

Syracuse City School
District Partnership Council Update: July 2015
Here's what's happening in Career and Technical Education!

Professional Development for CTE Instructional Staff:

At the June 3rd, 2015 Partnership Council meeting, we discussed the need to build the instructional skills of our new CTE teachers. We announced our partnership with the Southern Regional Education Board to deliver a research based professional development model specifically designed to transition a business professional into the CTE classroom. By the summer's end, all of SCSD's CTE teachers will have attended ten days of professional development (P.D.). The first week of P.D., June 15th – 19th, targeted our current CTE instructors. Comments from this group were extremely positive regarding the content and structure of the professional development. We will continue to update you on the progress of the P.D. at the next partnership council meeting (September 29, 2015).

CTE Technical Assessment Results 2014-15:

The New York State Department of Education requires that all approved Career and Technical Educational programs offer a summative industry based technical assessment. Assessments are selected to reflect the skills students must possess to be successful in their chosen industry cluster pathway. The technical assessment consists of both a written and hands-on performance component. Students must pass both parts. In 2014-15, six of our programs offered technical assessments. Sixty-three seniors challenged exams with 29 of them passing both components. This equates to 46% of our seniors passing national certification exams. This was the second year our students took these exams. The New York State Career and Technical Education target for the state is 70%. Our goal for next year will be to meet the NYSED target.

PTECH Grant - Health Careers Academy:

Following the June 3rd Partnership Council meeting, New York State released the third round of funding for the "NYS Pathways in Technology Early College High School (NYS P-TECH)" grant. The grant funding is to prepare students for high-skills STEM jobs of the future in technology, manufacturing, healthcare and finance. The model incorporates a six-year program that combines high school, college and career training and will be targeted to at-risk, disadvantaged students. Partnerships must include postsecondary education institutions and committed business/employer partners that will closely assist in the development and operation of an Early College/Career and Technical Education program. Since we were a recipient of the first round of grant funding of P-TECH for our Electrical and Mechanical programs, the decision was made to focus this grant cycle on the Health Care Cluster. After consulting with our Health Career Partnership Council Members, we submitted a proposal to create a Clinical Medical Laboratory Technician program and enhance our current Medical Assisting program. The awards for the grant will be made in late August or early September. We will be updating the Partnership Council on the grant status at September's meeting.

Formations of Industry Advisory and CTE Program Advisory Committees:

One of the tasks assigned to the Partnership Council at the June meeting was the solicitation of members for both the “Industry Advisory Council” and the “CTE Advisory Council”. As of today, we are still in need of recommendations of individuals to fill these committees. Attached is an information sheet that defines the skills and backgrounds of prospective committee members. If you have professional colleagues in any of the core program areas, we would appreciate your recommendations or suggestions.