

# LaPorte Career and Technical Education

## A K Smith Career Center

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Volume 2, Issue 4

### Our Skills Pay Bills



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## Early Childhood Education

There is a new Early Childhood Education teacher in room 206. Renee Graf received her Bachelors of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education from Hillsdale College. Renee comes to us with business experience including owning and directing her own daycare center. She recently worked almost 16 years at the La Porte Family YMCA. While there, she held many positions, the last one being Education Director at their Accredited Child Care Center. Most of her work included training teachers, checking lesson plans, and helping employees to achieve their CDA (Child Development Associate Credential). Renee was part of a team that brought the current preschool program to MCAS. Also, she worked in the community as president of the local Dunes Chapter of IAEYC (Indiana Association of Young Children), a member of Dunebook's CAAT (Child Abuse Action Team), a member of the Child Care Center Board, and a member of the United Way Success by 6 Steering Committee. She is most proud of participating at the State level with an educated group, writing the new Social and Emotional Standards for Indiana's Foundations for Children Birth to Five, which can be found on Indiana's DOE Website.

Married for 28 years to Mike, a computer programmer, Renee enjoys scrapbooking, walking, piano, and cooking. They adopted two children from Russia in 1998. Happy to be working with high school students again, Renee is eager to help her students reach their Career goals.

"Working in Early Childhood Education is a rewarding career choice", she says. "I am excited about the new State mandate that will allow High School students to take the CDA exam. We can prepare students to work right after graduation with this credential - Child Care Businesses now REQUIRE this from their staff.

We NEED more caring individuals that understand child development, age appropriate guidance, health and safety, special needs, and the importance of play. Working with young children is one of the most important jobs in the world. I hope to teach my students about all the occupations this field can bring them. I will work hard to be a resource for them and to share the joy of teaching in fun and creative ways."

## FEBRUARY

## IS

## CAREER AND TECH EDUCATION

## MONTH

## Welding Technologies

Due to the weather, the regional contest in Elkart did not take place, so the Welding Technology students will be holding an in house welding competition on Tuesday February 3, 2014.

The Fab Team from Welding Technologies is going to the Skill USA state welding competition in March. The competition will be held in Indianapolis.

The welding class will be raffling an auto darkening hood. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 2 for \$8.00

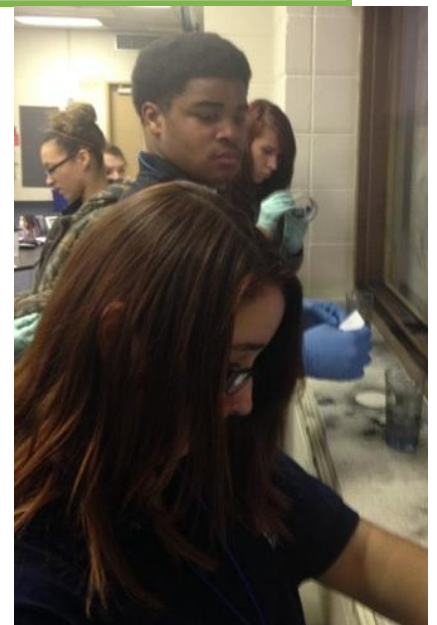
Welding Technology students are working on pieces of art to sell at our pancake breakfast which will be on February 22, 2014 starting at 7:00 am to 12:00. There will be gift baskets for raffle at the Pancake Breakfast.

The welding class is working on a electric go cart for Purdue engineer students. Students pursuing a 2-year certificate are working hard towards their AWS ( American Welding Society ) certification.



## Criminal Justice

The Criminal Justice class is pulling fingerprints off glasswear.



# JAG

The JAG Class will be traveling to the regional Career Development Conference where the students will be competing against other regional JAG students on Friday, February 4, in: program cover design, public speaking, career presentations, resume and cover letter, creative solutions, critical thinking, writing skills, financial literacy, chapter commercial, and creation of a chapter service learning binder. Winners at the regional level will then advance to the state level competition in March.

Additionally, in February we will be making Valentine's Day cards to send to the Veteran's Home in West Lafayette, working on skills needed to maintain a job, and obtaining job shadowing positions. The seniors will be busy completing college, scholarship, and FAFSA applications. On February 10, 2014, vice-chancellor Rick Soria from the Ivy Tech Michigan City campus will be speaking to our classes about his careers as a mortician, lawyer, college instructor, and vice-chancellor.

We are looking for speakers for the class in the following careers: broadcasting, film making, nursing, physical therapy, forensic science, radiology, accounting, surgeon, and vet tech. If you know of anyone possibly interested in speaking to our classes please contact Lori Wilson-Patterson at extension 8717.

## Advanced Manufacturing

The first year students in Advanced Manufacturing are working hard on their select projects, while staying busy learning machining fundamentals and basic blue print reading. The second year students are working on a miniature steam engine project with materials donated by B&B Manufacturing, Winn Machine, Peters & Marskey, and John Volksdorf. Both Advanced Manufacturing classes are working on building professional resumes in preparation for the career expo on February 13. Also, coming up in late February the Advanced Manufacturing class is looking forward to going on a field trip to Sullivan Palatek Inc., to see how a manufacturing based company operates.



**LA PORTE COUNTY CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH EXPO  
INVITES YOU TO OUR  
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2014**

**FROM 7:00AM TO 12:00PM**

**AT AKSMITH CAREER CENTER**

**817 LAFAYETTE STREET**

**MICHIGAN CITY, IN**

**\$8.00** will get one person an all you can eat breakfast that includes

Pancakes, Sausage, Biscuits and Gravy.

Proceeds from this event will be used to cover the expenses for students competing in Skills USA Regional, State, and National Skills Contests.

At the breakfast, there will be several baskets raffled off as well as art work from our classes for sale.

## Health Careers II

Health Academy II students are fulfilling the requirements for the Indiana State Department of Health Nurse Aid Certification. This requires that all students complete 75 hours of clinical practice at a Long Term Care facility. The class goes daily to the Arbors Of Michigan City with Mrs. Neulieb to practice all procedures.

The Health Academy II will host a Red Cross Blood Drive at AKSmith Career Center on February 27th. The Health Academy II students will be recruiting for the blood drive. Please see a Mrs. Neulieb if you would like to sign up to give the gift of life.

Blood Donors Must:

Be healthy\*

Be at least 17 years old in most states, or 16 years old with parental consent.

Facts about blood needs

Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.

More than 41,000 blood donations are needed every day.

A total of 30 million blood components are transfused each year in the U.S.

The average red blood cell transfusion is approximately 3 pints.

The blood type most often requested by hospitals is Type O.

The blood used in an emergency is already on the shelves before the event occurs.

Sickle cell disease affects more than 70,000 people in the U.S. About 1,000 babies are born with the disease each year. Sickle cell patients can require frequent blood transfusions throughout their lives.

More than 1.6 million people were diagnosed with cancer last year. Many of them will need blood, sometimes daily, during their chemotherapy treatment.

A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 pints of blood.

## Facility Maintenance

The Facility Maintenance class will host a special tour from Michigan City High School. Those in attendance will be potential members to our class. As we continue maintaining the facility, the students continue to help all the other programs by cleaning the laundry and polishing the floors. We hope you find all they do as you visit the AKSmith Career Center.



## AK SMITH CAREER CENTER

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We are on the Web!  
[www.mcas.k12.in.us](http://www.mcas.k12.in.us)  
And  
Facebook

## Upcoming Events

- ⇒ Pancake Breakfast
- ⇒ Future Careers Expo
- ⇒ Basket Raffle
- ⇒ Rick Soria visiting the JAG class

THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE ..... IS HERE!



## Project Lead the Way

Project Lead The way (P.L.T.W), is a program offered at Michigan City High School. The program offers three courses: I.E.D , P.O.E, and D.E. Each course gives you a chance to earn college credits.

Introduction to Engineering Design (I.E.D) is one of the first courses you are able to take. This course is designed to teach students how to use 3D solid modeling design software. The software helps students design solutions to proposed problems. The major focus of I.E.D is to introduce students to the design process, research and analysis, teamwork, communication methods, global and human impacts, engineering standards, and technical documentation.

Principles of Engineering (P.O.E) is the course you could take after I.E.D. The students are given the opportunity to investigate engineering and high-tech careers. Students are thought to use engineering design and scientific concepts to solve engineering design problems. It helps the student develop problem-solving skills to aid in the process of creating solutions to various challenges.

Digital Electronics (D.E) is the course you would take after P.O.E . It focuses on electronic circuits. Digital electronics is the base of all modern technology, such as, Mp3 players, laptop computers , and digital cameras. The main focus is to introduce students to sequential logic design ,teamwork, communication methods, and engineering standards.

Ivy Tech dual credit is a program that offers not only high school credit but college credit also. The program has saved families \$14 million in college tuition. The classes can save a lot of college course hours. There are three ways to attend the dual credit classes they are, being at their high school, going to an Ivy Tech campus, or going online. The credits may transfer to other college so you can go to another college of your choice as long as the college accepts them.

In conclusion P.L.T.W. Is offering many opportunities for students to succeed in the engineering courses and jobs. Also keep your eye out for the New Civil Engineering and Architecture class starting in Fall 2014.

By Brandon Hurt and Bryon Berg