

CTEA Fall 2002

The Newsletter of the Connecticut Technology Education Association

Consultant's Corner

Is Technology Education Really for All Students?

For years I have been hearing from high school technology education teachers all over Connecticut that technology education is for all students. This belief has been widely accepted within the technology education community; however, there has been little evidence this same belief existed outside our content area. This is obvious when we realize, school after school has about 30% of their students enrolled in tech ed courses. Regardless of what percent of the student body they teach, they insisted, technology education was still for all students.

Last March, with the release of the Connecticut Technology Education Model K-12 Curriculum, a realistic example of how all or at least the vast majority, of high school students could be enrolled in technology education courses was unveiled. This model, simply stated, proposed at least 80% of all high school students should be enrolled in at least a one year Introductory course that would provide them with in-depth study of technology education content essential to obtaining technological literacy. The K-12 Model Curriculum calls for all students to be exposed to basic knowledge and skill development that translates into

the new core or survival skill for this century and beyond, technological literacy. Aligning with both the state and national standards for technology education (technological literacy) this introductory course would only be the beginning for some students but could possibly be the only experience for many others.

For the student aware of future educational/occupational (architecture, video communications, electronics, engineering) plans the next level would be a technology education course that focused on one of the primary systems of technology. For some of these students going further into specific courses such as digital electronics or computer integrated manufacturing would be the next level.

Finally for the student who was seeking straight vocational education there would still be limited offerings in automotives or graphic arts or traditional vocational programs like Cisco or A++ Certification.

Any school wishing to adopt this All Student Model would have to allocate the majority of their resources to the course that impacts the most students, the introductory course. With the remaining resources, courses would be offered at the systems level followed by advanced systems level. It is obvious, that most programs would no longer be able to offer a broad array of technology education courses that take a basic shotgun approach at providing student with the technological literacy. Clear and concise

pathways would now exist for getting students from point A to point B in the technological literacy continuum.

In exchange for a more focused approach, technology education would finally be available to all students. As professionals, for the first time we would be in the position to achieve what we have said for years was important, technology education for all.

The biggest hurdle to this change is recognizing we may not be teaching what we like or have always taught, but rather we would make change based upon student need. Change is not easy; however, with our content area, change is an internal component of what we live with. Ask yourself, how much has technology changed in the past ten years and compare that to how much has the content you teach changed over this same time period? We must learn from the past while always focusing on the future.

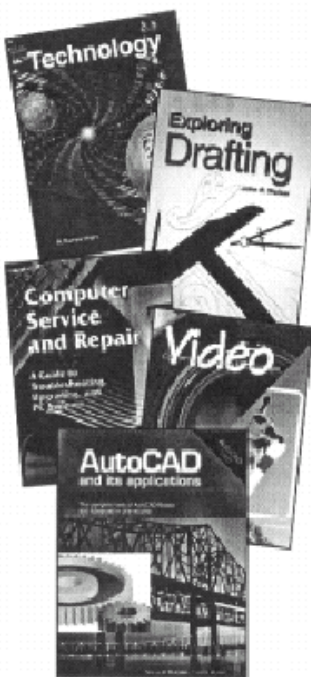
For a CD copy of the Connecticut Technology Education Model K-12 Curriculum, contact me at Gregory.kane@po.state.ct.us.

SPRING CONFERENCE

May 21, 2002 – The CTEA held it's annual Spring Conference. If you didn't attend the conference, you missed one of the best that we have had in a couple of years. It was once again held at Naugatuck Valley


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Community College in Waterbury. Once again the conference and lunch was free for anyone that was a member of CTEA and pre-registered.

The conference was very well attended with about 175 CTEA members. The day was filled with 4 workshop sessions including such areas as: Project

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Lead the Way, Model Curriculum, IT Academy, NASA Electrathon, and many more.

Also this year, Greg Kane handed out CDs containing the State's Technology Education Model Curriculum to anyone who attended.

When we broke for lunch, we presented the awards for this year. Some of the awards that were given out were: Program of the Year to Jockey Hollow Middle School in Monroe. This program is run by Jerry Stevens. The Harry Baker award was presented to Frank Gregorio for all the work he does for the CTEA.

I would like to thank all of the members who attended the conference and hope they will return next spring and bring a member with them. I would also like to the every one who helped with planning and making the conference a success. I will not try to name these people because I know that I will forget someone. Once again thank you.
Written by Paul Hoffman

Connecticut TSA Competes in 24th TSA National Conference

Thirty-six Top technology education students from Connecticut along with students from across the nation attended the 24th Annual National Technology Student Association (TSA) Conference in Denver, Colorado, June 24-28, 2002. Fifty-one Connecticut TSA members were among 3,100 other conference attendees participated in skill competition, special interest sessions, general sessions and national officer elections. Connecticut delegation was made up for students and adults from the following schools: Hall Memorial School, E.O. Smith HS, RHAM MS, RHAM HS,

Sedgwick MS, Windham HS and Windham MS. Advisors attending were Linda West, Phil Monty (Hall), Becky Sinosky (RHAM), Margaret Kaiser (Sedgwick), Jim Hutson & Sandy Jaros (Windham). The delegation members placed in the following event:

3rd Cyberspace Pursuit – Windham Middle School
6th System Control Technology – RHAM High School
The delegation received the following recognition
Outstanding Advisor - Jim Hutson, Windham Middle School
Chapter Excellent Award – New Fairfield HS and RHAM MS
Honorary Life Award - Phil Monty, Hall Memorial School
White Star Chapter (helping to start a new chapter) - Hall Memorial School
300+ Membership award - Dodd MS, New Fairfield HS, Sedgwick MS and Windham MS
30+ Chapter membership – Trumbull HS
Kerriann McCarty and Courtney West was awarded the Gold Achievement Award.

The following Windham HS students were inducted into the TSA Technology Honor Society: Marc Caya, Shannon Cawley, Kerin Jaros-Dressler, Elizabeth Johnson, Danielle Lussier, Teresa Phillips, and Derek White. Lisa Madson, from Windham HS, was also a candidate for National Treasurer. The TSA State President, Chris Marot, from Windham High School did an outstanding job at the conference. He and the other 5 state officers worked running the Connecticut delegation. The state is now making plans for the 2002 –2003 school year



and plans to attend the TSA National Conference in Orlando, Florida June 24-28, 2003. The 2003 National TSA conference will mark TSAs 25th Anniversary with a number of special events planned.

TSA is a 145,000-member association of elementary school, middle school and high school students who are enrolled in technology education courses. Its goal is to promote technology education, leadership and personal growth through student participation in challenging technological competitions that cover problem-solving, decision-making and critical thinking skills as they relate to technology education. There are 1500 TSA chapters in 47 states nationwide. Students competed last week in more than 50 events, ranging from structural engineering and computer-aided drafting to extemporaneous presentation and graphic design.

Submitted by Phil Monty

NEATT UPDATE

The October conference held in Nashua, New Hampshire was quite successful. Over thirty workshops were offered. The attendees spent a good deal of time with the exhibitors as they were in a central location of the hotel.

Speaking of central location, the 2005 conference will be held in Worcester, Massachusetts, and the same facility as the 2004 conference. The 2004 conference will be the last one run by a specific state committee. 2005 will see the conference run by a central committee in conjunction with the executive board. The executive board will look to each state to take turns in developing the professional program only. We hope that this will increase attendance as well as participation from each in the planning process. Our thoughts are to spread the

responsibilities out so no state or individual gets "buried" in too much work. The conferences of the past were state conferences, now we truly want a New England event. Worcester is close to being geographically in the center of the tech ed population density of New England. That is the main reason for choosing the Crowne Plaza. Going to the same facility should give the members as well as the hotel consistency. This should help keep costs from skyrocketing also. We hope to develop a good rapport and reputation with the management and they will forward to our return.



Now for 2003!

It will be held in the Marriott in Newport, Rhode Island. The date is **November 13, 14, & 15, 2003**, (note the change) which is after peak fall leaf time. This is also a plus for keeping costs reasonable. Please remember that NEATT represents Technology Education Teachers from New England.

Keep checking the newly design website. It has been and will be updated whenever anyone has new information that they want to share with New England. The site is still getting quite a few hits even though the conference is over. Check it out for some pictures and workshop reviews. The address for the site is <http://neatt.org>

Keep in touch with New England. Professionally Yours in Service, **Robert H. Teator**, Immediate Past President 2002

President's Memo

Wonderful things are happening! Are you experiencing the wonders of this information age? If you are teaching technology education you should be!

Hello again! I am your current president and I hope this newsletter finds you prospering! There are many exciting things happening and I hope you are part of them. I am excited to hear that CCSU is expecting to graduate 14 or 15 candidates during this year! It is great to see that number increasing! The number of teachers nearing retirement certainly is! It is also exciting to have the first group of candidates working through the Alternative Route Certification program in Technology Education! With both programs in place we are looking at an easier time finding qualified people to replace and build our programs! After several years of slow decline in numbers, I am very pleased to see our staff in Waterbury beginning to grow again this year! New blood is always refreshing and the excitement of a new teacher is stimulating!

I am very pleased to say we are working towards returning our spring conference to Central Connecticut State University! I was impressed with the changes on campus a couple of weeks ago when we visited to begin planning. I am looking forward to review the old stomping grounds and see what has changed! I hope you are making plans to join us at what is proving to be a bigger and better conference each year. If you are interested in sharing as a workshop presenter, the form is available on our web site.

Speaking of our web site, I hope you have been visiting it lately! Please take note that our url has changed, although for a time you will be automatically redirected to www.cteaweb.org from our old url www.ctea.net.

CTEA Website is now located at <http://cteaweb.org> It features weekly updates to happenings and news from the state, New England, and the USA! Check it out!

Please change your favorites or bookmark! We have immediate access to changes now and the site is redesigned and updated. Mark Evans has done a great job and will keep you informed. If there is something you would like us to include, please send your suggestion to me at dschaer@aol.com or dschaer@waterbury.k12.ct.us being sure to include CTEA in the subject line!

What a great feeling to have so many applications for the various awards this year! We will be announcing and honoring the awardees soon in four categories! I am proud to be associated with such a fine group of educators willing to highlight the accomplishments of their work and colleagues!

It's also wonderful to see the TSA numbers rising! I know I encourage teachers to get involved and I have experienced the rewards of participating as an advisor. If you are not involved, please contact Phil Monty and he will gladly connect you with the necessary information and maybe a colleague that will help you get started.

I hope your school year is off to a great start! We would love

to share your experience with your colleagues through this newsletter! Please consider sending us an article describing your program or some special event that your department was significant in organizing! As you share we all are encouraged and stimulated to try new things!

See you soon!

Don Schaer, President, CTEA

New website information:

As secretary and newsletter editor I now have the privilege of being the webmaster of the CTEA. Have you made a note of the new address? <http://cteaweb.org> We now have the ability to bring you the latest happenings in the local, state, and national information directly from Greg Kane and Don Schaer. If you have anything you would like to post on the website, please send it to Don Schaer. He will send it to me for posting as long as it meets CTEA website goals and objectives.

Some of the highlights of the updated site are free software on our resources page, the latest news about Lego FIRST and the Centennial Of Flight resource

flyer from Greg Kane. There's something for everyone and the information is updated weekly.

While you are browsing the web, check out the other website I administer, namely The New England Association of Technology Teachers at <http://neatt.org> Here you will find resources from our presenters at the fall conference as well as highlights and information about next fall's conference at the central location in Worcester Massachusetts. I highly recommend the conference. The key speakers alone were worth going to see.

I hope you enjoy the CTEA and NEATT websites. It has been the CTEA board's pleasure to provide you with the freshest information available. Please give Don Schaer your feedback and any submissions. We also would appreciate any comments you may have regarding the site.

See you all at the spring conference!

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