

Nick Elder
System Director
nelder@efe.k12.il.us

Lorie McDonald
Programs of Study
lmcdonald@efe.k12.il.us

Shelly Dunn
Fiscal Coordinator
sdunn@efe.k12.il.us

Kim Theis
SIS Coordinator
ktheis@efe.k12.il.us

In This Issue

System Director's Update	1
8 th Grade Career Conference	1
NCRC Updates	2
Instructor Roundtables	2
Upcoming Dates	2

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- Champaign CUSD #4
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- Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley CUSD #5
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- Monticello CUSD #25
- Paxton-Buckley-Loda CUSD #10
- Rantoul Township High School #193
- St. Joseph-Ogden CUSD #305
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- Villa Grove District #302

Education for Employment System #330
3 Henson Place, Suite 2
Champaign, IL 61820
217-355-1382

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System Director's Update

Over the course of the last four months, I have had the pleasure of meeting some outstanding people working in the field of career and technical education right here in our EFE #330 region schools.

During our roundtables, I am amazed at the number of excellent ideas our teachers share with their colleagues. It is through this collaboration and sharing of best practices that our region programs will continue to adapt to

the demands of the 21st century global economy.

Career and technical education has more of a place in education today than at any point in history. According to the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, 29 million jobs pay more than \$35,000 per year and require less than a bachelor's degree. 11 million jobs pay more than \$50,000 per year and require less than a

bachelor's degree. Many of these jobs that lead to the middle-class will eventually be filled by the students in our programs.

I encourage all programs to explore options for your students to earn credentials upon or during completion of your program. This will lead to increased opportunities as they continue their education or enter the workforce. EFE #330 would love to assist you in this area and any other.

22nd Annual 8th Grade Career Conference

The 22nd annual 8th Grade Career Conference will be held at the I-Hotel and Conference Center in Champaign on the following dates: January 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17.

We are looking forward to another great turnout. With the recent addition of two schools, we could be welcoming as many as 25 different schools to our conference.

8th graders throughout the area will complete a Kuder career assessment which will place them into groups for the conference. Upon arriving at the conference,

they will be "fired up" by a short welcome speech from Topper Steinman. Students will then have the opportunity to listen to speakers from a variety of fields give their insight on what it takes to be successful in their specific career areas.

Each student will receive a conference booklet containing a wealth of information regarding career exploration and the job outlook for a multitude of careers. We will also mail a brochure to the homes of the students with follow-up information

about the options they have for enrolling in CTE courses at the high school level.

Through this conference, EFE #330 hopes to provide area eighth graders with applicable information about their interests and aptitudes for specific career areas. Students will then be more prepared to register for high school classes that will benefit their long-term career goals.

If you would like more information about the conference, please feel free to contact our office.



National Career Readiness Certificates

The ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) has been a valuable option for our region students for the last several years. However, starting this year, the state of Illinois has decided to fund the “Locating Information” portion of the WorkKeys assessment for all juniors in the state. This will make all juniors eligible to receive the NCRC.

High school students become eligible for a certificate in one of four

areas. Certificates are awarded based on qualifying scores achieved on the three WorkKeys assessments. Bronze certificates require minimum scores of 3 or above on all three tests and represent skills necessary for 35% of the jobs in the ACT database of occupational profiles. Silver certificates require a score of 4 and represent skills for 65% of the jobs in the database. Gold certificates require a score of 5 and represent skills for 90% of the jobs in the

database. Platinum certificates require a score of 6 and represent skills necessary for 99% of all jobs listed in the ACT database.

The NCRC is a valuable option for students seeking employment as it demonstrates the skills they possess to potential employers.

Our office will continue to keep you updated on information relating to the NCRC. As always, please contact us with any questions.

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EFE #330 Instructor Roundtables

EFE #330 has sponsored three roundtables this semester for region teachers in the fields of FACS, Industrial Technology, and Business. Attendance has been excellent at all three events. 14 FACS teachers, eight Industrial Technology teachers, and 20 Business teachers have participated in a number of valuable activities. FACS teachers were given a tour of the new Culinary Arts lab at Parkland College, where they also

heard a presentation from Jeff Kilar, Parkland College Hospitality Program Manager. Industrial Technology teachers were given a tour of the recently completed \$16 million Applied Technology Center at Parkland College. Business teachers participated in an Office Professionals Advisory Committee meeting, which allowed them to hear directly from employers the skills necessary for students to

become competitive in the workplace. In addition, each group participated in a workshop with Mary Waters, from Waters Edge Consulting. Mary worked with each group to help incorporate the Common Core State Standards into their CTE lesson plans. Programs of Study have also been developed during each roundtable session. We look forward to seeing all of you for our spring roundtable sessions.

Links to EFE Social Media



Important Upcoming Dates!!

November 2012

November 7 – 9 – IBEA Conference

November 9 – Veteran’s Day Observance– EFE #330 Office Closed

November 13 – Elite Conference, Heartland Community College

November 14 – Executive Committee Meeting, EFE #330 Office

November 22-23 – Thanksgiving Break – EFE #330 Office Closed

December 2012

December 12 – Full Board Meeting, Rantoul

December 20 – January 2 – Winter Break – EFE #330 Office Closed