

Excellence in Practice Awards

I now have the pleasure of introducing the **2010 Excellence in Practice Awards**. This award recognizes exemplary Tech Prep and state-approved Career and Technical Education programs and practices that prepare students for careers aligned and articulated with postsecondary education, professional and technical careers, and employment. Award winners must have outcomes for their students that are outstanding, measurable, and academically rigorous.

Being nominated for this award is a significant achievement in itself. The competition and selection criteria are quite rigorous. There were a number of innovative nominees who came very close to qualifying for the award, but were too new to be able to demonstrate substantial outcomes. We

encourage those nominees to reapply next year, when they will have stronger outcome data.

The theme of this year's conference is "**Career and Technical Education: Making a Difference.**" Our award winner exemplifies that theme. They have made a major difference in the lives of every CTE student at their center by successfully integrating high academic rigor into not just one, but every one of their programs.

I will now announce the 2010 Excellence in Practice Award winner. **Patty Cantú**, Director of the Office of Career and Technical Education in the Michigan Department of Education, will present the award. Assisting her will be **Donna Beltz** from OCTE, who coordinated the selection and award process.

(Patty Cantú joins you onstage to begin the presentation. Donna Beltz stands by the trophy table.)

We hope you will enjoy the following PowerPoint presentation which shows students and staff from our award-winner site engaged in activities that define and showcase their program.

(Overhead presentation begins.

Award winner waits onstage for cue, stage left.)

Our 2010 award winner is **Algebra II Integration at the Livonia Career Technical Center, in Livonia Public Schools.**

Algebra II Integration into Career and Technical Education is an outstanding model of collaboration and cooperation between academics and CTE. This was no easy task, but hard work has reaped remarkable results. Livonia Career Technical Center staff took the time to do their homework. They prepared and studied for **3 years**, re-learning Algebra II themselves, to fully

integrate Algebra II into the entire CTE curriculum beginning with the 2009-2010 school year.

For two years, from 2006 to 2008, LCTC staff examined the specific math content within each CTE program, documenting Algebra II concepts. Teachers used their own professional development hours, curriculum days and extended staff meetings to learn and re-learn Algebra concepts applicable to Algebra II content standards.

In the 2008-2009 school year, LCTC employed a Livonia Public Schools math teacher to facilitate the implementation. LCTC students were separated into two groups, Algebra II and Core Academics, to receive appropriate math material for their individual levels. They all received additional math support through the LCTC Math Resource room. Weekly lessons were also saved for absent students and re-teaching purposes using

Camtasia and PowerPoint. A hybrid Algebra II program was established using seat time and online time. Two additional delivery models also have been developed for LCTC students that need to continue or recapture Algebra I or Geometry credit.

After 3 years of intensive effort, the results are in:

- Algebra II standards have been adapted and integrated into all LCTC programs.
- The program is aligned to the first semester Algebra II content at all three LPS high schools.
- Pre and post-test data from 2008-09 shows 92% of LCTC CTE programs showed significant improvement across all pathways.
- Probability and Statistics data have been collected to drive future curriculum development and program alignment with the new state standards.

- CTE students now have room in their high school schedules to attend LCTC and meet new high school requirements.
- All CTE programs at LCTC are now articulated with at least one of seven post-secondary institutions.

In summary, high academic rigor and academic alignment are the cornerstones of Algebra II integration at LCTC. It is a rock-solid model, and one we hope will be replicated.

Here to accept the award for the **Algebra II Integration at the Livonia Career Technical Center** is **Dr. Janet Haas, Principal**. Accompanying her onstage are **Kevin Etue**, (*pronounced EE-two*) **NCA and School Improvement Chair**, and **Angela Krolkowski**, mathematics teacher.

(Winner and partners walk from stage left to Patty Cantú.

Handshakes, photo, exit stage right. Applause.)

Please join me in another round of applause to congratulate the 2010 Excellence In Practice Award winner and their key partner, **Dr. Halyna Biaczyk**, representing Wayne RESA.

(Applause)

Thank you, Patty Cantú, for presenting the Excellence in Practice Award on behalf of the Michigan Department of Education. I also appreciate the assistance of Donna Beltz during the award ceremony and Donna's work to coordinate the awards program.

(Patty Cantú and Donna Beltz exit stage left, take reserved seats at front table.)

(Joanne remains at the podium to introduce the keynote speaker.)