
**Erie County Technical School
Director's Report
September 2016**

Changing Two-Year Programs

In 2000-2001, we added two senior-only programs, Networking Technologies and Plastics Technologies, to our list of available programs to provide 'last chance' technical education opportunities for high school seniors. A year later, we added Tourism and Hospitality Management as a third senior-only program. We eventually closed the Plastics program due to low enrollments. And historically, the other two programs have struggled with enrollments. Both programs continue to offer viable career options for young adults.

The main enrollment issue is the off-cycle, alternative recruitment process these programs go through. The recruitment process is significantly less robust than our other 16 programs. In consultation with the faculty members in these programs, the sending school counselors, and the superintendents, the administration is recommending we convert our Computer Networking Technologies and our Tourism and Hospitality Management programs to the three-model for the 2017-2018 school year. We are very confident this change will increase the enrollments in these programs and ensure their viability as career and technical education programs at ECTS.

The administration is presenting a motion to approve this change at this month's JOC meeting. Early approval is necessary so recruiting materials and processes can be adapted to reflect the change. We will also have to set aside resources so the two faculty members can adjust the curricula to reflect the additional 495 hours of instruction.

Math Credit at ECTS

At the request of our sending school guidance counselors to offer a math credit as part of the ECTS program, the administration has looked at offering a Personal Finance and Business (PF&B) Math credit. The additional academic credit earned at ECTS provides expanded and more flexible course selection opportunities for our students. Many of our students desire to take additional science classes or a foreign language, but are unable to do so because of the number of vocational credits. The math credit also allows students who fail a class to remain at ECTS and still acquire enough credits to graduate.

We would offer the math class over two years, one-half credit each year, during the junior and senior year. The math class would account for 15 hours of instruction each quarter. All students would participate in the classes. Because of the scheduling intensity, we would have to add two part-time math instructors to the staff. The estimated cost to add the PF&B math is between \$60,000 and \$65,000. As noted in this month's Superintendent of Record report, the superintendents support the addition of a math credit through ECTS.

Equipment Grant

For the past several years, PDE has made \$3 million available through a supplemental equipment grant. Each career and technical center's grant is formula driven and there is no local match. The administration has submitted a grant application for two pieces of equipment.

The first is a virtual paint sprayer for the Auto Body Repair program. The projected cost for the SimSpray Training Bay is \$27,400. Training cost reduction and enhanced student performance feedback are two features of the trainer. We have also submitted a funding request for a Hunter Hawkeye Alignment System for our Automotive Technologies program. This equipment will bring the program up-to-date with current industry standards. The cost to acquire this equipment is \$29,779. Last year we received \$36,183.17 from the supplemental equipment grant.

RCTC

Classes started the week of September 6. We were able to offer training to 127 students in 25 classes. We closed eight classes and were unable to serve nine students. Gross revenue for Term I was \$77,850, gross expenses were \$58,938, resulting in a gross profit of \$18,912.

We are also pleased to remind you that **online registration and payment** is now available for RCTC classes. We use Authorize.Net as a 'payment gateway' for online credit card purchases. Customers can now make a purchase at any time of the day or week.

Other Action Items this September

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

1. Updated ECTS program information in PDE's online Career and Technical System (CATS). Updates included new faculty members, performance data related to our Perkins Performance Standards, and support services language required by PDE.
2. Hosted a press conference for Congress Glenn Thompson on August 31 regarding his proposed Perkins Reauthorization legislation. We received media coverage from the event.

Director's Travel and Meetings—September 2016

The director's recent and scheduled meetings include:

- ❖ *Dedication Ceremony for Fruits of Labor Public art Project*; Holland and 14th, Erie; September 7; with Danielle Wilber, Joe Tarasovitch, and 12 students; ceremony sponsored by Erie Arts and Culture to 'unveil' the "horse and globe" project
- ❖ *Career Street Advisory Board*; ECTS; September 8; quarterly meeting
- ❖ *Rural Regional Community College*; September 8; Ambassador Conference Center; to participate in a group discussion regarding college president selection criteria
- ❖ *Professional Advisory Council*; ECTS; September 9; monthly meeting with superintendents
- ❖ *Erie Ice House Presentation*; Hirt Auditorium; September 13; to hear presentation by Gary Schoeniger, President and CEO of Entrepreneurship Learning Initiative; to investigate Ice House Entrepreneurship Program as a potential class offering at ECTS
- ❖ *Emerge 2040*; Booker T. Washington Center; September 15; monthly meeting

- ❖ *District 10 SkillsUSA Directors' Meeting*; Mercer County Career Center; September 16; to discuss upcoming activities
- ❖ *Workforce Investment Board, Monitoring & Evaluation Committee*; Meadville; August 1; quarterly meeting
- ❖ *Professional Unit Negotiations*; ECTS; September 19
- ❖ *WDB Youth and Sector Strategies & Career Pathways Committee Meeting*; Meadville; September 22; to discuss career pathways
- ❖ *WDB Monitoring and Evaluation Committee Meeting*; Meadville; September 28; quarterly meeting of workforce development board subcommittee
- ❖ *Local Advisory Committee Meeting*; ECTS; September 30; first meeting of business leaders from across the community to advise ECTS