
Erie County Technical School

Director's Report

January 2024

ECTS Expansion Discussion

Discussions continue about new programming and the expansion of current programming at ECTS. The Superintendents met on January 5 for their monthly meeting and those present were in favor of the expansion of Cosmetology & Health Assistant. The sub-committee continues to meet bi-weekly for advancing the discussion.

Occupational Advisory Committee Meetings

The 1st ever Emergency & Protective Services Occupational Advisory Committee meeting will be 1/26 as a morning breakfast meeting. The spring Occupational Advisory Meetings are scheduled for February 15 as a Dinner Meeting (moved up a month from years past).

Perkins Review – Compliance Monitoring

We had a great review and despite the power outage and interruptions with weather and renovation, it went smooth and efficient. Our auditor, Jean McCleary from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, had commendations for many of the items we had in place, and also gave us recommendations and corrective actions for improving, below is a quick summary:

Commendations:

1. Communication between Admin Team & PDE was very good.
2. Excellent digital file organization and suggestive evidence were in files.
3. Website & Social Media were good.
4. Website & online application for ECTS was good.
5. Non-Traditional Performance Indicator improved when other CCs did not.
6. Data Collection and input for PIMS is good.
7. Onsite – thank you for hospitality and respect.

Recommendations:

List of 14 Best Practices on File Management, Assurances, Professional Development, Industry Credentials, eGrants Updates, Points of Contact, CATS reports, Articulation Agreements, Dual Enrollment, Procedure Manual, Marking Non-Traditional Students, Inventory Systems, Job Descriptions, & Timely Ordering.

Corrective Actions:

1. Local Articulation Agreements need annual reviews updated with signature (needed for 3/14).
2. Dual Enrollment Agreement needed for ECTS.
3. All course descriptions of member schools have to include information SOAR agreements (needed for 4/11).
4. Senior Transcripts are missing industry certifications for a few school districts.
5. Career Objective Forms are missing date and/or signature of parent, student, or teacher in handful of situations.

6. Senior IEPs are required to have CIP and Program Name accurately, the word “vocational” needs to be removed and should be replaced with “Career and Technical”.
7. Perkins funded staff must do Time and Effort logs in increments of 15 minutes or more, ECTS is missing increments of time.

Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment

Our Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment was held on Friday, January 19, from 11am-1pm for moving our career and technical education programming forward for the next 2-year cycle. The discussion of performance, expansion of programs, and community and industry needs was the central focus of the discussions. We had a great group of stakeholders look at data and have discussion on moving the organization forward for continuous improvement.

A few recommendations for moving forward include:

1. Expanding Health Assistant based on industry need.
2. Expanding Cosmetology based on student interest.
3. Looking at ways to Expanding Manufacturing Programs by filling precision machining and expanding welding program.
4. TBD

ECTS Grant Projects

1. Supplemental Equipment Grant – awarded at \$88,600, this will purchase new manufacturing equipment (Weld machines for MTF and new Lathe for PMT).
2. PA Agriculture & Youth Grant – awarded for \$25,000 to build three greenhouses that our students will build (Construction), maintain (Facility Maintenance), work with Solar Panels for heat-ventilation-lighting (Electrical), grow and sell plants-flowers-fruits-veggies (Transition Center Students), and cook (Culinary).
3. Competitive Equipment Grant Application Submitted for \$85,000 – no word on award yet.
 - Power Wave 300C Advanced Welding Machines (2) \$36,000
 - In-booth Blender (6) \$26,100
 - Change Over Manifold (2) \$12,700
 - Pipe Bender (1) \$10,200

Student Worker Action Team (SWAT) – Computer Networking Project & Cooperative Education

Our students are working on advertising themselves and creating a database for employers to connect with ECTS students interested in finding work ... Coop Placements, Internships, and other work-based learning opportunities. It is a work in progress... here's the link: <https://ects-cmp.com/cooperativeeducation/>.

Student Spotlight

The following students were highlighted by their teachers as students that shine...



Mila Gehrlin-Carpenter

Mila is a Senior from Iroquois SD in Sports Therapy. Mrs. Litz describes Mila as a driven woman who is a great student-athlete that is always helping others.



Alex Clark

Alex is a Junior from General McLane SD in Sports Therapy. Mrs. Litz describes Alex as a hard worker who is a student-athlete that works two jobs and is a leader amongst his peers.



Isaac Glover

Isaac is a Senior from McDowell SD. Mrs. Seargent describes Isaac as a high achiever. He is President of NTHS, going on a Mission Trip over Easter, and headed to PSU-Behrend for Mech. Engineering.



Jazlyn Reisenweber

Jazlyn is a Senior from Girard SD in Design & Drafting Engineering. Mrs. Seargent describes Jazlyn as a class expert in software, cheerleader at Girard, and looking to go to college for Architecture at Pratt Institute. She was a Skills USA First Place finisher as well!

Renovation Report

- Estimated timeline for 3rd phase is move into the right side of wing 1/29-2/7, and open classes 2/7 in GRA & ADS. Then move into left side of wing 2/7-2/14, and open classes in CMP and CMN on 2/14.
- The construction lab did not address the air ventilation for masonry area, this is an item that needs addressed and a change order will be on the table for completing that work for approval.
- The new option for Cosmetology expansion, if we move forward, will be done over the summer, the landscaping touch ups will occur in the late spring and the hallway lockers will be painted over the summer for the final steps of the project after substantial completion.
- We are looking to do a Celebration of the Newly Renovated space in August as we kickoff school.