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What's in it for ME?

There has been a proliferation of professional associations, unions, occupational societies, and other special interest groups in education in the past two decades. As a result, participating in a professional discussion with other career and technical educators is akin to swimming in audio alphabet soup – a literal cacophony of acronyms.

This can be confusing when you are recruiting potential members for WACTE. To take a little liberty with an old saying, “it’s tough to tell the [professional associations] apart without a scorecard.” Even so, the bottom line for most recruits (whether stated or not) is the same – “what’s in it for ME?” When it comes to WACTE, the answer is both simple and straightforward – everything!

Career and technical education changes at the speed of light, not the speed of sound, in the 21st century. Teachers, administrators, and administrative and technical support staff have all they can do to simply “keep up.” WACTE’s conferences, seminars, and workshops are designed to help its members stay ahead of the curve (and maintain their sanity in the process!). A quick review of the professional development opportunities at our upcoming conference in Green Bay on February 19-21 is ample evidence of that fact (see our online brochure at www.wacteonline.org).

Similarly, WACTE responds to the legislative challenges that face career and technical educators. In 2003, these challenges will be plentiful: (1) at the national level, there are proposals to move all Perkins Act funding into Pell Grants; (2) at the state level, WTCS and DPI are facing five to ten percent budget cuts as a result of a looming \$3 billion deficit; and (3) at the local level, the Eastern side of the state is witnessing the beginning of a property tax revolt. Again, WACTE is on the front line of these legislative issues. Legislative sessions at the state conference, along with our annual Legislative Seminar in Madison on April 2, 2003, will assist members in developing grassroots methods of addressing these challenges.

So, when someone wants to know “what’s in it for ME?” when you approach them about joining WACTE, you can respond by saying, “your job – keeping it and doing it well.” That’s the real bottom line.

– John Frank, WACTE President



REGISTER TODAY!
**Career & Technical Education State
 Conference**
February 19-21, 2003
Green Bay

Building Wisconsin's Future - Conference Highlights

Building Wisconsin's Future is the theme for this year's state conference. I hope you have taken time to look through the conference program and selected what sessions, workshops, and industry tours you would like to participate in. The conference planning committee is excited to bring to you many first-time sessions like: Voice and Handwriting Recognition Technology, IC3 Computer Certification Training, Arts and Education, Student Assessment, Office XP Training, Computer Animation, Career Academies, Grant Writing, Financial Literacy, and much more.

This year the sessions cover a wide and diverse area of professional development. Along with the 42 interesting sessions, five preconference workshops, five professional business tours, a special teacher certification workshop provided by the Wisconsin Association for Leadership in Education and Work, a Technology Expo, a Health Fair, the State Superintendent's Business Education Advisory Committee, and a special two-hour session on legislative actions, this year's conference will highlight an opening general session that focuses



on Building Wisconsin's Future Through Educational Partnerships.

Mr. Larry Weyers, CEO of WI Public Service Corp.; Dan Nerad, Superintendent of the Green Bay Public Schools; Jeff Rafn, President of NWTC; and Janet Bray, ACTE Executive Director, will open the conference together and set a stage for education change and challenge our way of thinking in career and technical education.

Be a part of the exciting events at this year's State Career and Technical Education Conference! Sign up now; sessions are filling up!! www.wacteonline.org

REGISTER AT WWW.WACTEONLINE.ORG

It's More Than Just Another Tour

This is your chance to go behind the scenes with some of the most unique businesses in northeast Wisconsin. Tours are limited in the number of participants so act fast and don't be the one to miss the bus on this one! Check these out!



Behind the Scenes at the Weidner Center - Learn how technical knowledge and skills bring the magic of the theater to life.



Getting It Right at the Resch Center - Newly opened, this state-of-the-art professional sports and entertainment center has quickly become a magnet for economic development and it's located right next to Lambeau Field.



It's Your Health - Did you know that one of the top providers in alternative medicine is located right in Green Bay? St. Vincent Hospital is the regional center of excellence in a number of areas including cancer care, neuroscience, and alternative medicine.



Career Connections at WPS - Ever wonder why you teach what you do? WPS is one of the most diverse career employers in the state. With the hundreds of jobs and thousands of skill sets, this tour is likely to connect with every program you teach.

Georgia-Pacific

You Use It - We Make It at Georgia Pacific - With the new state focus on manufacturing, you can't afford to miss this opportunity. The foundation of manufacturing in Wisconsin is still largely built upon the paper industry. Find out what you didn't know about the world we live in!

Skills Wisconsin

Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent



Elizabeth Burmaster

Education for the New Economy

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction recognizes the complexity of the changing conditions of education and the state's economy. The workforce of the future will be better educated, older, and more flexible than at any time in the past.

The increasing complexity of today's marketplace has led to the phenomenon of job skills accelerating at a pace that is difficult for career and technical education to maintain. According to the Association for American Management survey, 38% of job applicants lacked the necessary skills to perform the job for which they applied. The direct cause for this is not the reduced quality of education but the rapid increase of skill demands on the job. The *New Wisconsin Promise* establishes a framework for economic growth by closing the earnings gap and increases academic achievement of Wisconsin's future workforce. A key part of the *New Wisconsin Promise* is an aggressive budget proposal called *Skills Wisconsin*.

Skills Wisconsin is a comprehensive budget proposal that addresses the needs of career and technical education (CTE) to begin to establish a new foundation in five areas of critical need. The Career and Technical Education Team within the Department is planning a series of "Listen and Learn" sessions throughout Wisconsin to provide more detailed information on these proposals and obtain local practitioner input from the field. Additional information on the *Skills Wisconsin* initiative, including individual briefing papers in each of the five foundational areas, can be found on the DPI website at www.dpi.state.wi.us



Internet Resources That Can Help You Be A Better Advocate for Career and Technical Education

by Mark Johnson, WACTE Legislative Committee Chair

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

As we look at the extraordinary challenges that our career and technical education profession faces at both the state and federal levels, the preceding quote by *Martin Luther King, Jr.*, seems especially fitting. It is not only appropriate, it is essential that our local WACTE chapters contribute to discussion and advocacy efforts during the state’s budgetary process (as well as to advocacy related to the proposed elimination of federal Perkins funding). The Legislative Committee asks that you *please* take the time to contact your local state and federal congressional representatives’ offices and express your thoughts and opinions on issues important to career and technical education. And insist that your WACTE chapter work with others who are concerned about these important issues — a coordinated approach is needed.

In support of WACTE advocacy efforts, Paul Gabriel (WACTE member and Executive Director of the WTCS Boards Association) recently led a number of WACTE chapter presidents in a session to help them better understand how to use on-line advocacy resources to be more informed advocates. Participants used live web access to view and discuss several sites that are helpful for keeping track of state legislation, legislators, lobbyists, and state political and budget news. We wanted to share all these sites with members — the sites will be useful to you and your local chapter if you want to understand and have a voice in state political and budgetary developments. The Legislative Committee encourages you and your colleagues to use these sites to help you become more informed and effective advocates for career and technical education in Wisconsin.

www.legis.state.wi.us — The Legislature’s website. This site provides a means to find your legislators, visit legislative service agencies and their resources, review committees and hearings, and listen to Assembly and Senate sessions in real-time.

www.wisconsin.gov/state/home — The State of Wisconsin website. Links to the Governor’s office, state agencies, and state employees, as well as contacts for local governments and education systems. It also provides links that will connect you to important statistics.

<http://ethics.state.wi.us> — The Ethics Board website. This site provides detailed information on lobbyists and lobby organizations, including who is working for and against various initiatives, what associations/organizations are interested in these initiatives, and rules for lobbyists and public officials.

www.thewheelerreport.com — The Wheeler Report website (a no-cost version of a private site run by veteran Capitol reporter Dick Wheeler). This site provides press coverage and press releases related to state government and government affairs, links to Wisconsin newspaper sites, announcements of political events, etc.

A Few Advocacy Tips and Observations from an Education Lobbyist

Paul Gabriel, Executive Director, Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association

Real Citizens are the Most Powerful Lobbyists — One heartfelt personal contact from a constituent can outweigh 100 form letters or lobbyist visits. A person whose life is changed by school is the single most powerful voice on behalf of his/her institution. Faculty, staff, and administrators can carry these real-life success stories effectively to legislators too.

You Need Not Be an Expert on Higher Education Policy — Know the basics of what’s important to your organization and to you. Relate your key issues to how they affect you and those around you. Don’t explain a complex policy unless you really can; it’s more powerful to explain who you are and how you are affected by the policy or lack of policy. However, if you do want support for a specific proposal, be sure to *ask for it*. “I love/support your institution” is not a commitment to vote in a particular way.

Rapid Change Hurts Advocacy — The faster an organization responds and changes, the harder it is for even well-informed officials to know you. Technical education has changed very rapidly. Someone who knew you a few years ago does not necessarily understand what you do today and what you will be doing tomorrow.

There’s No Substitute for Eating with Legislators in Your Cafeteria — Every opportunity to bring legislators to your campus is a golden advocacy opportunity. An official who feels connected to and at home on your campus will vote the right way whenever he/she can.

We Love a High Quality of Life (Don’t Be Afraid to Invest in It) — In difficult fiscal times, it’s hard for policymakers not to see education as a “cost” instead of as an investment. What you do is an investment with an enormous positive return for communities *and for tax revenues*. The political process does not always allow officials to link greater public sector (tax) investment in technical education with positive economic multiplier effects and positive personal and community transformation.

Who is Your Senator? — Among other things, legislators are parents, students, consumers, taxpayers, businesspersons, and community members. These contexts and experiences can influence policy choices as much as political party affiliation. Know your officials’ backgrounds and interests.

Some Don’ts — Never: create a situation that will publicly embarrass a politician; burn bridges because of a previous vote or statement made; misrepresent your organization’s or your own position or intentions; hesitate to say “I don’t know but let me get back to you;” or allow yourself to be perceived as oriented toward one political party. Politicians run with a party affiliation. You should assume that officials represent all of the district’s interests.

Follow-Up — Write a thank you note for the visit. Write again when the legislator is helpful. Stop the legislator at the fair next summer and re-introduce yourself and remind him/her that you met. Support officials who support your interests, and let them know you support them.

**WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM
2003-05 Biennial Budget Initiatives**
by Norm Kenney, WTCS

The Wisconsin Technical College System has an important role to play in shaping the economic future for the state. Like many states, Wisconsin is facing significant shortfalls in the state budget. The structural deficit in the 2001-03 biennial budget is expected to extend and deepen in the upcoming 2003-05 budget. Despite the budget deficit, Wisconsin's leadership found opportunities to preserve much of the base funding for the technical colleges for 2001-03. Now, with the state's economic performance slipping behind that of our midwestern neighbors, the WTCS Board is asking the Governor and the Legislature to invest approximately \$39.3 million in additional GPR over the 2003-05 biennium to reverse this trend.

The Board believes that strategic investments in the WTCS would increase the skills of the state's workforce, improve the economic competitiveness of the state, and help Wisconsin address its current fiscal challenges through fueling economic growth. Therefore, the WTCS Board seeks support for initiatives that would address critical challenges facing Wisconsin:

- a. In partnership with the state's health care providers and in coordination with the UW System, improve the quality and accessibility of health care by increasing the number of nurses and skilled allied health care workers in the labor force.
 - Further expand capacity to serve more students and pilot cost-effective alternative instructional methods to increase access to WTCS training;
 - Expand the pool of health care workers by targeting recruitment of minorities and males into health care occupational programs; and
 - Increase access for career laddering by lower-skilled workers by accelerating the development of on-line programming for WTCS health care programs.
- b. Encourage and support regional and industry cluster approaches to economic development.
 - Refocus, reallocate, and expand a portion of the WTCS's already considerable investments in economic and workforce development into a single program that would fund multi year technical college initiatives to stimulate increased economic development.
- c. Maintain state-of-the-art education and training programs and facilities for Wisconsin's workforce.
 - Provide Wisconsin with the highly skilled and productive workforce that forms the backbone of the state's economy;
 - Remain responsive to the needs of Wisconsin's communities, its students, and its employers; and
 - Ensure continuing returns on the state, local, and learner investments in workforce development that Wisconsin has come to expect.

**Wisconsin Technical College System
2003-05 Biennial Budget Initiatives**

	2003-04	2004-05	Biennial Request
Health Care Initiative	\$4,340,000	\$13,300,000	\$17,640,000
Economic Development Initiative	5,450,000	5,450,000	10,900,000
General State Aids	3,552,500	7,211,500	10,764,000
Total GPR Request	\$13,342,500	\$25,961,500	\$39,304,000

The WTCS Board recognizes that this represents a sizable request for new funding given the condition of the state's general fund. When compared to the 2002-03 base funding level for state aids for the WTCS (\$136.8 million GPR), the requested biennial increase of \$39.3 million seems considerable. However, the request should really be measured in the context of the total annual budget of the System (approximately \$800 million derived from property taxes, state aid, and learner fees). Furthermore, it is important to recognize that state funding for the WTCS currently represents about 1.2% of the state's general fund budget (\$11 billion); the WTCS Board's 2003-05 request would raise that share by approximately 0.1 percentage points (to 1.3%) by the second year of the biennium.

For more information on the WTCS 2003-05 Biennial Budget Initiative, please go to the WTCS website at www.board.tec.wi.us/legislative-budget/default.htm

FOCUS 2003

Leadership for the New Economy

Major Skill Standards Conference Planned for Spring 2003

by Bryan Albrecht, DPI

The State of Wisconsin, in partnership with the National Skill Standards Board and lead states supporting the implementation of skill standards through the State Skill Standards Working Group, is sponsoring *Focus 2003: Using Industry Skill Standards and Certifications for Market-Driven Workforce Development, Education, and Training*.

Scheduled for May 6 – 8, 2003 in Madison, Wisconsin, the conference also is supported by the National Association of Workforce Boards, the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education, the American Association of Community Colleges, and the Association for Career Technical Education. The conference is targeted to policymakers, agency administrators, program directors, operational coordinators, and department/staff supervisors. Attendance is limited to 400; the cost for the three-day event is \$275.

The purpose of the conference is to educate, empower, and equip visionary public sector supply-side decision makers and practitioners to successfully use industry skill standards and certifications in occupational preparation efforts being conducted through Workforce Investment Act activities, secondary/Perkins III programs, community colleges and institutions of higher learning courses of study, apprenticeship projects, Job Corps centers, sectoral training initiatives, H1B grants, state-funded endeavors, community-based organizations, licensed and regulated proprietary schools, and more.

Many current innovative and exciting approaches to the use of industry skill standards and certifications will be discussed at the conference. These include:

- Policies and procedures driving the use of skill standards and occupational certifications;
- Selection of standards and certifications;
- Employer practices and applications;
- Program design and implementation;
- Curriculum development and alignment;
- Cross-walking and integration of occupational, academic, and employability knowledge and skills;
- Credentialing and articulation;
- Accountability and performance management;
- Marketing, outreach, public relations, branding, and culture change;
- Work readiness training and certification;
- Hands-on job/internship/practicum/mentored/project-based experiences;
- Business/industry partnerships and area-wide collaborations;
- Federal level coordination ventures;
- State skill standards and career cluster undertakings; and
- Model programs, demonstration projects, best practices, and lessons learned

Conference attendees will be able to meet, learn from, and interact with national, state, and local experts, innovators, and leaders in the use of skill standards and occupational certifications. Interspersed among the six plenary sessions and more than 50 varied workshops and presentations will be keynote speeches from business leaders and high-level government officials, and opportunities to network and share information in a more informal environment.

Registration is now open and can be accessed through www.wactonline.org. Because of the cap on attendance, early registration is advised.

WI ASSOCIATION FOR CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.

You tax deductible gift helps the association to maintain its professional development activities and to provide pertinent, on-target activities that assist instructors and staff in their instructional and management endeavors.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE!!!

NEW TEACHER PATRICK HOPPE GLAD TO BE PART OF WACTE

By Susie Kasinski Drummond



The 2002 Wisconsin Association for Career and Technical Education's New Teacher Award was presented to Patrick Hoppe, an instructor in the Electronic Technician and Electrical Engineering Technology programs at Gateway Technical College in southeastern Wisconsin.

Hoppe has been a member of WACTE and the College's Local #20 for more than one year. During his time at Gateway, he has been instrumental in enhancing articulation agreements, supporting peer networks for current students, recruiting potential students, implementing self-paced courses, writing curriculum, and developing lab manuals. Hoppe is also the legislative chairperson for Gateway's Association for Career and Technical Education (GACTE), allowing him to have an impact on the direction of the organization.

According to Hoppe, he originally joined GACTE and WACTE because the organizations supported and guided teaching professionals through the information available on the web site, in publications, and at conferences.

"So far, I have been very pleased with my experiences. The GACTE is like a family on campus. As a new instructor, I was welcomed into the group. It is as much social as professional. When you are a new teacher, the social side goes a long way in helping you feel at home. We are all so busy teaching that a dinner or a tailgate party helps keep us grounded. On the professional side, I attended the last state conference. The presenters were excellent and the material covered was timely and insightful," said Hoppe.

Reflecting on his New Teacher Award, Hoppe said, "I joined WACTE because it provided professional development and supported innovative teaching methods. To have the group that I went to for guidance recognize me as the new teacher of the year is incredible. I am very honored to receive this award and will spend my time in the classroom trying to live up to it. As a new teacher, you always wonder if you are doing the 'right thing' and this award confirmed I am."

GACTE members meet with the College's new hires and invite them to join the association. Throughout the year, members tour area businesses, take part in Legislative Day in Madison, raise funds for emergency grants, and attend workshops and conferences including the national ACTE conference.

Gateway Technical College provides educational programming in nearly 65 different areas and has an annual enrollment exceeding 28,000 students. The College has campuses in Elkhorn, Kenosha, and Racine; a center in Burlington; the Aviation Center located at the Kenosha Airport; LakeView Technology Academy in Pleasant Prairie; and the employees' campus at SC Johnson in Sturtevant.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 15, 2003

**DELEGATE'S LIST DUE TO WACTE
PRESIDENT'S WISLINE**

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

January 22, 2003

DELEGATE'S WISLINE

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

February 9-15, 2003

**CAREER & TECHNICAL
EDUCATION WEEK**

February 19-21, 2003

**WACTE 67th ANNUAL
CONFERENCE, Green Bay**

March 16-18, 2003

**ACTE NATIONAL POLICY
SEMINAR, Washington DC**

May 6-8, 2003

**FOCUS 2003 CONFERENCE
Sheraton, Madison**

For the complete WACTE Calendar of Events, visit www.wacteonline.org

State Superintendent Bestows Six Business and Education Partnership Awards

State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster presented her first State Superintendent's Business and Education Partnership Awards to business leaders from throughout the state during the November 6th Wisconsin Work-Based Learning Conference in Madison.

Recipients were:

Karin Borg, executive director, Biopharmaceutical Technology Center, Promega Corporation, Madison for raising the level of awareness of biotechnology and improving science literacy for thousands of youth by providing more than 3,000 students with fieldtrip opportunities each year, offering Saturday Science Programs for youth and multiple teacher training workshops, sponsoring youth apprenticeship students, and hosting minority student summer camps.

Lea and Craig Culver, founders of Culver's Restaurants, headquartered in Prairie du Sac for their leadership in providing training stations for cooperative education students throughout Wisconsin and their corporate philosophy of local involvement in education and community partnerships.

Brian Johnson, executive vice president, Michel's Corporation, located in Brownsville for his service on the State Business Education Advisory Committee, extensive community involvement, leadership training for students, and work to form the Wisconsin Future Business Leaders of America Scholarship Foundation.

Ray Pedersen, executive director, Foundation of Wisconsin Automobile and Truck Dealers, Madison for efforts that have awarded \$2.2 million in student scholarships over the past 10 years and commitment to Youth Apprenticeship, Automotive YES, and Transportation Technology.

Steve Phillips, vice president of quality, Harley-Davidson, headquartered in Milwaukee for the company's dedication to career and technical education, teacher training, and student involvement through Skills USA-VICA.

Dawn Tabat, president, Generac Power Systems, Waukesha for her work in establishing the "Second Chance" business and education partnership program with the school districts in Waukesha County. Generac is dedicated to family involvement and helping students develop the career and life skills necessary to graduate from high school.



State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster (right) is pictured with recipients of her first Business and Industry Partnership Awards. Pictured left to right are Bryan Albrecht, Director of the DPI Career & Education Team, Lea Culver, Ray Pedersen, Cheri Judkins (accepting for Steve Phillips), Karin Borg, Dawn Tabat, and Brian Johnson.

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED!

By Courtney Reed Jenkins, Technology Education Consultant, DPI

At the Department of Public Instruction, we recognize that standards-based education supports quality education. In technology education, the Department has **teacher standards** (PI 34), which provide a framework for individual teacher preparation and professional development, and model **academic standards** (*Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Technology Education*, <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/standards/pdf/teched.pdf>), which provide curricular guidance. The Department is beginning a year-long development process for **program standards** which will address contextual issues – administrative support, facilities use and management, co-curricular activities, etc. The standards will serve as a tool for continuous quality improvement and provide a rubric to certify outstanding technology education programs.

To create rigorous and relevant program standards, we need your perspective and comments. Please review these DRAFT standards and provide feedback to Courtney Reed Jenkins at courtney.jenkins@dpi.state.wi.us or 608/266-3551, or Ken Starkman at Kenneth.starkman@dpi.state.wi.us or 608/266-2683. If you would be willing to serve on a validation committee, we are looking for technology educators to donate 10 to 12 hours of time over the next six months; we plan to meet electronically, so the time can be at your discretion and choosing.

DRAFT Standards for a Quality Program in Technology Education

1. The technology education program has a vision and mission statement that emphasizes equity and is in alignment with the school district's mission and vision.
2. The classes offered are in alignment with the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Technology Education and incorporate the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Mathematics, Science, English Language Arts, and Social Studies.
3. The program is served by an advisory committee.
4. The technology education program is evaluated at regular intervals.
5. The technology education program uses data to support quality improvement that focuses on educational equity.
6. The program provides co- and/or extra-curricular activities related to technology education.
7. The technology education program includes experiential learning (i.e., service learning).
8. The instructional program is articulated with technical colleges and four-year technology-related programs.
9. The technology education program is integrated with other disciplines to support student academic achievement and career development.
10. The curriculum is based on current occupational trends, industry standards (including safety), and recognized educational practices.
11. The technology education program offers certified work-based learning options for students.
12. The program fosters a learning environment that encourages positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self-motivation.
13. Through effective communication and outreach, the faculty, students, parents, employers, and advisory committee members understand the vision and mission, major activities, and accomplishments of the technology education program.
14. Community leaders, resources, facilities, and industries are identified and utilized to enhance the quality of the instructional program.
15. A technology education exploratory program is offered at the middle school level with exploratory experiences offered PK-6.
16. An active SkillsUSA Alumni chapter or technology-related professional organization supports the local program.
17. The instructor actively identifies and informs students about the opportunities in the technology education program.
18. The instructor is actively involved in the professional technology teacher organizations, relevant industry business groups; the teacher is engaged in continuing professional development.
19. The program is in compliance with all state and federal laws and regulations.

R-NEW House Program Considered Unique in Wisconsin

By Ann Malvitz

Selected students from Wabeno and Crivitz High Schools are hard at work learning and applying math, communications, and technology education skills by building a house. This is the first known time in Wisconsin that small, rural high schools have collaborated for a house-building project. The project is a part of the **Rural-NorthEast Wisconsin (R-NEW) House Program** established earlier this year by Wabeno and Crivitz School Districts, Oconto County Economic Development Corporation, NWTC, and Cooperative Educational Service Agency 8 in Gillett.

The 16 young men and three young women involved are learning residential construction skills from Warren McKenney, a general contractor hired as an instructor by NWTC. Students will receive technical college credit and high school elective credits. But their educational experience is not just wood, hammers, and nails.

Students learn and apply geometry, algebra, technical reading, and communications skills, as well as employability skills such as teamwork, goal setting, and planning and leadership.

The ranch-style house, located about 65 miles northeast of Green Bay, will feature three bedrooms, two bathrooms, three-stall garage, full basement, front porch, and a deck. All of these features give students ample opportunity to learn about everything from site preparation and real estate to cabinet installation and landscaping. After completion in May 2003, the home will be sold and proceeds will be reinvested in the program. The project has gained many private supporters along the way. Several construction subcontractors from the Lakewood area -- Pinzch's Lumber of Townsend, Associated Bank, Community Bank, Stephenson National Bank and Trust and F & M Bank, all of Oconto, and Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation have made substantial contributions to the project.

"The list of contributors just keeps growing," says John Knickerbocker, the vocational coordinator for CESA 8 who has been helping guide the program. "We have another nine schools who want to get involved in this type of program as soon as possible. It's conceivable that next year, we could have three houses being built in three separate locations in the CESA 8 region." Talks are currently underway for projects near Shawano, Gillett, Crivitz, and Crandon.



Photo by C J Janus, NWTC

REGION III PLANS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Region III had much to be proud of at the ACTE Annual Convention!

ACTE-McDonald's Outstanding Career and Technical Educator is Dr. Mary Jacquart from our sister state of Minnesota. Mary is most deserving of this prestigious award. We were most impressed with Mary when we met her at the Region III Conference last June. We found her enthusiasm, professionalism and warmth to be catching! Wisconsin congratulates Mary and the state of Minnesota for this national recognition.

The Region III Leadership Conference will be held June 18-20, 2003 in Dubuque, Iowa. This is a very valuable leadership opportunity and provides a wonderful chance to interact with the other states in the Region. I am always amazed at what we can learn from each other. Details will be forthcoming in the next issue of ConTechs!



Region 3



"The Reality Store"

On November 6, approximately 275 students from La Crosse Central, Logan, and LaCrossroads High Schools will get a dose of "reality" when they go through "The Reality Store" to be held in the Richard Hackett Multipurpose Facility at Central High School.

The Reality Store, cosponsored by the National Association of Women Business Owners of Greater La Crosse and the School District of La Crosse, is a real-life experience in money management. Over 40 La Crosse area businesses will sponsor booths where students will be making choices about housing, transportation, daycare, and other living expenses. To prepare for this event, the students have selected an occupation, determined their monthly salary, practiced checkbook balancing and writing skills, and prepared a budget. While in the Reality Store, students will be visiting business representatives to pay their monthly bills, make investments, etc. They will also stop off at the "fate booth" to see what unexpected surprise has presented itself this month.

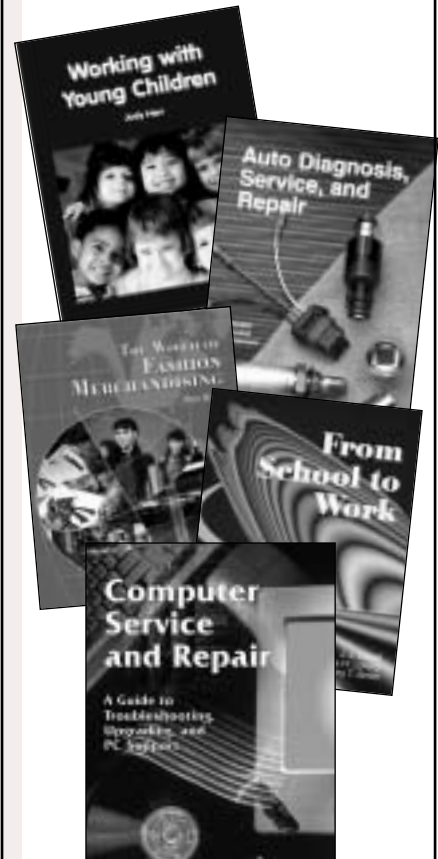
The Reality Store will be open from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Media personnel are welcome to visit the Reality Store and are asked to stop at the registration table before entering. For more information contact: Annette O'Hern, School District of La Crosse, at 789-7185, aohern@mail.sdlax.k12.wi.us or Barb Zeman, President, NAWBO Greater La Crosse, at 783-0065, bzeman@charter.net

WACTE Awards Program

The Awards Committee met in Madison on Friday, December 6th to judge the 2003 award packets. Nominee submissions were up 59% over last year. Special thanks to our locals for this increased participation as well as the excellent quality of these packets! The Award recipients will be announced at the Awards Luncheon on Thursday February 20, 2003 at the Annual Conference in Green Bay. We hope to see YOU there!

Pat Holt, WACTE Awards Chairperson

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Change-Choices-Challenges!

by Cynthia Chase Whitely, FVTC

This was the theme for the October 8, 2002 professional growth program sponsored by Fox Valley Association for Career and Technical Education (FVACTE). Held at Fox Valley Technical College-Appleton Campus, it attracted over 110 postsecondary and secondary staff as participants for the late-afternoon dinner program.

The program featured two keynote addresses and a wide variety of individual workshops focusing on topics of interest to teachers, support staff, and managers. WACTE supported the program in grand style, as Bryan Albrecht was the first keynote speaker with an excellent presentation called "Where Was I When The World Changed". In addition, Bonnie Weiland Hare joined FVACTE for the entire event.

The professional growth program is an annual event for FVACTE. The continued success of it lies in the fact that the entire board participates in planning the program through a special planning meeting in the summer. The board works hard on arrangements such as the marketing needed to promote the program to high school career and tech ed instructors and FVTC staff.

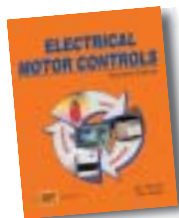
If any local chapter would like information on how FVACTE offers this event, feel free to contact Cynthia Chase Whitely, 920-735-5642 or whitely@fvtc.edu.



WACTE Past President Bryan Albrecht and Region III Policy Member Bonnie Weiland Hare in attendance at FVACTE's professional growth program.



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PAINT/TOOL TIP

Make “instant” foam brushes by sticking pieces of self-adhesive foam weatherstripping on sticks made from scrap pieces of wood. For larger brushes, wrap the weatherstripping around the end of the wooden stick.



<http://www.woodworkingtips.com/woodtips/wstip24.html>

TRANSFER A PATTERN

<http://www.woodworkingtips.com/woodtips/sntip42.html>

Make a photocopy of the pattern.

With the photocopy placed face down against the workpiece, slowly move the iron (set on high) back and forth, see top photo.

The heat from the iron reactivates the toner on the photocopy and transfers the image to the workpiece, see bottom photo.

**FAVORITE WEBSITES**

A list of some websites you might find interesting.....

The WACTE Communications Committee does not endorse these sites, either positively or negatively. We just thought they were interesting and that you might think so too!

www.wacteonline.org (WACTE)

www.acteonline.org (ACTE)

www.webmd.com (medical information)

www.hgtv.com (home & garden television)

www.lendingtree.com (click on calculators)

www.bhg.com (better homes & garden)

www.mapquest.com (maps and driving directions)

www.animationstation.com (free graphics)

http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services/

www.midihaven.addr.com/midi/debackley1.html
(mid music files)

www.board.tec.wi.us (WTCS)

<http://www.dwd.state.wi.us>
(Department of Workforce Development)

<http://www.wisconline.com/cgi-bin/find.pl?start=101&end=129&template=subject.tmpl&subject=Crafts>
(Crafts and such)

<http://www.howstuffworks.com/index.htm> (how stuff works)

<http://ibiscom.com/index.html> (history)