

Winter 2007

Greater Northwest Ohio Tech Prep Consortium
www.techprepnwo.org

Ohio Tech Prep
www.techprepohio.org

Northwest State Community College
www.northweststate.edu

Owens Community College
www.owens.edu/enroll_future/techprep.html

University of Toledo
www.utoledo.edu

R&D Grant Update

Programming and Software Development instructors are making steady progress on the work of the Inquiry Based Research and Development grant awarded by the Ohio Department of Education. Teachers from three schools are involved: Dawn Thompson and Keith Stephens from Clay High School in Oregon; Mike Magnes and Tony Fenstermaker from Findlay High School; and Ed Schwerkolt from Northview High School in Sylvania. Our college partner is Lyn Snyder of Owens Community College.

This Ohio Department of Education grant requires the creation of teaching units that feature activities and products to actively involve students. Not only must students create solutions to workplace problems, they must also develop plans of work for getting to those solutions. Developing and using strategies that lead students through this process is the true work of this group of teachers.

During this year, six teaching units for Grade 11 have been developed with the help of business partners. Two units for Grade 12 are also in process. To complete the terms of the grant, at least one of the new units must be used in the classroom as a field test. In December, all teachers piloted a unit called "Show Me The Money," which focused on writing proposals for specific programming contracts. Discussion about the successes and shortcomings of the unit will help the group fine-tune their work and improve the other units as well.

The ultimate goal of this group is to publish and post units on a web site featuring inquiry-based methods in various career fields. These finished units will include a variety of tips, forms, and ideas to help any teacher whose classroom goals include student engagement in real workplace problems/solutions.

Tech Prep Moves Ahead

In addition to the Inquiry-Based Research and Development grant, the Greater Northwest Ohio Tech Prep Consortium is taking the leadership in two additional high school curriculum development projects. All three projects are developing curriculum that is project- or inquiry-based in an attempt to make classroom learning real for high school students.

Tech Prep is leading a team to develop a new senior year math course for students who do not want to take calculus or trigonometry but are planning on going to college, and thus would benefit from rigorous math instruction their senior year. Tech Prep is also working with a team to redesign the traditional high school Anatomy and Physiology course so that more of the body systems are covered within the high school curriculum.

Both high school and postsecondary instructors are involved in all three projects, doing what Tech Prep does best, bridging the connection between high school and postsecondary education. When completed, all three curriculum projects will be made available statewide.

Northwest Regional Tech Prep Showcase March 7

The Greater Northwest Ohio Tech Prep Consortium is inviting current Tech Prep students to compete in the annual Regional Showcase event held at Terra Community College on **Wednesday, March 7, 2007**. Students may enter either a team project, a senior research paper, or a senior project presentation. For more information, please contact your high school teacher or the Tech Prep office.

news 'n views



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College Goal Sunday

Parents and seniors, mark Sunday, February 11, 2007, on your calendars! This is the date of College Goal Sunday. Financial Aid professionals from across the state will coach you and your family, free of charge, through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process. Completing the FAFSA is the first step in applying for any financial aid, either federal or state, including federal and state grants, loans, and other forms of financial assistance including certain scholarships.

Be sure to bring to the meeting:

- IRS 1040 return and W2s for both student and parents
- Social Security Card and Driver's License
- Any other benefit information

The sessions will start at 2:00 pm. and will be offered at two locations in Northwest Ohio:

Owens Community College/Findlay Campus
3200 Bright Road
Findlay, OH 45840
Site Coordinator: Gary Ulrich

Owens Community College
30335 Oregon Road
Perrysburg, OH 43551
Site Coordinator: Betsy Johnson

You can register online at www.ohiocollegegoalsunday.org to attend a session at the location nearest you.

Tech Prep Hosts a Junior Conclave

The Greater Northwest Ohio Tech Prep Consortium recently hosted a conclave for 500 junior students enrolled in Tech Prep programs at the University of Toledo's student union. Motivational speaker Bruce Boguski hosted the main session. Students also attended breakout sessions with business and industry speakers, based on their pathway, as well as an informative session about utilizing the advantages of being a Tech Prep student.

Based on the positive feedback from both students and teachers, the consortium plans to host a similar event next year.

Sylvania Tech Prep Students Help Hurricane Victims

On Saturday, December 16, 2006, the Sylvania Schools Construction Tech Prep classes traveled south to Lafayette, Louisiana. Juniors and seniors from both Northview and Southview High Schools were part of the team working on the 2007 MLB Blitz for Habitat for Humanity.

The students honed their skills framing the first of eleven Blitz houses in the area ravaged by Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana. They were also able to find time around their "home work" to tour other damaged areas, which helped them better understand the full impact of the devastation and the work yet to be done.

The students met with a couple of the partner families to hear a direct accounting of the storm and its impact on their lives. Bob Johnson, Sylvania Construction teacher who spearheaded this operation, has been busy raising money and awareness for the project throughout the Sylvania community. The group was back in time to share the holidays and their new memories with family and friends on December 24.

Defiance High School Engineering Night

On November 14, 2006, Tech Prep Engineering instructor Tom Mutchler at Defiance High School hosted the second annual Engineering Night at the high school. The featured speaker was Dr. David Ellis, Ph.D., a materials research engineer from NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland.

Dr. Ellis has worked 17 years developing various high-conductivity materials, primarily copper-based alloys and composites. Dr. Ellis's presentation consisted of information on his field of expertise and also on many different engineering-related occupations and career fields that the students could choose to study.

Following the presentation, many colleges and training institutions that offer continued education after high school in the engineering field were present with displays and literature to give information to students and parents. The night was both informative and enjoyable.

Dawn Thompson Named ACTE Region 1 Teacher of the Year



Dawn Thompson was the regional winner of the 2007 ACTE Outstanding New Career and Technical Teacher award, qualifying her to compete with four other regional winners for the National title. Dawn is a Tech Prep Interactive Media instructor at Clay High School. Dawn is also actively participating on our Research and Development team.

Dawn provides her students with college-level instruction, enabling them to earn college credit while in high school. With her help, Dawn's students conducted a survey of the 2003 Clay High School alumni, for which they received recognition in the May 2005 publication sponsored by the Ohio Office of Career-Technical and Adult Education.

Dawn is an innovative teacher who encourages her students to excel. A colleague comments, "Dawn has earned the respect and admiration of our entire staff with her hard work and dedication to the field of education. She is a creative and enthusiastic person who cares about the welfare and education of all students."

Bob Sintobin Receives Influential Educator Recognition

Bob Sintobin, instructor at Toledo Technology Academy, recently received a certificate from The University of Toledo in recognition of the profound influence he had in the professional development of one of his former students. Ashleigh nominated Mr. Sintobin as the most influential educator in her decision to study engineering at The University of Toledo. The letter to Mr. Sintobin from The University of Toledo states, "As fellow educators, we are proud to work in partnership with you to influence our mutual students through education and by encouraging them to develop their full potentials. Together we are shaping the technical leaders of tomorrow."

TEACHER HIGHLIGHTS



Ron Kaufman with Penta Swanton business students

Swanton (Penta) Tech Prep Teacher Speaks at National Convention

Swanton High School Accounting Instructor Ron Kauffman presented at the National Tech Prep Conference held in Dallas, Texas, November 1-4. Speaking on the topic, "Building a Tech Prep Business Program in a High School Setting," he discussed teaching, marketing, and curricular techniques that allow a college-level course to be taught in a high school classroom. Superintendent Neil Weber states, "Mr. Kauffman is a teacher who draws students to his courses, and has a unique ability to point them toward a career in the business community. We consistently have more students sign up for his program than we can actually accommodate." The Swanton Accounting program is a Tech Prep-approved program operated by the Penta Career Center. Students taking this program receive college Financial Accounting credit.

Call for Alumni



Throughout the past ten years, many students have successfully graduated from Tech Prep programs. We would appreciate hearing from you and learning more about how you have put your education and experience to work. Please contact us at 419.530.7239.