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Champaign CUSD #4
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Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley CUSD #5
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Monticello CUSD #25
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System Director's Update

According to the Illinois Manufacturing Association, 30,000 manufacturing jobs are available each year for the next 15 years. A recent report released by Manpower stated that for the fourth straight year, the most difficult job to fill nationally is that within skilled trades. Those are just two examples of statistics that indicate the wealth of opportunities for our students. However, one of the most pressing issues is that many times students are not aware of

these excellent opportunities. One of our goals is to make certain that all of our region students understand the opportunities available to them upon graduation from high school. This fall, we had the opportunity to partner with five businesses to provide industry tours for 100 teachers, counselors, and principals. We hope these tours and networking opportunities will lead to increased awareness amongst the students at each of our represented schools regarding the

various careers that exist in our area.

I have now started my annual "official" site visits. I continue to be impressed by the dedication of the professionals within our region's schools. Additionally, it is refreshing to observe the hard work and ingenuity of the students within our CTE classrooms.

Please enjoy the holiday season! If I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Professional Development Update

We recently completed our fall professional development meetings. In total, we held five sessions for 100 attendees. Mary Waters, from Waters Edge Consulting continued to work with CTE teachers on infusing the Common Core State Standards into CTE curriculum. Many of the participating instructors are going to put strategies developed during these sessions into practice and report on their effectiveness during our spring meetings.

One of the highlights from

our fall sessions was the outstanding efforts that were made by business partners to offer tours and presentations for our participants. We had the opportunity to tour Curtis Orchard, Advanced Filtration Systems, Incorporated, Wagner Machine Company, and Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District. A huge thank you to the businesses that helped us connect education and industry.

We are looking forward to our spring meetings that

will start in January. The schedule for those meetings is as follows:

- Principals (1/23/14)
- FCS (1/30/14)
- Business (2/13/14)
- Counselors (2/25/14)
- Industrial (2/28/14)
- Agriculture (3/5/14)
- Principals (4/10/14)

Please plan to join us, as there will be plenty of excellent opportunities to network with peers and connect with members of business and industry.

23rd Annual 8th Grade Career Conference



C-U MTD hosted region business teachers, counselors, and principals during our fall professional development meetings.

The 23rd annual 8th Grade Career Conference will be held at the I-Hotel in Champaign on the following dates: January 8, 9, 14, 15, 16.

We will be welcoming approximately 1,500 eighth graders from 25 different schools to this five-day event. Upon arriving at the conference, the students 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 contact our office.

CTE Grant Updates

FY-14 CTEI Grant

We have received our July and August state CTEI grant payments. This has allowed us to flow 40% of each district’s CTEI allocation to their district office. Schools should currently be allocating this money. As these purchases are completed, please remember to keep copies of expenditure request forms, P.O.s, invoices, and maintain an accurate ledger report. We will notify districts when we receive our next state CTEI payment, although at this time we are unsure when it will arrive.

FY-14 Perkins Grant

FY-14 Perkins Grant requests were due in our office on November 1. We are currently in the process of completing Perkins requests for each school. These requests will be processed in the order in which they were received. Please remember to notify our office as you receive your supplies and/or equipment. We also awarded three Perkins mini-grants to region FCS teachers who completed the training necessary to offer the ECE Level 1 Credential to their students.

Links to EFE Social Media



Important Upcoming Dates!!

November 2013

November 12 – ISBE Budget Hearing, Champaign Public Library

November 13 – 15 – IBEA Conference

November 15 – Certiport Informational Meeting

November 20 – Executive Committee Meeting

November 27 – 29 – EFE Office Closed, Thanksgiving Break

December 2013

December 4 – 7 – ACTE National Conference

December 18 – EFE Full Board Meeting

December 23 – January 3 – EFE Office Closed, Winter Break