



Tech Center Telegram

Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District

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Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter Date 12/15/2010

Special points of interest:

- Building Partnerships
- Closing In Laura Lane
- Exciting Trips
- Student's Enthusiasm
- Impressive Presentations
- Learning Opportunities
- Gaining Experiences



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There's Heat In The Kitchen!

Progress is being made every day in the culinary arts department. The final design has been completed, permits have been filed, bids have been accepted and work is underway. We have already completed a good portion of the demolition work and will begin the cleaning and painting the week of the 19th. I was able to visit other culinary tech centers in both New York and Vermont for design ideas and curriculum exchange. I was also able to participate in the state wide Culinary Tech Center Hot Food Competition at the New England Culinary Institute. With the help from Mr. Swisher, enrollment is proceeding nicely. We will be offering short introductory blocks in the

spring and a full schedule starting with culinary arts I in the fall. As for curriculum development, I am working with Pro Start through the National Restaurant Association, Culinary Essentials with Johnson and Wales University, Professional Chef with The Culinary Institute of America and Gisslen Professional Cooking and Baking through Schenectady County Community College. We are currently setting up a dual enrollment program with NECI involving Tremendous scholarship incentives as well as articulation agreements and incentives with The CIA, Johnson and Wales and SCCC. We have held our first advisory board meeting and

are proud to add Mark Vaughn to our membership. Mark is the publisher of Sante Magazine, a nationally distributed publication for restaurant and hospitality professionals. Sante is published here in Bennington Vermont and opens a world of resources for us. Please feel free to drop me a line with any questions or stop by to take a look.

Enthusiastically,

Chef Michael John Galbraith, CEC



The Roof Is On!



Pat Ryan our new Building Trades Instructor has done an excellent job creating enthusiasm both in the classroom and on the job site! The Laura Lane house project is coming along very nicely. The class goal was to have the house closed in before the snow came and they were able to meet their goal. The basement floor has been poured, exterior walls

are up, trusses are in place and roofing "zip" plywood has been installed. The windows are being delivered Friday morning and they will be installed first thing when the students return from the holiday break. The next phase of the house after the break is to get all interior walls framed and put into place so we can focus on the heating and wiring.

The Cosmetology Program is feeling the holiday buzz!



Students are diligently focusing on State Board practical skills and perfecting their haircuts. We recently had two educators come in from Wella and Sebastian. Martin, a stylist from NY came to teach the students the latest trend haircuts for the Sebastian design team, and Ben from Boston to teach a Wella Color class. Both were informative and inspirational. Cosmetology 2 students are into session 3 of their co-op

rotations in our community partner Salons and benefitting from their experiences in different salon environments. They are also beginning to plan their spring trip to the International Beauty Show in NYC. We booked a tour of the Wella Studio in Rockefeller Center this year to enhance the educational experience. The Wella Studio is a place where incredible advanced education is available to licensed stylists....

something for them to look forward to as they prepare for their future careers. Students are also working on their portfolios by preparing resumes and cover letters with Wendy Klein to add to their existing portfolio work.

Excited for the New Year ahead!

Lauren Ferrante



FBLA Visits Washington



In November, 12 FBLA members of the SVCDC were fortunate enough to attend the National Fall Conference in Washington DC. After a fun and relaxing train ride, the students arrived in downtown Washington, D.C. on a Thursday evening and stayed at the Hilton until early Sunday morning. They attended workshops ranging from how to pay for college, organizing financial investments, and

learning about how to become an ethical business leader. The members ate dinner with the rest of the Vermont FBLA chapters that attended the conference and took a picture on the steps of the Capitol Building with Senator Patrick Leahy. Those students got to meet with Senator Leahy, who took time to answer a few questions that concerned the students of Vermont, but they were mainly concerned in his

role in The Dark Knight. After meeting with the senator, the members were able to visit the tourist attractions from The White House to the Washington Monument. Over all, the members learned that there needs to be basic communication, team work, and people skills to develop into successful Future Business Leaders of America.



Co-op Student Builds Momentum



Will LaCroix, Building Trades I Co-op Student, recently completed his signaler certification as evaluated by his Co-op Supervisor, Scott Buck, Vermont Roofing's Safety Manager. Having already successfully completed his CareerSAFE 10-hour safety training, next on the agenda for Will is Riggers' Awareness

training, which he expects to complete prior to the end of his Fall 2010 co-op experience.



Exploring The Possibilities

The Human Services students continue to explore skills and knowledge needed in the helping professions. Most recently, the first year students completed a unit on elder abuse as well as one on the human body systems. They are currently learning about theories of human development, including such theorists as Freud, Erikson and Piaget. They will begin the new year with units on prenatal development and studying families. The second year students recently completed units on workplace safety and on ethics and confidentiality. Currently they are learning about preparing the classroom environment, which includes setting up the space, safety considerations, and selecting appropriate materials & equipment. They have begun their in-class Co-Op experiences two days a week in local child care and

education settings including our on-site lab, Growing Upright at the CDC. In the new year they will do CPR certification and learn about childhood mental illnesses.

The Human Services Program also offers many post-secondary opportunities. In November, first year students visited both Quinnipiac University and Southern Connecticut State University in Connecticut. Students from both classes also toured Keene State College in New Hampshire. Both classes will be visiting CCV this month, learning about their Introduction to College Studies course which gives high school students experience with college level expectations and earns them a free college course there. This year the Human Services Program is also partnering with CCV to offer Dual Enrollment credit for students completing the

curriculum and earning a minimum college placement test score. The first year students can earn 3 college credits in "Human Development" with the second year students earning 3 college credits in "Infant and Toddler Development." Additionally, several seniors have applied for early admissions to colleges, with acceptances already received from Hudson Valley Community College, Southern Vermont College, Lyndon State College and College of St. Rose.

The Human Services Club volunteered at the Eagles Club in serving their Thanksgiving dinners to the needy, volunteered for Warm the Children, and purchased holiday gifts for several families for the Spirit of Sharing.



"The Human Services students continue to explore skills and knowledge needed in the helping professions."

Student's Dedication to Projects Pays Off

On November 18, 2010, Assessors from Vermont Composites, NSK, & Adirondack studios assessed students enrolled in Design & Fabrication II. Students utilized PowerPoint to give comprehensive presentations on two of four assessments. The first two assessments were on how:

1. Students developed a customer survey, and identified potential customer niches for their product.
2. Students analyzed compet-

ing products for price, quality, materials, etc.

3. Students developed an estimated selling cost and a sketch of the product.
4. Students developed a detailed estimated product cost sheet.
5. Students realized the benefit of maintaining a daily journal.
6. Students determined the feasibility of fabricating the product with existing equipment, resources and processes.
7. Students identified tools, machinery, raw materials & fixtures needed to successfully

complete the fabrication process.

8. Students produced a purchase order for needed materials.
9. Students developed an autocad drawing of product.
10. Students documented quality control and scrap reduction measures.
11. Students developed product material specifications.
12. Students identified competencies needed for workers involved in the fabrication process.



FBLA Continues To Support The Community



For over 15 years Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) members have carried the torch of community service for those in need in the community. Providing food through the annual BROC Food Drive to help support the families in the Bennington area is only one of the many activities FBLA does throughout

the year. The food drive kicked off on November 30th and ended on December 14th with at least 800 non perishable items collected. Items from canned beans to cat food were donated. We hope to make a difference and set an example for teens our age to do the same. Many thanks to the CDC programs that

participated, as well as the Music Department at MAUHS for donating their food from concert attendees.

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Cloths, Toys and Holiday Joys

Future Business Leaders of America members from the SVCDC care about the community and giving back. That’s why this year members continued their tradition of adopting a family for Christmas who is less unfortunate. Members

shopped for different items such as toys, books, clothes, and games to give to the children. This is only their second year adopting a family, but they will continue this tradition throughout future years. Along with trying to become

future business leaders, philanthropy is one of the main goals the chapter tries to achieve every year.



Warm Hearted Snowflakes

One of the FBLA’s many events this year was the snowflake sales for March of Dimes. This year we wanted to do something festive, and have a unique way to contribute to March of Dimes. We chose to do snowflake ornaments that would sell for one dollar, and that dollar would go to March of Dimes. We also had an

Activity called the ten minute challenge. The goal of the challenge was to sell ten snowflakes in ten minutes. We had four groups of people out around the school selling snowflakes to students and teachers; we had a total of 36 snowflakes sold. The snowflakes are then made in our Business Management class,

With the buyer’s Name decorated On the snowflake. We had tremendous support from most people if not all of the people we approached.



The Breakfast After The Storm

The Business Management Program hosted a breakfast for area guidance counselors. The breakfast was hosted on Wednesday December 15th with a menu of breakfast vegetable Strata, fresh fruit, blueberry, and banana walnut muffins, coffee, tea, and juice. Eighteen counselors attended the breakfast; the breakfast went very well and the food was very good. Mr. Swisher introduced the

new culinary teacher Michael Galbraith, Patrick Ryan who is the new Building Trades teacher and our new Outreach Coordinator, Meghan Maguire. We also heard from our Engineering & Design Instructor, Addie VanDeurzen about Project Lead The Way and the exciting projects her students are doing. After breakfast and presentations were complete, some

counselors hung around for a tour of our center. Thank you very much to all who came and saved both the original date of the breakfast and the snow date!



Family History Uncovered

Students of the Pre-Law Program visited the Bennington Town Clerk's office on Friday, December 17, 2010 in order to research the land ownership records contained there. After reading cases about transfer of property, and seeing examples of deeds, the students were eager to investigate the trail of ownership of the properties where they live. After being surprised by the resident cat, the

students found the vault where the records were kept to be more like a library than they had imagined. Looking up their parents' initial purchase records, many were able to trace the ownership records of their own home properties back to original larger parcels of land. One student said he particularly enjoyed seeing how his home came to his parents through his grandparents and was happy to

see their signatures.

While there, Town Clerk, Tim Corcoran, was able to give insight into how the land in and around Bennington was deeded to its earliest settlers. He also distributed copies of Poets & Pioneers, 50 Lives in the History of Bennington by Tom Fels which was prepared for the 250th Anniversary of Bennington.



"The students were eager to investigate the trail of ownership of the properties where they live."

Fruit Smoothies to Luxury City Apartments

The Business Management Program has started the process of writing business plans, and there are some interesting ones again this year. From two bakeries, a fruit smoothie business, a sports bar/restaurant, a line of luxury apartments in NYC, a massage therapy business, a T-shirt business, to a day care – there is a wide variety of businesses. Students will write a business plan that encompasses as many

elements of a real plan as possible, and will have them reviewed by commercial lenders in the Bennington area. They will also have guest speakers talk about insurance needs, as well as financial funding information from the SBA representatives. Many students will be entering their business plan in the FBLA Spring Leadership Conference/Competition in late March 2011, with hope to continue on

to the nation-wide competition in Orlando, Florida in June 2011.

FBLA continues to run their cookie business every Friday, with members who work receiving financial support from the proceeds of the business to attend FBLA events and go to conferences.



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Where Your Future Begins...

Welcome to the Southwest Vermont Career Development Center. You have just crossed the threshold to the 21st Century learning opportunities that are as easy to access as your desktop, laptop, I-phone, or Blackberry.

The faculty and staff at the CDC are very proud of our facility at 321 Park Street in Bennington, Vermont. We serve students from the Bennington County region, and currently have 19 programs that offer two years of study, and many pre-tech exploratory courses. Each of our programs has Industry Recognized Credentials and/or Dual Enrollment Credits that may be achieved with successful completion of these programs. Institutions that are currently participating include Community College of Vermont, Vermont Technical College, and Rochester Institute of Technology, Paul Smiths College and Hudson Valley Community College. More proposals are being made to other institutions at this time.

In addition to our daytime programs, we offer an Evening Division for Adult Education as well as Online Learning. High quality instruction is available from professionals in regional Business and Industry.

Please take time to explore our website, and call or e-mail your questions, suggestions, or concerns. Thank you for your interest!

Partnering With The Community

The 2010-2011 Forestry classes (forestry I & II) have had a very busy and productive start to the school year! Learning job site safety and productive equipment operation created several appreciated community projects. The students cut and cleared trees, removed stumps, graded and finally seeded what now has become McWaters Park in North Bennington. A new parking area and picnic tables transformed an old overgrown site into a beautiful park for the community and tourist visiting the Henry Bridge. Finishing touches will complete phase one of this project in the spring.



For the second time in the last few years the Forestry class was also asked to help profile the river bottom of the famous trout stream, the Batten Kill. Students waded into the cold water armed with surveying levels, Philly rods and field books to map the bottom of the river and measure elevation change. The data gathered by the class will be used in obtaining permits to allow for more trout habitat restoration on the river. This project is awesome for students in so many ways!

As it has for many years, the cold weather had led the Forestry students into the woods to practice many aspects of forest management and timber harvesting. The class is currently working in the Y woods owned by the town of Bennington. Students measure property boundaries and mark trees, practice road layout and design and then ultimately harvest hardwood pulp. Students master tree felling, log skidding and learn the business aspects of marketing cut/split hardwood firewood. The Y woods site is a great (and close) with about 26 abutting landowners. Researching deeds and writing letters combined with interacting with adjoining landowners is very beneficial to the regular curriculum. One such property abutter, Mr. Dayton of #8 Margaret Lane thinks the training is great and has even made a \$100 donation to the student account!

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Southwest Vermont Career Development Center is committed to maintaining a learning environment free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability or sexual orientation.