

Porter County Career and Technical Education

A Division of Porter County Educational Services

www.pccte.org

2009 Annual Report
Accountability Report to the Public

Featured Programs

Helping Professions Draw Students



Left: Students in Criminal Justice visited Great Lakes Labs in Valparaiso. They participated in a reenactment of the chain of evidence that a seized drug sample goes through and saw the actual chemical tests that are run to verify that a green leafy substance really is marijuana. Right: A dental stone shoe impression gets the scrutiny of Ryan Moran, senior at Wheeler High School, in Criminal Investigations.

REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCES

Helping others is at the heart of many careers.

The chance to go into public service attracted 82 students last year and 92 this year to programs related to law enforcement.

Wheeler High School hosts classes in **Criminal Justice** and **Criminal Investigations**, while Hobart High School houses **Homeland Security**.

Students in all three classes get real-life experiences related to dozens of different jobs. Although the slow, painstaking tasks of gathering evidence do not resemble television's highly dramatized, fast-paced **CSI** or **NCIS**, the students get a chance to analyze crime scenes, conduct interviews and look at the motivation for committing a crime.

Students in the Wheeler programs get a head start on college while earning up to 12 dual college credits at no charge.

Instructors are Bill Woods, retired detective with 28 years of experience at the Porter County Sheriff's Department, and Ralph Iler, former chief juvenile probation officer.

Current Hobart Police Department officer **Jack Grennes** teaches at Hobart with the assistance of **Stephanie Waldron**, teacher and guidance counselor.

Students might be dealing with scenarios that require them to think under pressure, use good judgment and act bravely in a difficult situation.

FUTURE TEACHERS TAKE ROLES SERIOUSLY

Another cluster of classes in three locations helps future educators prepare for the daunting task of teaching the next generation.

Education & Early Childhood Careers attracted 70 students last year and 87 this year to sites at South Haven Elementary School, the Special Education Learning Facility (SELF) Building and Hobart High School.

After getting the necessary degrees and licenses, graduates of these program work as teachers, assistant directors in YMCA's, Head Start workers and daycare/preschool teachers.

In some cases, students get a head start with dual credits earned from Ivy Tech Community College.

The program at Hobart, under teacher **Randa Zoladz**, reaches strictly preschoolers.

At the Education and Early Childhood Careers class at Hobart, students work with the Hobart youngsters in Brickie Kidz Preschool, based right in the new high school.

"The greatest benefit that we serve for the community," Zoladz said, "is getting the children

involved in a positive, fun, and educational first learning experience."

At South Haven, **Barb Iddings'** 23 years in career and tech ed help her to prepare future teachers and child care specialists. Her students tackle community service projects as well as classroom management.

Her students receive teaching experience in real elementary classrooms.

Marion Gill's location at SELF gives her students opportunities to help students with special needs from age 3 through grade 12.

Her 17 years as a preschool teacher prepared her to help students with tasks like these: studying child development and teaching strategy; creating educational materials; making bulletin boards; and preparing lesson plans.

"I have learned so much in only two years," noted Amanda Whitman, Chesterton High School senior. "I have learned that teaching involves more than I thought and that I really like it." She has worked with students at SELF and with first graders in an elementary setting.

"I like how involved I can get with the children and how I get to work in a classroom full of students and present my own lesson plans," added Courtney Dyer, Chesterton senior. She has worked with fourth graders this year.



Halloween provides a chance for students, old and young, to come together at Brickie Kidz Preschool. Career and Tech Ed students work with the youngsters as part of their Education and Early Childhood Careers class.

**The Porter County
Career & Technical Education
ANNUAL REPORT**

*is a yearly communication tool to
area businesses and to the taxpayers.
We welcome comments and
questions about this report.*

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*Participating High Schools
Porter County Career and Technical
Education is proud to be supported
by the following high schools:*

**Boone Grove
Chesterton
Hebron
Hobart
Kouts
Morgan Township
Portage
Valparaiso
Washington Township
Wheeler**

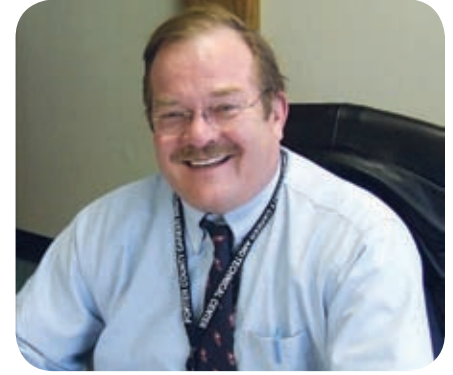
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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*"If you have the chance to make life
better for others and fail to do so, you
are wasting your time on earth."*

-- Roberto Clemente



Welcome

to the Porter County Career and Technical Education Annual Report for 2009! Within this document, you will discover some successes of our programs and students. Career and Technical Education (CTE) is effective instruction because it is relevant to the real world. Our teachers display passion about their subject matter and they make learning meaningful. We incorporate community service into all of our programs and we teach and model workplace skills of teamwork, integrity, and the appreciation of quality.

If a school and its teachers can be judged by the students it produces, Porter County CTE has been wildly successful! Our students report back to us about their college and workplace successes regularly. I hope you will enjoy reading about some of them in this publication. As the Porter County CTE Director, I am appreciative of the support from our participating school corporations, area employers, parents, and the outstanding students sent to us for technical education and workplace skills.

My teachers and I look forward to every day at work, because it presents another opportunity to work with the young adults, who will be shaping the future of our country.

Please read this Annual Report to Our Community and feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Jon Groth,
Director of Career and Technical Education
Principal, Porter County Career and Technical Center
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"Students who work hard and successfully complete a chosen course of study in career and technical education are well prepared for the workforce or continuing their education. Porter County Career and Technical Education Center offers a variety of career preparation options designed to align with student interests and workforce demands."

Michael J. Berta, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools
Portage Township Schools

The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion

STRIVING TO BE THE BEST

PCCTE teachers annually nominate their top students for consideration in the Indiana Awards for Excellence program. A local advisory board along with PCCTE Director Jon Groth reviews these nominations and selects the very best students to represent the PCCTE in the state competition. **Congratulations to the following Award for Excellence nominees.**



Samantha Allen, Award for Excellence nominee, gets tips from her CAD teacher William Guinee.



Jesse Garibaldi checks the blood pressure of fellow dental student Samantha Sacek, Portage High School senior.



On a tight deadline, Ryan Hough works on tri-fold brochures at his job for Marketing Internship class.

Samantha Allen likes to forge her own path.

This Award for Excellence nominee finds herself just as comfortable in a traditionally male class as she does under the hood of the '67 Impala that she is fixing up with her dad.

Although **Computer Aided Drafting (CAD)** attracted just seven girls out of 40 students this year, Samantha has excelled in this program for two years.

This twin likes everything about the class as she works with A+ CAD and SolidWorks to design car parts, houses or other items.

She first got interested through the blueprints and AutoCAD software that her dad, Greg Allen, brought home from construction sites. She hopes to use her background to succeed in graphic design at Purdue University North Central then later Ball State University.

She identified career/tech class as a good way for teens to figure out their career paths.

Her activities at Washington Township High School also include basketball and volleyball, for which her team was sectional champions twice.

Real-life experience.

That's what senior **Jesse Garibaldi** gets from his career-technical classes.

Besides being in the **Dental Health** class this year, Jesse also took **Medical Terminology--Anatomy & Physiology** last year. He'd like to use his experiences to someday become an emergency room doctor.

This Portage High School senior likes to expand his horizons. Besides the usual visits to a nursing home or dental office, Jesse opted to observe at a funeral home during medical terminology.

He keeps busy as chairman of the Portage Youth Commission, retreat leader for Natural Helpers and member of Student Council, **Pow Wow** newspaper and Thespians drama group.

Jesse recommends that sophomores and juniors consider a career/tech class. "I don't know why anyone would not want to take one," he noted.

Find out now what a job is really like.

That's the advice of **Ryan Hough**, senior at Hebron High School. He has fine-tuned his career goals by studying **Sports & Entertainment Marketing/Business Ownership Lab** and the **Marketing Internship** for two years in a row at Porter County Career and Technical Center.

He works as an intern at PCCTC as part of his Marketing class.

This three-sport athlete and captain has narrowed his plan to include the study of business, but he wants to flavor his future with the culinary field that he also loves.

Ryan credits his participation in DECA, an international organization of students in marketing and business, with opening up his experience and knowledge. He presently serves as District 1 president in Indiana.

Ryan has not allowed a life-long hearing loss to stand in his way. "I like to go beyond what people expect of me," he said, adding that some people underestimate you when you have a disability. "I like to prove people wrong."

to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor. Vince Lombardi

SUCCESS STORIES

The articles below represent just a few of the hundreds of successful graduates from PCCTE. Please read and enjoy the success our graduates are having.



Outstanding former student Jerry Kaenrath paid a visit in fall, 2008, to then auto instructors Karl Sickles, left, and Ed Herron. Herron has since retired, and Tony Avalos has joined the staff.

Technical skills lead to good jobs

Every parent dreams that his son or daughter will find a rewarding job that pays well.

Jerry Kaenrath, a 2001 graduate of Hebron High School, did just that straight out of high school with two years of **Auto Mechanics** under his belt. He has even owned his own home for several years.

He remains a union employee of U.S. Steel more than eight years later, with steady work and even overtime available in the main garage. He works on everything from a 60-ton dump truck to a crane to a forklift during an eight-hour shift.

Always interested in pursuing a trade, Jerry found encouragement from Mrs. Pat Ailes, Hebron guidance counselor. His skills learned under Karl Sickles and Ed Herron, plus his ability to quickly pass skill and drug tests, got him hired quickly.

He recommends career and technical education. "Get a trade," he encouraged, "The skills always stick with you."

Young teacher finds career path

Taking a Career-Technical Education class for two years was the "catalyst" for a young educator's career as a teacher.

Heather Lucas, a 1999 graduate of Portage High School, is presently helping second through fifth graders at Parkview Elementary School, Valparaiso.

Part of the Title I program, she reinforces what classroom teachers are doing in math and reading skills.

Lucas is creative, according to her principal, Anne Wodetzki. "She really brings a lot of fresh ideas to the table," she added.

Lucas credits her daily experiences in classrooms for two years of **Education and Early Childhood Careers** with leading her on a career path. She worked with Barbara Iddings at South Haven Elementary School.

"It's definitely not a blow-off class," she warned. "There's a lot of work involved." She likes the different age groups and grades for different reasons and is presently pursuing a master's degree.

Third grader Aidan Gonzales gets a hand from teacher Heather Lucas. Lucas credits her two years of career/technical education with letting her know that being a teacher was the right career path.



Officer Jason Praschak, Porter County Sheriff's Department, has been on the SWAT team for a year.

Life's work discovered through career/tech classes

The streets of Porter County are a little safer, thanks to the diligence of a graduate of **Criminal Justice** and **Criminal Investigations** programs based at Wheeler.

Jason Praschak, 2001 graduate of Portage High School, has been with the county sheriff's department for about four years. He roams the darkened streets on the midnight shift and also gets called to high-risk situations as part of the SWAT team.

He found the instruction of Ralph Iler and Bill Woods similar to the work he did to earn his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice at Indiana University Northwest. He is presently pursuing a master's degree.

Praschak credits his two years of career and technical education with giving him lots of insights to answer the question: Is this field for me?

Besides his other roles, Praschak, serves as a field training officer and a standardized field sobriety instructor. After retirement, he plans to continue in the education field as a teacher.