

Des Plaines Valley Region Business Committee Mid Year Report 2011-2012

Summer Programs

The Heather Sass Training and the Teacher Workplace Experience were reviewed and promoted.. Feedback was extremely positive for both programs. Dates for 2012 TWE (June 12-13) were given with a request to share the information with CTE at the area school.

Update of Dual Credit progress

We discussed courses from area schools that are now dual credit. Riverside Brookfield is offering Computer Apps I, Intro to Auto and AutoCad as dual credit. Elmwood Park's Virtual Enterprise International class along with Marketing and Accounting are dual credit. Leyden's Accounting course is dual credit and part of a program of study. Dr. Bill Griffith was on hand to answer questions.

Curriculum Revitalization Workshop – Tech Share

Due to the popularity of the first two technology-based workshops we decided to hold another workshop this year. The event will be hosted at Triton in room M123-A on Thursday, February 9th and is open to CTE teachers from the region. Committee members were asked to determine up to four participants from their schools. Currently, there are 21 participants scheduled to attend.

Steve Grigalunas of Elmwood Park has agreed to be the main presenter. Our main focus will be developing a wiki for the use of area CTE teachers and to build individual web sites which we will link from the wiki. Our main focus will be creating a wiki site for our area CTE teachers and creating ways to use Google documents and forms.

Programs of Study

We began our Programs of Study process by trying to determine the best focus. We determined that Accounting would work even though a few schools do not have that course. One school is hoping to pick it up and the other will still benefit from developing the program of study with us even though it may feed into a different capstone class.

Leyden has 15-20 students enrolled in their Accounting Program of Study.

Curriculum Sharing

Elmwood Park is the second district in the state to have a Virtual Enterprises International program, a hands-on business simulation. The participating students use the VEI website which has a banking system, resources and a data portal to other virtual businesses to create a real-world environment to learn about accounting, production, distribution, human resources, product development, marketing, and sales disciplines. The employees of the EP VEI firm each

interviewed for a position in the company and then work in departments to complete the tasks needed to make the firm profitable.

The employees engage in trade with nearly 5,000 Virtual Enterprise practice firms around the world. This program allows the student/employees to develop collaboration skills as they experience workgroup teams and departments interacting with each other for a common goal. In addition, students completing VEI earn 6 credits from Triton College under the dual credit program and receive honors credit from the high school.

The DVR Business Committee had an opportunity to tour the offices of Limitless, the EP VEI firm, on November 2nd. CEO, Caitlin Burd and COO, Daniel Bednarczyk presented an overview of VEI and Limitless and then encouraged the visitors to shadow the Limitless employees and ask questions. Pete Hostrawser of Oak Park River Forest High School thanked the VEI students and noted that “they were true professionals and need to understand they will be well prepared for the business world upon completion of VEI.”

Update of Triton Certificate Programs

Dr. Griffin gave a report of the changes planned by Triton for their Applied Science joint Accounting/Finance certificate, Entrepreneur certificate and Financial Services certificate. These changes were suggested by the members of Triton’s Business Advisory Committee at their last meeting which Karen attended. Dr. Griffin invited the committee members to attend the next advisory meeting in the spring.

They will also be looking into new Logistics programs, a Health and Management Certificate and courses for the CPA exam. Triton is also going through an accreditation process through the Council for Business Schools and Programs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Bear
Business Committee Chairperson

Business Committee Meeting Schedule

- ◆ **Thursday, February 9th, Triton (Room M123-A)**
- ◆ **Wednesday, May 9th, Elmwood Park**