

Delta Montrose Technical College

BACKGROUND

Delta Montrose Technical College is using Perkins funding to refocus its marketing efforts to highlight the skills, abilities and wages associated with the CTE education it offers while strengthening relationships with alumni and updating their institution's equipment, software, curriculum and the knowledge of faculty.

KEY INNOVATION(S)

During CTE week in February, an "open house" occurs in which each DMTC department prepares a 10 minute presentation to show prospective secondary students the hands-on learning they will experience in each program. Alumni are invited to participate. Last year, Nursing demonstrated their Vita Sim and the Cosmetology and Business departments showed some of the skills and abilities associated with their programs.

The new coordinator of DMTC's Law Enforcement Academy was recruited from a police department and this past connection has helped furnish up-to-date equipment (see RESULTS section).

DMTC is connecting with students and alumni through a new newsletter to replace an old process of teachers having to make individual calls. The newsletter seeks to entice interest in the latest DMTC offerings. The newsletter helps graduates by promoting job opportunities and employment information.

Finally, DMTC is enhancing/adapting its Automotive Technology curriculum with the aim of increasing the employability of graduates and their readiness to take NIASE exams for certification.

KEY FACTORS TO IMPLEMENTATION

Linkages with secondary and elementary educators have been vital. Linkages to Western Colorado Community College will be crucial to veteran teacher professional development. DMTC is managing Perkins plans for the school district and DMTC so these will need to be integrated. DMTC will also endeavor to keep elected officials educated about CTE and its associated job opportunities.

DMTC is using industry advisory committees to get business involved and is establishing a college advisory board drawing upon representation from its five counties.

Getting administrators and counselors to adequately comprehend career pathways is involving a five-year roll out of particular career clusters.

A critical aspect of DMTC's CTE initiatives has been to focus on internal professional development of faculty on topics ranging from industry new practices to learning to be better teachers. Sessions have included "Hot Topics of Grading," "Setting Up the Classroom," and "Writing Rubrics."

Conversely, a focus on external training has also been important. DMTC is sending its instructors to industry trainings to ensure students continue to get certified (e.g., EMS attended a national conference for Emergency Medical Care and Nursing Faculty have been sent to Nurse Educator Conferences for the past two years). To mitigate costs, industry training products from vendors will be considered.

RESULTS

The CTE Month "open house" has been so successful that efforts are forthcoming to expand the options for middle and high school students to attend. The event may also be integrated into a new "College and Career Fair" that DMTC has instituted.

Program Sheets highlighting the skills, abilities and wages associated with the careers DMTC's teaches have been produced. These sheets have been designed to target non-traditional prospective students and others. Sheet display racks are being purchased and deployed to the high school and the sheets are serving as flyers that are sent to prospective students interested in a particular program area.

DMTC is developing a career exploration curriculum for elementary, middle and high school students focusing on preparation. The curriculum will provide students with career pathways and plans of study.

The new Law Enforcement Academy Coordinator's industry connections enabled DMTC to access used police cars when the local police department updated their fleet. DMTC was able to purchase two police cars for \$5,000! Other industry connections led to the acquisition of an ambulance from the North Fork Ambulance District for \$1. Perkins funds were essential to equipping this vehicle as an appropriate learning lab.

DMTC's focus on updating equipment and software led to the modernizing of computers as well as software programs for business and drafting. Thanks to this focus, now, most classrooms have overhead LCDs.

Lastly, the acquisition of a mini-notebook and LCD has also enabled DMTC to conduct training on plans of study.