



Mendota
Ottawa
Princeton
Depue
Hall
St. Bede

Putnam County
Henry-Senachwine
Marquette

LaSalle-Peru
La Moille

"A long apprenticeship is the most logical way to success. The only alternative is overnight stardom, but I can't give you a formula for that. "

Chet Atkins

The Career Center Courier

Volume 2: Issue 6

Transitional Math Makes its Debut

New to the ACC for the second semester of the 2017-18 school year is the Transitional Math course. In its first inception, Transitional Math is home to six students who



Pictured: The first incarnation of the ACC's Transitional Math class is shown.. Instructor Ms. Mary Scott (standing back right)

decided that they would avail themselves of the extra insights into understanding higher order mathematics. Transitional Math does this by focusing in on a core set of mathematical concepts, and then implementing core elements of STEAM, IT, and Vocational Education. This merger of concepts is meant to unequivocally answer the age old questions of "When am I ever going to use this?" and "Why is this important?"

Transitional Math covers the core mathematical concepts of Polynomials, Factoring, Graphing and Interpreting Linear Functions, Rational exponents, Quadratic Equations, and Translating Graphs. Its mission is to bridge the deficiency gap between High School and College Algebra. Students successfully completing Transitional Math at the ACC are eligible for placement into a credit bearing math class at IVCC. This allows them to skip the Accuplacer Test, and escape remedial mathematics courses.

Culinary Arts Incorporates Aeroponics



Culinary Arts students Anastazia Harris(right) and John Somolski(left) stand in front of the Aeroponic garden that the Culinary Arts class has incorporated into their curriculum.

The ACC Culinary Arts program has an outstanding reputation for what people would normally consider the standard curriculum taught in the program. Students in the program walk out of the class with knowledge and skills in food preparation (baking, sauces, breads, etc.), sanitation, and restaurant management. However, one would be remiss if they did not also include the exceptional amount of STEM activities that are incorporated into the Culinary Arts Curriculum.

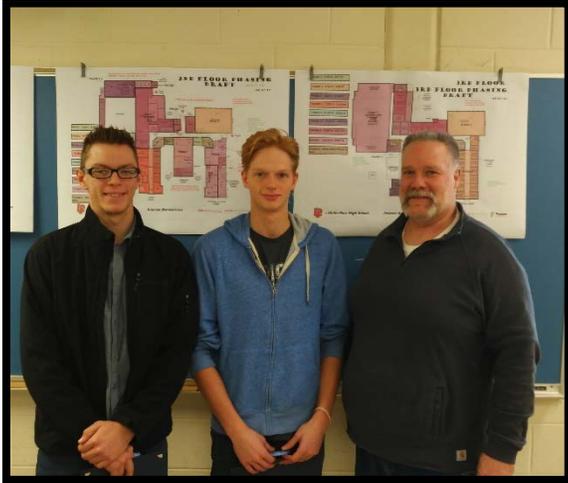
To exemplify this integration, the program has recently applied for, and received, a grant to incorporate aeroponics into its repertoire of activities and learning. Aeroponics is the use of air space and water to grow plants (as opposed to using soil). In doing so, the students of Culinary Arts are now growing their own herbs, and other plants common to food preparation (kale, onions, bok choy, etc.) Gaining an understanding of the production of the food they prepare, allows the students to expand their selections and integrate a diversity of tastes and nutritional choices into their offerings.

ACC Course Registrations are due by March 6th.

LaSalle Peru Area Career Center

Student(s) of the Month- CAD Drafting

Pictured Below: Students of the month Mel Voss and Max Huffstodt with Instructor Mr. Shawn Schwingle.



The students of the Month for January 2018 are Mel Voss and Max Huffstodt, who both hail from Putnam County High School. Both Max and Mel have indicated that their most enjoyable aspect of the CAD class is learning the new techniques and ideas that are the foundation of design.

Max and Mel both plan to further their educations by pursuing careers in Engineering. Having a firm foundation in understanding mathematics and engineering principles has led both students to excel in a curriculum that emphasizes planning and attention to detail. However, both students have also emphasized that a key to success in the class (and Engineering in general) is to overcome the fear of trying something new. When you try something new, (even if you fail), you walk away with something learned. It is in that concept of the design process that the strength of a course like CAD Drafting shines forth.

An additional aspect of what both students like about their CAD class is the ability to see the finished product that their designs produce. Using the four 3-D printers in the classroom, the students are able to see their visions go from the drawing board to working prototype (or scale model.) The ACC is proud to have Max and Mel in attendance.

Student(s) of the Month- Residential Wiring

Pictured Below: February Students of the month. Pictured left to right are Kyle Krystofek from Putnam County HS, Instructor Mr. Matt Dawson, and Dillon Wright of Princeton HS.



The Residential Wiring curriculum of the ACC is a well-balanced mix of technical skills and academic understanding of required wiring codes. In taking this class, students are not only challenged with understanding and performing proper installation of arguably one of life's most important necessities, but also with understanding the consequences of not doing it correctly (and how this could bear life altering consequences.)

With this requisite responsibility hanging over their heads both students have indicated that challenging aspects of their curriculum are found in the level of mathematics they have to perform, and in working out differences in fulfilling group projects. However, both concurred in their opinion that everybody should have to take this course. Their thinking is that, if everybody uses it (electricity), you should understand the basics of how it functions (especially the safety aspects of working with electricity.)

The ACC is lucky to have such dedicated students as Kyle and Dillon. They epitomize what we CTE practitioners know. To do excellent work in CTE, you have to have brains, enthusiasm for what you do, and above all dedication to a job well done!

Since 2010 manufacturing jobs in the United States have been on a steady rise (rising every year). Currently Manufacturing employs over 12,000,000 people nationwide. The Illinois Valley is no exception, with currently over 300 manufacturing jobs needing to be filled.