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- Fisher CUSD #1
- Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley CUSD #5
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- Mahomet-Seymour CUSD #3
- Monticello CUSD #25
- Paxton-Buckley-Loda CUSD #10
- Rantoul Township High School #193
- St. Joseph-Ogden CUSD #305
- Tolono CUSD #7
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- Villa Grove District #302

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System Director's Update

Greetings from EFE #330! On behalf of Lorie, Shelly, Kim, and myself, I hope you had a wonderful holiday.

I have the privilege of delivering some great news. Just last week, we received our first FY-13 CTEI payment from the state! We will be forwarding a portion of each district's FY-13 allocation in the very near future. If you have not already, please start developing a specific plan for how you will spend

your CTEI grant dollars.

Our federal legislators have avoided the "fiscal cliff," but sequestration is still a very real threat as the bill simply pushed back the across-the-board cuts to March 1 from January 2. This is an issue our office will continue to monitor.

During our spring roundtable meetings, we will be focusing on CTE assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards, credentials

and certificates which we can offer through our programs, inclusion of soft skills in CTE curriculum, and CTE program improvement strategies. I have had the privilege of working with a group of CTE leaders from across the state on the development of a CTE program improvement tool and look forward to gathering input about this tool during our meetings.

Please let us know if we can ever be of assistance. Good luck as we begin the new year.

CTE Industry Certifications

EFE #330's board of control recently heard a presentation from the director on the value of offering industry certifications during or upon completion of CTE courses. One of the pieces of information that drove this presentation was a recently released report from the Florida Department of Education. Data from the 2010-2011 school year indicates that industry certifications are associated with positive student performance.

Students who earned industry certifications had

higher average GPAs, lower rates of chronic absenteeism and disciplinary actions, and a lower dropout rate than students who did not earn certification. They also were more likely to earn a standard diploma.

Although the reauthorization of Perkins could take several years, most observers agree that alignment of CTE programs to the labor market will play a major role in the awarding of future Perkins grant dollars. Industry certifications are an

excellent way to align our secondary CTE programs with the needs of the workforce.

During our spring professional development meetings, we will share best practices related to credentials and certificates currently being offered in our programs. We will also provide information on certificates that could be offered in our courses. If you would like to see the full Florida DOE report, please click on the link below to access the report. [Full Report](#)



Trade-Up 2013 Event

EFE #330 is pleased to announce that in conjunction with the East Central Illinois Building Trades Council and Parkland College, we will be offering a two-day hands-on career exploration event entitled Trade-Up 2013.

This event will be held on April 29-30 at the new Applied Technology Center at Parkland College. April 29 will be reserved for area eighth graders and April 30 will be reserved for freshmen

and sophomores. Students who participate in the event should be those that have shown interest in a CTE-related field.

Representatives from local labor unions will be on hand to demonstrate and allow students to participate in different tasks associated with the "building trades." Parkland College will also provide several stations associated with their CTE programs.

We will be sending out more information including registration details in the coming weeks. Please mark these dates on your calendar, as we feel this event will provide our region students with an excellent real-world career exploration opportunity.

If you have any questions about this event, please call or e-mail Nick Elder or Lorie McDonald. We look forward to seeing many of you, as well as your students attend this event.

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CTE Student Organizations

Career and Technical Education student organizations provide an excellent opportunity for CTE students to work with teacher advisors on technical skill requirements and industry-specific performance standards. In addition, links formed through student organizations can extend students' network of opportunity.

Many times, skills such as leadership, public

speaking, and time management can be learned through participation in student organizations. At a time when youth unemployment is at an all-time high, CTE student organizations can be a highly effective method of exposing students to the real world and enabling them to develop soft skills related to the world of work.

Multiple student organizations are

recognized by the state of Illinois. If you would like any assistance, please feel free to contact our office. We would love to help create new student organizations in our region schools.

For more information on the specific student organizations recognized by the state of Illinois, please contact Nick Elder. We can provide you with a list of organizations and tips on how to get started.

Links to EFE Social Media



Important Upcoming Dates!!

January 2013

January 9-10, 15-17 – 8th Grade Career Conference

January 16 – EFE #330 Executive Committee Meeting

January 24 – Principals Meeting

February 2013

February 8 – Industrial Education Roundtable

February 14 – Business Education Roundtable

February 20 – EFE #330 Full Board Meeting

February 21-22 – IACTE Conference

February 27 – FCS Education Roundtable