
Erie County Technical School
Director's Report
September 2013

'Good Writing is a Reflection of Good Thinking'

Good Writing . . . Good Thinking

The campus campaign of building the writing skills of each student has had a good start. Students are writing every day without too much muttering. So maybe we are taking a bite out of their dislike for writing. Faculty members have done an excellent job incorporating the new practice into their daily routines. They are providing daily, program-related prompts and monitoring student participation.

Faculty members are participating in a *professional learning community, on-line discussion board* where they share their successes and struggles with the student writing. And, the principal has conducted walk-throughs where he is reviewing faculty practices and student responses.

As we have emphasized with the faculty, writing is *another tool* to deliver and reinforce the technical content. The students' five- to seven-sentence responses will grow each quarter. By the end of the year, students will progress to a two- or three-page essay. The goal is to make writing comfortable, comprehensive, consistent, and effectual. We want ECTS students to be able to 'reflect their good thinking through good writing.'

Teacher Effectiveness

The administrative staff has spent a significant amount of time *getting our hands around* PDE's new Teacher Effectiveness System. The 'instructional team' of Dr. Jackson, Mr. Tarasovitch, Mr. Holland and Mrs. Kennerknecht, along with the Ms. Fatica, attended a two-day in-service where Intermediate Unit staff members introduced us to PDE's new system. The PDE model is based on Charlotte Danielson's four domains: Planning & Preparation, the Classroom Environment, Instructional Delivery, and Professional Responsibilities. Each domain is made up of four to six components; and, each component is made up of a two to seven elements.

The instructional team has spent 10 hours in meetings, as well as independent time, aligning our current end-of-year assessment instrument with the Danielson model. Surprisingly, our current instrument aligned very well. We did have some weak areas, in terms of the model. However, we also had many components well covered with CTE-oriented elements. The next step in the alignment process is to convene a group of faculty members and check the clarity of our element statements.

We are also assessing and re-organizing our *assessment touches* where we collect performance information on each faculty member. The current system includes two observations, a professional portfolio, and informal observations/walk-throughs. We would like to include other items like the curriculum, grade book, and safety audits. Other items we are considering

as formal touches are the NOCTI and Literacy plans, and the substitute's lesson plan binder. The observations, portfolio and other touches would provide nine points of assessment.

RCTC

Classes started the week of September 4. As of September 19, there were 197 registrations in 38 classes. Of the 38 classes, 29 met our 'break-even enrollment' criteria, resulting in 185 enrollments. Projected gross revenue is \$48,080 and net profit of \$23,773. Enrollments are up 16 from last year and revenue is up \$1,700.

Personnel

A school year rarely starts without some sort of personnel issue. This year was no exception. We extend our best wishes to Tim Mientkiewicz as he takes a job with General Electric as a field service technician in their locomotive division. It is a wonderful career opportunity for Tim to combine many of the things he has done in his career and enjoys doing.

We are also saddened to report that Dominick Bonitatibus, an RCTC instructor in the electrical trades, passed away on Monday, September 16. Dominick was a brilliant individual, worked extensively with RCTC, and always received high marks from his students. We hope to find a replacement for his PLC and industrial electricity classes.

Equipment Grant

This year's State budget included \$3 million for schools and CTCs to purchase equipment. The State allocated funds on an Equal Share plus Average Daily Membership basis. The ECTS estimated grant is \$34,938.46. A final grant amount will be available after all applications are in and it is determined which schools did and did not submit an application. We intend to purchase a 2-d or 3-d coordinate measuring machine and bar stock feeder for a CNC lathe in the Precision Machining program.

Other Action Items for September

Other items the director has been working on in July and August include:

1. Working with Sue Barra, the new CTE Principal at the Corry Area School District
2. Assisting with the planning and deployment of Career Street
3. Reviewing the Professional Contract for the early bird negotiations request
4. Investigating an on-line school store for ECTS clothing and other promotional items, with Joe Tarasovitch
5. Fund Balance review and recommendations, with Marcia Jones
6. Submitting a PDE Equipment grant (non-competitive)

Director's Travel and Meetings—September 2013

The director's recent and scheduled meetings include:

- ❖ *Federal Reserve Bank Tour*; ECTS; August 28; with Joseph C. Ott, Senior Policy Analyst, Community Development, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Pittsburgh Branch; to provide the CTC perspective in workforce development
- ❖ *Erie Regional Education & Training Consortium Meeting*; Erie; September 3; with Peg McCarthy, Consortium Manager and Penn State Behrend, Continuing Education
- ❖ *Professional Advisory Council*; ECTS; September 6; superintendents' meeting and presentation of Career Street
- ❖ *County-level Workforce Development Team*; Erie; September 10; monthly meeting of Erie County workforce development officials
- ❖ *Corry Area School District*; Corry; September 12; with Sue Barra; to review Technical Assistance Program with PDE staff
- ❖ *Jamestown Community College*; ECTS; September 12; with Abigail Skinner, JCC Warren; to discuss dual enrollment and post-secondary training opportunities
- ❖ *Regional Center for Workforce Development*; Erie; September 16; quarterly meeting; to review plans for WIB and working with chief local elected officials
- ❖ *Career Street Legal and Financial Considerations*; ECTS; September 17; with Tim Sennett, Natalie Heberlein, and Marcia Jones; to discuss implications of ECTS Foundation incorporating Career Street
- ❖ *Erie Together, Team 2*; Erie; September 18; with Elaine Shaffer; quarterly meeting
- ❖ *What's Our Destination, CEO Roundtable*; Erie; September 20; meeting sponsored by Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership to review Destination Erie plans