DVR Industrial Technology Committee

Mid-Year Report 2010-2011

First meeting 10/15/11 – Topic: Drafting/Engineering

Attendees:
Steve Silca (Ridgewood High School), Frank Holthouse (Leyden High Schools), Carl Fedele (Proviso High Schools), Antigone Sharris (Triton College)

I. Discussion with Antigone about Engineering Technology @ Triton

Program overview –
Engineering Technology @ Triton is doing well, having had a 101% increase in enrollment since 2005. There are (3) new labs, equipped to be able to allow someone to go from design to final product for a variety of products, and the first set of 85W solar panels just arrived yesterday for the program to use in incorporating green technology into the curriculum.

The goals for the future include -

a. More involvement within the high schools, visiting the classes and talking with the students, career days, etc. Some of this was lost when people retired and/or left. More needs to be done here.
b. Host state and nationally recognized STEM competitions at Triton for area high schools
c. Increase participation in robotics related competition(s)

II. Dual Credit

Antigone gave Frank the Triotn curriculum for ENT110, ENT111, ENT116, ENT117, ENT118 for review, along with encouraging the teachers to put in an application for being adjuncts at Triton and sending her their resumes to see if she can hire them to teach classes for Triton in Engineering Technology.

III. Program Marketing

a. Steve ran the first ever Elective Fair last year at Ridgewood and tripled his enrollment
b. Frank says they do that at Leyden and the competition for the students is tougher
c. Carl says they only have Automotive at Leyden East and West, so there is very little competition and his enrollment is good.

IV. School backed Curriculum Models to support the Technology programs

a. Frank thinks that Leyden will be doing Project Lead the Way, probably starting in 2012 Wheeling High School uses it and their program and school is stronger for it

b. Proviso (at least PMSA) is doing Engineering by Design, started this year
c.

V. Other

Leyden is using an inexpensive 3D printer that requires the user to calibrate and do more than “plug and play”, the BFB 3000.

Second meeting 11/12/11 – Lunch meeting held at ITEC conference in Normal, IL @ 12:00 pm.

Attendees:
Steve Silca (Ridgewood High School), Frank Holthouse (Leyden High Schools), Greg Lindemann (Leyden High Schools), Joe Shilts (Leyden High Schools), Nick Michalek (OPRF), Ryan Vanherst (OPRF)

Topics covered:

1. A good conversation took place among all present about the various engineering programs available to schools.
    a. OPRF has started with Project Lead the Way and,
    b. Leyden may start it next school year.
    c. The state offers an Engineering by Design curriculum that Ridgewood H.S. is considering as well.
    d. Topics included: different course offerings of the programs, cost of the programs, course sequencing, number of courses offered each year, impact on other Tech Ed courses in the department, and staffing.
        i. Most teachers agreed that the programs impact and essentially replace CAD courses, but do not impact enrollment in other programs such as Autos, Metals, Woods, or Construction.

2. A safety discussion was held among the Construction and Woodworking teachers
    a. Safety training procedures
    b. Safety Quizzes
    c. Use of specific machines with or without direct instructor assistance
    d. Benefits of Sawstop safety table saw system
        i. Currently each school has at least one of these saws. Each school is considering purchasing 1 more through DVR funds to eliminate any table saws without the Sawstop features.

Future Meetings:

2/25 at Triton for Automotive High School Instructor workshop
4/16 Second Annual Technology Day for Teachers at Triton College