip-Off: Conducted on March 6th, 7th and 8th to inform the juniors of the value of the test.

Page 2

OAC Dinner Meeting: The 2012 Spring Occupational Advisory Council dinner meeting was held on Tuesday, March 13th. Elaine Shaffer organized the event which our instructors hosted their advisory board to discuss their programs and the curriculum. Again, Elaine did a super job with the dinner preparations by having the Ambassador Hotel cater the dinner event. Mrs. Shaffer reported that 121 OAC members attended the event, which represented 84 different organizations in our community. See attached list.

NOCTI Preparation: The Erie County Technical seniors are preparing for the NOCTI tests that will be administered throughout the month of April. The instructors have been making the final push to ensure that the other seniors are ready for the test by reviewing NOCTI blueprints, guides and sample questions. In addition, on March 19th, Jan Kennerknecht and Joe Tarasovitch conducted a NOCTI informational session to enlighten the seniors with the value of the NOCTI and test-taking strategies.

Mr. Tarasovitch mailed a letter home to each senior parents to inform them of the importance of the NOCTI assessment and to request their support with ensuring that their child gets the proper rest and diet.

Principal Meeting: The Erie County Principals met for the final time of the 2011-12 school year on Tuesday, March 20th. Joe shared the "Low-Grade" report so that each district could be proactive with the possible failures.

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Tuition Scholarship

IN THE AMOUNT OF

\$5,000.00

AT THE

**2012 PITTSBURGH AUTORAMA
EDELBROCK CARB CHALLENGE**

JANUARY 28, 2012

Nick Berdis

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CHRIS STEINMAN
Financial Aid Director
Contact the College for Details



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Alec Lijewski - Mines



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Congress- Bundestag 2012

There were about 1,000 applicants for the Congress-Bundestag exchange program this past year and out of 1,000 they narrowed it down to 110 semi-finalists. Interviews are across the country and the interviewers started on the east coast of the US and moved west. The PA section of the interviews was held in Harrisburg on February 29th. I had the great pleasure of making it to the semi-finalist level and had a great experience during the interview process.

The drive down to Harrisburg was definitely worth the experience. I had an afternoon interview because they took into consideration that I had the longest drive which was great. When I got to the Department of Education building I was greeted by everyone on the 11th floor which was also great. They made sure that the interviewees didn't feel lost or unwelcome. They had all of the semi-finalists in a meeting room and provided lunch for anyone leaving or just getting there. There was a presentation about the program and the Nacel-Open Door which provides all the travel accommodations for all finalists. During the presentation a past participant talked to us about his experience with the program back in 1998 and how he has been active with the program ever since. He told us about all of his experiences both good and bad so that we had an understanding that this is a great opportunity but it takes dedication and a lot of hard work. It was great to have him there and tell us about the program through his eyes because, if selected into the program, we would be looking at the program in the same way.

As for the actual interview it was a great experience. There were five people that sat in on the interview including the past participant. Also, the PA coordinator Dick Steinmeier sat in on everyone's interview and since he reads all the essays and applications he was able to bring out everyone's strong qualities, as well as, allow the semi-finalist to clarify anything that was shaky in their essays. The panel was a great group of people and they made it a very comfortable interview. It was also a great chance to meet other semi-finalists who were just as nervous and be able to talk to them in order to ease into the process. I think being able to meet with other competitors was nice because even though we're all competing for the same seats there was no real sense of urgency to beat the other guy out because we were all able to cheer for each other.

Mr. Steinmeier walked with everyone to the interview room and talked to me about how he read everything and that he knows I wouldn't be intimidated by the panel. And he was 100% right. Walking in, or course, I felt nervous, the initial "not wanting to say something stupid" factor kicked in but when I sat down and they started asking me questions, I had all the answers. I felt really comfortable and it was an interview where I didn't feel like I was on trial.

They asked questions about the essays that we had to write and to explain those. Also, they asked questions about my language background and if I found learning a language difficult. They asked about everything that I have done at ECTS and they asked about my motivation to apply for the program. Also, they asked about my past experiences and my past hurdles that I have had to overcome. Then came the dreaded question of what makes me different from the other competitors but at that point of the interview it was an easy answer. They started basic and the more I sat there with them the

more naturally the conversation flowed. At the end of the interview they all had a big smile on their face and I shook all of their hands with a huge smile on mine.

If I were to make it to the finalist level there would be more essays involved and more paperwork on my end. They only get to take 20-25 students to Germany for a year and I do have high hopes that I do stand a chance. If selected I would travel to Washington, DC and be there for three days starting on July 10th for an orientation and a further and more specific look at what a year abroad would be like. As of now I do know that we would all fly out of the country on July 12th and arrive in Munich, Germany for two months of intensive language education and we would be placed with temporary host families for our two month stay in Munich. Then I would be placed in a school based on my technical field and I would be placed with my permanent host family for the remainder of program. I would attend school for about four months and then put into an internship within my field.

Internships are guaranteed but there will be more interviews and the real life process of getting a job. This entire program is centered on opening doors for students who have a high potential. This program can open up so many doors it's amazing. Even if I do not make it to the finalist level the entire experience has been great. Just the interview experience itself and getting to meet the handful of people that I met in Harrisburg has made this a very worthwhile process.

Truly and honestly the hardest part of the entire process was the application process. I had two essays that I had to do. Plus I had to get forms of reference and recommendation from the teacher that knew that me the best and from either a work manager or volunteer advisor, and since all of my volunteer work has been with different companies I asked my manager at work to fill it out for me. Both the teacher I asked and my manager were more than happy to fill out all the paper work even though by the time I heard about the program I only had six days to pull everything together. Another hurdle that I had with the process was with McDowell. They didn't see the urgency that everyone else did about getting the forms filled out and I needed the official copy of my transcript and it was just a really big headache because they weren't necessarily willing to put this in priority and I feel that since it was an opportunity presented to me through ECTS they were more hesitant because home schools don't always see the importance of the technical education process.