
Erie County Technical School Director's Report – Matt LaVerde May 2023

NWPA School Leaders Legislative Trip – April 25

The Erie County Technical School Employee was represented in Harrisburg for the day as we had a schedule of meetings with local legislators and some of the leadership of each chamber and the Education, Appropriations, and Finance committees. Locally, Northwest Tri-county Intermediate Unit 5 Executive Director, Brad Whitman, and Iroquois Superintendent, Shane Murray, were the other representatives from the Greater Erie Region. The talking points for the meetings with the legislators were less unfunded state mandates, funding reform with cyber/charter school funding and more special education funding, and education staffing shortages.

Bipartisan Policy Roundtable on U.S. Competitiveness & Innovation – May 2

The Erie County Technical School was represented at a roundtable discussion for Pittsburgh and Western PA that was held at Carnegie Mellon University with policy makers from the Washington D.C. lobbying firm Bipartisan Policy Center. The discussion was related to the Build Back Better Plan agenda and what federal policy is needed for our region to be competitive in the global market, to be innovative with new technologies, and to developing workforce and human capital to meet the future needs of the region. Workforce and economic development, entrepreneurship and innovation, higher education, and industry were at the table, K-12 education was only represented by ECTS.

Rotary Ethics Symposium at Mercyhurst University – May 17

The Erie County Technical School was represented well at the annual Rotary Ethics Symposium at Mercyhurst College on May 17. Eleven students accompanied Mary Foulkrod, Hanni Nazario, and myself to the event, learning and collaborating with peers about ethics in general, as well as ethics in schools and education. Our students participated in breakout discussions about social media, bullying, equity, and inclusion, interacting with college professors and hearing from community leaders.

Enjoyment Learning the Ropes at ECTS

The Erie County Technical School is a great place for students and there are so many opportunities for them at this school. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first month on the job; from the people who I have met and learned from to, of course, the students I have engaged with in the programs, everyone has been so welcoming, genuine, and considerate. This is a special place and I would like to thank the board for the opportunity to lead and serve our community here.

Student Spotlight



“Positive” Patrick Fuller

A Senior in Culinary Arts from Harbor Creek SD who is a super friendly young man with an infectious smile.