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System Director's Update

I recently had the pleasure of being in attendance at an employer appreciation banquet for Champaign Central's Cooperative Education program. This program is coordinated by David Johnson, business teacher at Central High School.

Dave did an excellent job of working behind the scenes to prepare his students, but this was truly a student-organized, student-led initiative. I left the banquet extremely impressed at the level of professionalism the students displayed throughout the event. Students representing the Cooperative Education class greeted parents,

community members and administrators as they arrived. Once the banquet started, the students delivered thoughtful speeches about a variety of topics. They also recognized the cooperating employers.

One of the great aspects of career and technical education (CTE) is the partnerships that are established between the school, community, and members of business and industry. Cooperative Education programs are a great example of those partnerships, but our schools also have numerous CTE student organizations such as FFA,

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) that strengthen relationships within the school community.

When given the opportunity, our students are the best representation of our successful career and technical education programs. As you plan your year-end banquets, reach out to community members, business owners, administrators and school board members. Allow your students to showcase the great work that is being done in your classroom. - **Nick**

Trade-Up 2014

EFE #330 is pleased to announce that in conjunction with Parkland College and the East Central Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council, we will again be offering a hands-on career exploration event entitled Trade-Up 2014.

This year the event will only be open to students in junior high/middle school and will be held on Tuesday, April 29 at the Parkhill Applied Technology Center at Parkland College. The

event will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 2:00 p.m., with lunch provided. Ideally, students that participate will be those that have shown an aptitude for hands-on learning and/or an 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 technical programs.

We recently sent out registration forms for this event. Please determine which students at your school would see the most benefit and return the registration form by March 28. Each school is allowed to bring up to 18 students.

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

Summer Construction Program



Some of our 2013 construction students at the build site with State Representative Naomi Jakobsson

EFE #330 will again be taking applications for our regional summer construction program. Any current sophomore or junior that is enrolled in an EFE school is eligible to apply for the program. We will be accepting up to 20 students for our 2014 class. The course will run from Monday, June 9 – Thursday, July 3.

Students will have the opportunity to earn their OSHA 10-hour safety certification, participate in hands-on training at a

skilled trades training facility, tour the Facilities Department at the University of Illinois, and learn about dual credit opportunities at Parkland College. In addition, they will participate in a construction project for Habitat for Humanity. The class will be taught by two local Industrial Technology teachers. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a semester's worth of credit in Residential Carpentry and be eligible for a \$500

stipend.

Applications for this program have been distributed to region guidance counselors and Industrial Technology teachers. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Lorie McDonald in our office. She is available to speak to your students about the program and provide guidance regarding the application process. The deadline for turning in applications is Friday, April 4.

CTE Grant Updates

FY-14 CTEI Grant

We are in receipt of our July - December state payments. This has allowed us to flow 75% of each district's CTEI allocation to their district office. Schools should currently be allocating this money. At this time, it is unclear if our grant year will be extended to August 31. As purchases are completed, please remember to keep copies of expenditure request forms, P.O.s, invoices, and maintain an accurate ledger report.

FY-14 Year-End Allocation

Schools were recently given tentative notice regarding a year-end allocation. This allocation, if approved at our March EFE board meeting, means that each district will have access to additional funds that can be spent on supplies and equipment for approved CTE programs. After our March 19 meeting, each school will receive official notice of the exact allocation. Schools will then organize requests and our office will complete the purchases.

Important Upcoming Dates!!

March 2014

- March 11 – Agriculture Education Roundtable
- March 12 – ICCB Dual Credit Conference @ Parkland College
- March 12-13 – Connections Conference, St. Charles
- March 19 – EFE Full Board Meeting
- March 20 – CTE Legislative Day, Springfield

April 2014

- April 10 – Principal's FY-15 Grant Planning Meeting
- April 16 – EFE Full Board Meeting
- April 16 – 18, 21 – Spring Break, Office Closed
- April 29 – Trade-Up 2014

Links to EFE Social Media

