

**Des Plaines Valley Region  
IT Committee  
Mid-Year Report - 2019-2020**

### **Conference Discussions and Outcomes**

Committee members attended the School College Alliance Workshop. From a technical perspective, the main themes taken away and discussed were:

- Apprenticeships versus Internships
- Tech student pathways post-graduation
- Career endorsements on high school transcripts

All member schools agreed that more has to be done to guide technical students into immediate pathways - whether that be immediate employment and college entrance. Both pathways are viable, depending on the career area of choice. Members will continue to investigate this and report back with ideas/possible implementations at the next meeting. Members will also be attending conferences during the second half of the year.

### **Current Technology Trends**

The committee agreed that in order to provide the most relevant technical education, we must stay relevant to the current marketplace. This requires teachers to be continual learners and our member schools administration to be responsive to the marketplace needs. Outside advisory teams are implemented at Leyden; other member schools see the value of this and will continue to investigate. Continual following of marketplace needs is a must for every IT department to ensure we are staying relevant. Discussion will continue in this area at future meetings to ensure we are doing the best for all students.

### **Triton Dual Credit Update**

Members discussed dual credit opportunities at Triton. Leyden discussed the success had with industry certifications that garner dual credit at Triton (CompTIA A+, Net + and some MOS Certifications), while Elmwood Park and Ridgewood discussed Computer Science and MobileMakers opportunities. All committee members want to continue to provide as many dual credit opportunities as possible; however, the instructor qualifications can be a very big obstacle in pursuit of those options. An idea was discussed to have a DVR Educational Cohort for Computer Science teachers so they could attain what is needed to provide opportunities for students. Members will continue to discuss ideas that will move potential CS students further along at Triton upon arrival. Discussion on this will continue at future meetings and ideas will be shared.

## **Technical Reading/Updates**

Members discussed some of the current technology trends based on reading and discussions with outside advisory boards. Discussion was held on the importance of new trends and how to attain instructors/provide instructors with the ability to teach classes. Subjects discussed:

- Ambient Computing
- Major companies (i.e. Google, Apple) eliminating 4-year college requirement for tech positions
- Constant need of cybersecurity professionals
- Emerging areas in AI and Data Analytics

Members discussed the struggle to find professional development in emerging areas where we can keep curriculum relevant for students.

## **Other Considerations and Conversations**

- Digital Gaming is taught at most member schools. Members discussed moving to Unity in many classes and the appropriate way to introduce the software.
- HTML and CSS are taught at all member schools.
- Recruiting strategies were discussed among the member schools, especially in the area of female recruiting. Several strategies were shared.
- A discussion of how to further use Hour of Code in member schools and possibly feeder schools was had. Members will come with further ideas on this subject at the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tony Pecucci  
Business/IT Committee Chairperson