

Career Technical Education Newsroom

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Career Technical Education Update

CTE, like all other parts of education, finds itself in a budget crunch situation. Belts have been tightened even more with the decision by the State to cut added cost funding for CTE by 10%. It will take determination on the part of CTE teachers to continue the quality of services that we expect for our students.

There are several bills currently in the Michigan legislature that would give flexibility to the Michigan Merit Curriculum. These bills, if passed, could open up some opportunities for students to use CTE programs to fulfill some of the high school requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

Michigan will be applying for federal stimulus funds from the "Accelerating College and Career Readiness" (formerly "Race to the Top") program. "Accelerating College and Career Readiness" is discretionary funding available to states on a competitive basis. The application plan must center around four major areas: standards & assessments, boosting the quality of teachers and principals, closing the data gap, and turning around low performing schools with special emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math.



Special points of interest:

- Technical Review Assistance & Compliance Audit February 8-11, 2010
- Partners in Career Development Meeting February 16, 2010
- CTE Student Recognition Awards April 20, 2010
- Young Entrepreneur's Day April 23, 2010
- Career Pathway Days, May 5th & 6th 2010

Happy Retirement

A special thank you to Mr. John Ostrowski, Lewis Cass Intermediate School District Superintendent as he retires. The CTE Department wishes him good health and happiness as he enters the next phase of his life.



Welcome

Welcome to Mr. Robert Colby, new Lewis Cass ISD, Superintendent. Mr. Colby comes to us from Huron Intermediate School District. We look forward to his leadership as we continue to provide CTE programs for Cass County students.

New Career Academy in Construction Technology



A new Career Academy is being offered this year through the partnership between Lewis Cass Intermediate School District and Southwestern Michigan College in the area of Construction Technology. Juniors and seniors in area high schools are eligible to participate in this program if they meet course prerequisites and are recommended by their high school.

Students attend local high school classes in the morning and classes at Southwestern Michigan College in the afternoon, the same as the other Career Academy programs. Fall classes include Technical Math, Construction Tools & Safety, Construction Practices, Construction Foundations, & Framing, for a total of 11 college credits for the semester. In the winter semester, students will take Technical Math II, Construction Math I, Interior & Exterior Finishes, & Workplace Citizenship, representing a total of 11 credits. Students completing one year of this program will end the year with 22 college credits and have immediate job skills in the construction field.

This program is intended to prepare students for future apprenticeship programs in construction technology. The Construction Technology Program is a new opportunity for local students and one we hope to see grow!

CTE “Teacher Feature”

Our thirteenth “Teacher Feature” is Joan Forburger, Director of Career and Technical Education, at Lewis Cass Intermediate School District.

College: Western Michigan University

Major: Educational Leadership **Minor:** Business Education

Years as a Teacher: 31 **Goal:** To be a positive part of people’s lives.

Why did you become a Teacher? I loved being in school and liked the subject matter in business. I thought it would be fun to share what I knew.

Most challenging about teaching: Keeping up with the changes in education and trying to convince people that the changes are worthwhile.

Best part of teaching: Planning and doing activities like Young Entrepreneur’s Day and Career Pathway Day where students enjoy themselves and learn at the same time. Working with the community to share the good things happening in CTE.

Hobbies: reading mystery books, watching Nascar races and taking care of my gardens.

**Joan Forburger, Director of
Career Technical Education
Lewis Cass Intermediate
School District**

Excuse Me, Please

The Cass County Council on Aging is presenting their Manners, Mentoring, and Professional Life Skills, Across the Generations, a nationally recognized etiquette program, on Tuesday, November 10th from 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Twenty-nine students from Kelley Gnodtke's business classes at Dowagiac Union High School will be attending the program. It is a free, day-long, interactive and intergenerational workshop for Cass County high school juniors and seniors to meet with members of the Cass County COA. The day is filled with workshops, speakers, demonstrations and activities about Resume Writing, Interviewing and Changing Job Market Trends, Table Etiquette for On-The-Job and Real World Social Etiquette for Every Situation and Occasion.

FFA National Convention

Students from the Cassopolis FFA attended the National Convention in Indianapolis from October 21-24, 2009. The Agricultural Issues Team from Cassopolis earned the right to compete at the National level by winning Regional and State competitions.

The Cassopolis team competed against the team from Madisonville, Texas in both the preliminary and semi-final rounds. The Texas team eventually placed first in the competition that included teams from 35 states. To qualify, teams must design a presentation that addresses multiple views of a contemporary agricultural issue and present it to a number of audiences in their community. Members of the team included Steven Butler, Chris Coates, Meg Hein, Kyle Miller, Stephanie Stickle and Ryan Stover. Coaches for the team were Kelli Klimek and FFA advisor Carrie George.

The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

**Agricultural Issues Team
from Ross Beatty Junior/
Senior High School**

Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference Results



Students from the Edwardsburg BPA attended the National Leadership Conference in Dallas, Texas in June, 2009. The results are: Daniel Scalise, 3rd place Database Applications; Cameron Breisch, 4th place in Financial Math & Analysis and 7th place in Administrative Support Concepts; Jared Hanstra, 6th place in Administrative Support Concepts and 13th place in Fundamental Spreadsheet; Nicholas Ramirez, 13th place in Digital Media Production.

Congratulations to all these students for their accomplishments on the National level.

Lewis Cass Intermediate School District

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Did You Know?

Southwestern Michigan College will be hosting the Regional BPA Competition on January 5, 2010. Teams from 16 high schools and four counties will be participating. Good luck to all the teams.

BPA members in Edwardsburg are collecting pop tabs for the local Ronald McDonald House as their state service project. They will be accepting tabs through the end of February.

There are 166 BPA Chapters in Michigan with 5,121 members and 104 FFA Chapters with 5,290 members.

Mission Statement

"Providing Services Today for a Better Tomorrow."

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 inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of Instructional Services, 61682 Dailey Road, Cassopolis, MI 49031, 269.445.6223.

Help us

COMMUNICATE OUR STORY

Please pass this paper to a friend

Decorating Made Easy!



Students in the Cassopolis Agriscience Program will have poinsettias for sale in early December. Poinsettias were grown by students in the greenhouse at Ross Beatty High School. Please call Carrie George at 269.445.0537 if you are interested in purchasing these lovely holiday flowers!