

Career Technical Education Newsroom

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Special dates of interest:

- CTE Outstanding Student Recognition Awards April 19, 2011
- Young Entrepreneur's Day at Edward Lowe Foundation April 21, 2011
- Career Pathway Days May 11 & May 12, 2011

EMERGING CAREERS AND "HOT JOBS"

February is Career and Technical Education month and a good opportunity for Career Technical Education advocates and practitioners to give students information about fast growing and well paying jobs which require post-secondary education but not a 4-year degree. Emerging careers and "hot jobs" help predict the direction and growth of careers open to our students in the future.

The definition for emerging careers is a career that has been recognized in small numbers, but continues to grow. "Hot jobs" are those that the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects will have both above average growth (more than 10%) and above average wages. There are a significant number of "hot jobs" and emerging careers in health care, science technology, construction and computers. All the "hot" and emerging careers require a minimum of a post-secondary certificate, licensure or associate degree.

"Hot Jobs" such as biotech technicians are predicted to grow 18% through 2018 and require an associate degree. Median salary is \$38,700, but range as high as \$49,340. The job of health information technician is projected to grow 20% by 2018, require an associate degree and a credential. Salaries are predicted to increase to a high of \$51,510 with the current median salary of \$31,290.

An emerging area is the "Green" industry. Green is one aspect of the building sector that continues to grow. Green buildings are designed to reduce the impact of the building to the environment and to the people who occupy the space. The green housing market has gone from a 2 billion dollar industry in 2005 to 60 billion in 2010.

A two-year energy technical specialist degree prepares students to work in either the renewable energy field or traditional energy industries. Certificates in ethanol production, biodiesel production, wind turbine maintenance and solar energy assessment are also emerging.

Many jobs of "today" will not be the jobs of "tomorrow" and we must constantly look to the future to prepare students to be successful in the world of



YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR'S DAY



Young Entrepreneur's Day will be held on April 21, 2011 at the Edward Lowe Foundation in the new Tower of Tomorrow retreat center. Community members will be reviewing the business plans created by students from the four Cass County high schools. Students will get to experience the technology of the Tower as well as see the details of the retreat center constructed with green building guidelines.

SUCCESS OF CAREER ACADEMY STUDENTS

Students from Cassopolis, Dowagiac, Edwardsburg and Marcellus high schools attended classes as part of the Career Academies during the Fall, 2010 semester at Southwestern Michigan College. Academy students attend their local high school in the morning and attend classes on the SMC campus in the afternoon. Academy students take 2-3 regular college classes per semester in a planned program of study. Classes are directly related to the career pathway chosen by each student. The Career Academy program is directed by the Career Technical Education Department at Lewis Cass ISD.

The students produced excellent results for the Fall, 2010 semester. Sixty-nine students earned a total of 551 college credits for a completion rate of 99%. Academy students earned an average of 8 credits per student. Students earned an A or B in 92% of their credits.

**Making the
Grade**

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH



February is Career Technical Education month and the 2011 theme is “CTE: Learning Today, Earning Tomorrow”. There are 14.4 million secondary and postsecondary Career and Technical Education students in the U.S. Michigan students enroll in over 2,000 instructional Career Technical Education programs

There has been a major shift in philosophy from “Vocational” to Career Technical Education. “Vocational” education was explicitly intended to prepare high school students for direct entry into full-time work. Career Technical Education is a system that prepares students for a wide range of careers that may require varying levels of education—from high school to postsecondary certificates to two year and four year college degrees. Through the Michigan Merit Curriculum, Michigan now requires students to have a high level of skills in math, language arts and science. Career Technical Education programs then bring relevance to students, teaching them the answer to the question, “what will I do with this?”. CTE challenges students to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills to complete real world projects vital to success in business and industry.

The 2011 Michigan Career and Technical Education conference focused on teaching and learning for college and careers. CTE educators realize the importance of continuing education for students beyond high school and there are many early college credit opportunities open to students while still in high school. Every CTE program must have a program of study, aligned to a corresponding associate degree program at a community college.

Career Technical Education is a valuable piece of the educational puzzle for every student.

BUSINESS EDUCATION AT DOWAGIAC UNION HIGH SCHOOL

A Personal Finance class is being offered this year for the first time at Dowagiac Union High School. The class has partnered with Fifth Third Bank and received excellent materials about personal finance. The students have learned the danger of credit and how the United States has become a nation of debt. They have learned the importance of paying themselves first and compounding interest. There are so many topics to cover and all are related to helping each student grow into responsible young adults.

Karen Vaickus reports that the Entrepreneurship class is off and running on their business plans. Dowagiac is hoping to have a good showing for the Ed Lowe Foundation this year. The students are creating many unique and exciting plans to show off to our community members at E-Day this year. Entrepreneurship day is not only my favorite day of the year, but a favorite day of the students as well.



CTE “Educator Feature”

Our fifteenth “Educator Feature” is Scott Starkweather, Director of Career Technical Education at Van Buren Intermediate School District.

Education: Southwestern Michigan College, Ferris State University & Western Michigan University

Major: Bachelor of Science in Trade Tech Education—Automotive; MA in Educational Leadership

Years as a Teacher/Administrator: 18 years as an Automotive instructor and 12 years as an Administrator

Goal: To provide the highest quality Career Technical Education programs possible.

Most challenging about Administration: Working with the State of Michigan to ensure that all students have the opportunity to take CTE courses.

Best part of being an Administrator: Being able to provide opportunities to students that change their lives. Watching students succeed.

Hobbies: Classic cars, Auto racing, avid Notre Dame and Chicago Bears Football fan, golf and Home renovations, running and Biking.

**Introducing
Scott Starkweather
Career Technical
Education Director**

NATIONAL ENTREPRENEURS WEEK IS FEBRUARY 19-26



Did You Know: Entrepreneur, Milton Bradley was an American game pioneer and was credited by many with launching the board game industry in America. In 1860 Bradley created a game called *The Checkered Game of Life* that we know today as *The Game of Life*. He founded the Milton Bradley Company and manufactured such games as *Candyland*, *Operation*, *Battleship* and many more.

Debbi Fields had a passion for baking and opened The Mrs. Fields Chocolate Chippery in 1977. As the demand for her cookies increased, she began to franchise the company in 1990. Today, Mrs. Fields Cookies are sold in 11 countries with 650 bakeries in the United States alone. Mrs. Fields sold her company in the 1990's when it was valued at \$450 million dollars.



In 1898, J.C. Penney began working at a small chain store called the Golden Rule. In 1902 he became a one-third owner in the chain and in 1907 purchased full interest in the chain. By 1912 there were 34 stores in the Rocky Mountain States and in 1913 the name was changed to the J. C. Penney Company. Penney owned 1,400 stores by 1929.

Lewis Cass Intermediate School District

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Earning Tomorrow**

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**Teachers Make
Every Other
Profession Possible!**

Congratulations to Dan Wyant, president and Chief Operating Officer of the Edward Lowe Foundation on his appointment by Governor Snyder to the position of Director of Environmental Quality for the State of Michigan. Mr. Wyant is also a group executive for Quality of Life, which includes the departments of Environmental quality, Natural Resources and Agriculture and Rural Developments.

Mission Statement

“Providing Services Today for a Better Tomorrow.”

Help us

COMMUNICATE OUR STORY

**Please pass this paper to a
friend**

EEO Statement

It is the policy of the Lewis Cass Board of Education that no person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, height, weight, marital status or disability shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity for which it receives any financial assistance from the United States Department of Education. The following person has been designated to handle inquires regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of Instructional Services, 61682 Dailey Road, Cassopolis, MI 49031, (269) 445-6223.