

Porter County Career and Technical Education

A Division of Porter County Educational Services

www.pccte.org

2011 Annual Report Accountability Report to the Public

Classes Provide Hands-On Opportunities

Career and Technical Education is all about providing opportunities to its students.

The 30-plus programs served 991 juniors and seniors in 2010-11. Students represented 10 high schools in Porter County and Hobart.

The newest class is Fundamentals of Sports Medicine, offered at Hobart High School starting in fall, 2011.

This morning class is taught by certified athletic trainer Mark Leto and has attracted students from six home high schools in its first year. The students learn how to prevent and treat sports injuries. They have already earned CPR certification and have had hands-on experience with taping, splinting and other procedures.

For example, Danielle Radosevich and Amanda Pappas of Wheeler High School have helped out sports teams at their own high school with icing, water bottles and other assistance. Rebecca Depew of Chesterton High School assisted in the training room during football season.

Students said they appreciate the head start they are getting in case they decide to go into athletic training or a related field such as physical therapy.

New teacher Jeff Lawley is offering not one but two sections of Emergency Rescue Technology this year at Hobart High School. The students benefit from sharing the high-tech MED1man simulator with Sports Medicine and Project Lead the Way students.

Also in the medical area, Justin Suggs, former student in Medical Terminology/Anatomy and Physiology and Dental Health, received Indiana's Award for Excellence in 2011.

Suggs is presently attending IUPUI as a pre-dental student.

Besides Leto and Lawley, PCCTE welcomed new teachers Glen Buford, Culinary Science; Suzanne Edwards, Health Occupations; Lorna Marcus, Health Careers & Health Occupations; and Janie Siddall, Work Study.

The Chesterton Construction Technology classes, directed by Jeff Larson, in 2011 put a new home on the market in Jackson Township for \$299,000. The home has the highest possible energy efficiency rating and a guaranteed limit on heating and cooling costs for the first year.

Many career/tech classes offer dual college credits at Ivy Tech Community College or Vincennes University. Students earned 3,095 college credits in 2010-11 at no cost to their parents.

Students use these credits to get a head start on college and to meet requirements of the Indiana Academic Honors Diploma and Technical Honors Diploma. Even if they pursue a different career area, they might find the credits helpful as electives.

Students also earned many state and national certifications related to their career goals. For example, 55 students became Certified Nursing Assistants through Health Occupations. Eleven students earned Certified Solidworks Associate (CSWA) status through CAD class. More than 180 students earned CPR certification.



First-year Welding student Mitch Hooper, Portage High School, uses the plasma arc cutter. He may earn 36 dual college credits in the two-year program.



Kyle Knarian, Chesterton High School junior, works on his hammer in Modern Machining Technology. Demand is high for skilled machinists.



Megan Selby, Hobart High School junior, configures a router under the direction of instructor Tom Fortney. Cisco added a possible six dual college credits in 2011.

The Porter County
Career & Technical Education
ANNUAL REPORT

is a yearly communication tool to
area businesses and to the taxpayers.

We welcome comments and
questions about this report.

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*Participating High Schools
Porter County Career and Technical
Education is proud to be supported by
the following high schools:*

Boone Grove
Chesterton
Hebron
Hobart
Kouts
Morgan Township
Portage
Valparaiso
Washington Township
Wheeler

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Director's Report

*"The number one predictor of
post-secondary success is having a
mature and realistic career goal."*

-- Kenneth Gray, author, *Getting Real*



Welcome to the 2011 Porter County Career and Technical Education Annual Report to Our Community. I hope you enjoy reading about some of our successful programs and a few of our outstanding students.

Many describe our Career and Technical Education programs in Porter County as among our community's best kept secrets. People confess to having frequently driven by the Career and Tech Center and not knowing what goes on inside. Recent tours from groups like the Valparaiso Redevelopment Corporation, Portage Economic Development Commission, Porter County Step Ahead Council, Northwest Indiana Business Roundtable Education Committee and Valparaiso School Board all reaffirmed that our secret is getting out, but slowly, to our community partners.

After a recent community presentation, a friend commented that he always thought our school was for "troubled" kids and that he was surprised to hear that in many of our classes, a GPA of 2.5 or higher is required just to get in. Others have been surprised that we offer nearly 35 career options, all of which prepare students for careers and for college. Our CTE courses occur in state-of-the-art facilities and qualify for college credit during in high school. Let me unequivocally state, this is not an alternative school for kids removed from school. Many of our students take extra classes or attend summer school just so that they are able to attend a CTE program. Our programs are for students who excel in school and who are able to maturely choose to study a specific career path with the goal of better preparation for success in life.

If a school and its teachers can be judged by the students it produces, Porter County CTE has been wildly successful. Our students report back to us about their college and workplace successes regularly. I hope you will enjoy reading about some of them in this publication. As the Porter County CTE Director, I am appreciative of the support from our participating school corporations, area employers, parents and the outstanding students sent to us from our 10 participating high schools.

My teachers and I look forward to every day at work, because it presents another opportunity to work with the young adults who will be shaping the future of our country.

I hope you enjoy this annual report and feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Groth".

Jon Groth,
Director of Career and Technical Education
Principal, Porter County Career and Technical Center
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Striving To Be *The Best*

PCCTE teachers annually nominate their top students for consideration in the Indiana Awards for Excellence program. A local advisory board along with PCCTE Director Jon Groth reviews these nominations and selects the very best students to represent the PCCTE in the state competition.

Congratulations to the following Award for Excellence nominees.



Being involved at Boone Grove High School keeps **Elizabeth Buth**, senior, very busy.

Here are a few of her activities: National Honor Society, Art Club, Drama Club, Spanish Club, Student

Council, golf and Key Club. She also serves as vice-president of the senior class.

Being active has not diminished Buth's academic work. She is ranked third in her class of 118 with a grade point average of 3.935.

Participation in Health Occupations is helping Buth toward her goal of studying pharmacy at Drake University in Iowa. "It's going to help me in the future for my career and education," noted the career center mentor to younger students.

Buth learned about opportunities in career & technical education when student support coordinators visited her school and when a friend had a positive experience in a program.



A future in television production is in store for **Sarah Jackett**, senior at Chesterton High School.

She plans to pursue a degree in telecommunications at Ball State University. This student mentor cites the "interaction that you don't get at the home school" as one benefit of attending a half-day career and technical class. She said career/tech education "gives you a head start on what you want to do in life."

Instructor Bob Phelps describes Sarah as a great speaker and a great representative of the Career Center.

Jackett takes honors classes at Chesterton and participates in German Club, Art Club and Natural Helpers. She serves as a videographer for athletics and started working at Valpolife.com. She serves as a mentor at the career center to help provide tours and orientation to younger students.



A possible future in mechanical engineering is on the mind of **Jacob Lauritzen**, senior at Portage High School.

The second-year standout in Industrial Mechanics is considering Purdue University.

Lauritzen is "right there" when needed on class projects. A recent project for the Auto Mechanics teacher to help rebuild an old car was a natural for this student who likes math and remote-controlled cars.

"I couldn't have done it better myself," said Mr. Larry Shepard, referring to the technical assistance provided on the car project.

Jacob credits Industrial Mechanics with teaching him practical, real-world information that he can use. He values being able to use a lathe, weld, fix items and build things.

Lauritzen takes pride in helping others and being a go-to guy. He'd be the one out in the rain helping someone with a jump start for a dead battery.

He's no slouch in the classroom, either, with a GPA of 4.2368 and a rank of 16th out of 571 seniors.



"I couldn't have picked a better student," remarked Mr. Larry Shepard, Industrial Mechanics teacher.

He's referring to senior **Zachary Moss** of Portage High School.

Moss, a two-year student in Industrial Mechanics, has been accepted at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute and will study engineering. He takes Advanced Placement classes at PHS and is ranked in the top 10 per cent of the class.

He said he thinks it will be helpful that he learned some welding and how pumps work.

Favorite teachers at PHS include Mr. Robert Parker, social studies, and Mrs. Vanessa George, mathematics.

"I am very proud of Zach for the decisions he is making and the certainty at which he is making them," George commented.

In his spare time, Moss likes to work on cars and play the bass guitar.



"A born producer"—that's how instructor Bob Phelps describes **Rachel Santos** of Portage High School.

Besides a wide range of activities at PHS, Santos serves as field camera operator at

Valparaiso High School football games as part of her work in Video Production & Media Studies.

Santos has served as editor-in-chief of PHS' **Pow Wow** newspaper for two years.

"Rachel has been amazing and continues to amaze me," noted her adviser, Mrs. Melissa Deavers-Lowie. She noted that Santos takes her career-tech class and **Pow Wow** very seriously. The senior takes great pride in producing a quality product.

Santos has received accolades for her writing and editing and serves on the student board of the Indiana High School Press Assn.

She is strongly considering Indiana University to pursue her study of broadcasting.

PCCTE will host
open houses
January 26 and
February 8
at most locations.
**See our website,
www.pccte.org
for details.**

Success Stories

*The articles below represent just a few of the hundreds of successful graduates from PCCTE.
Please read and enjoy the success our graduates are having.*

Marketing class: real-world experiences



A Marketing Field Experience class at Hobart High School helped shape **Hollie Claussen's** career path.

Claussen especially cited the value of DECA, an international organization for students in marketing, finance, hospitality, business management or entrepreneurship.

"DECA is a great way for high school students to get an idea of what the business world is like and the type of career paths that they could take. It gives the students a lot of great experiences and important responsibilities that they will encounter in college and even after college."

"DECA," she noted, "taught me how to meet important deadlines, how to properly and effectively present my ideas to an audience and how to have a persistent work ethic and attitude."

Claussen went to nationals twice with Advertising Campaign as her event. Her teacher was Mrs. Kari Roach.

The 2006 Hobart High School graduate earned a degree in Business Management with a concentration in Marketing from Purdue University in August, 2011.

She works at Community Healthcare System as a physician practice coordinator.

Marketing classes at the Career Center also have a DECA chapter.

Do what you love: former auto student



Imagine you have just won the lottery and no longer have to work a day in your life.

What would you do with your time every day? What dreams, passions or hobbies would you pursue? Once you can honestly answer this question, find a way to turn this answer into your career.

That's the advice of **Jeff Robbins**, electronics technician for more than four years at Edelbrock Automotive in California. He tests and repairs components, offers technical support, develops calibration for new systems and tests engines for real world drivability.

Robbins, a 2004 graduate of Hobart High School, studied Auto Technology at the Career Center with Karl Sickles and Ed Herron. He went on to University of Northwestern Ohio, graduating with honors in 2007 in auto/high performance, diesel and alternative fuels.

The career-tech class gave this 25-year-old "the fundamentals I needed to further my knowledge of the modern automobile."

"These classes are a great way to become more familiar with the technology and jobs that are available," Robbins added.

TV Productions class inspires Portage grad



A college graduate student credits her Video Production & Media Studies class with preparing her for university work and more.

Cecelia (Martinez) Steidinger took the inaugural TV Productions class as a senior in 2006-07. She went on to get a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Purdue University.

Steidinger credits her career-technical class with

- Teaching her technical skills, production values, professionalism and responsibility.
- Helping to prepare her for some college classes.
- Giving her a springboard to opportunities such as an internship with NBC Universal in New York City.
- "The class literally took me places I thought I might never get to go."
- Providing a supportive, family-like atmosphere.

"Any student," the Portage High School graduate said, "should be able to find a program that fits his or her interests."

Younger sister Julissa will take Fundamentals of Sports Medicine next year as she considers physical therapy as a career.

Steidinger is pursuing a master's degree in health administration at IUPUI.

Real success is finding your lifework in the work that you love.

-David McCullough