

Fort Lupton's Weld Re-8 School District

BACKGROUND

Ft. Lupton's Weld Re-8 school district is using Perkins funding to crosswalk (integrate) Career and Technical Education curriculum with the district's academic courses and competencies identified in the Community College Common Course Numbering System. Perkins funding is also being used to enhance CTE advising, provide students with hands-on experiences, develop new CTE programs, convene faculty to align curriculum and share best practices, and, acquire equipment, texts and technology.

KEY INNOVATION(S)

Two all-day sessions were held in 2008 between CTE faculty and their academic colleagues teaching Math, Science and Language Arts to crosswalk what they are teaching with what is being taught in their courses. In 2009, CTE and Academic Faculty will convene to crosswalk the curriculums of Technical Writing with Business and Geometry with Construction. Further, the District is currently incorporating its academic Technology standards into its CTE classes.

To make their crosswalk efforts replicable, the CTE department is finalizing a "crosswalk process" for the District.

The CTE department is investigating the implementation of the District providing academic Science credit for its Process Technology coursework, plus, it is working with Aims Community College to articulate its Multi Industry Systems Technician curriculum.

All CTE teachers have drafted a comprehensive syllabus for their classes using the competencies identified in the Community College Common Course Numbering System. These documents will facilitate crosswalk work and articulation. The goal is to have all CTE programs articulated by Fall 2009.

A number of efforts are being made to innovatively expand student opportunities. For example, a Sous Chef curriculum is being planned for the Catering Class. Also, the Family and Consumer Science class is investigating the incorporation of a Teacher Cadet curriculum. Finally, the Young Americans for Financial Education "Oppenheimer Funds Get aHead for Business" curriculum is being implemented and crosswalked with the District's Economics curriculum to meet financial literacy standards.

A variety of hands-on learning opportunities for CTE students are occurring. For example, Business students have started a networked gaming business. This involves students coming to school on gaming nights to compete in networked games being played with the X-Box and Nintendo Wii systems. The students are looking at purchasing a secure server for this endeavor. Another innovative activity of the Business students has been to develop their own Wiki portal on the Internet. Family, Career and Community Leaders of America students gained experience executing food and coat drives (the food drive raised \$1,800!). Additionally, Perkins funding led

to the acquisition of a Point of Sale system for the DECA store that replicates businesses in town. Also, the District intends to incorporate web page development into its CTE programs. Finally, Family and Consumer Science Catering students developed and executed a pre/post Pizza event for the Colorado Railroad Company.

Students interested in automotive service have been given access to Aims Community College's Career Academy; an exemplary program that is located just a few blocks from the school.

KEY FACTORS TO IMPLEMENTATION

The District is using Extended Learning Opportunity time to hold CTE Department meetings in each others rooms (e.g., the Construction teacher is getting to see how the Catering instructor has set up their learning space and vice versa). Further, Career and Technical Student Organization meetings are being encouraged via teachers being allowed to use Extended Learning Opportunity time to convene them.

Collaboration with nearby Aims Community College has been crucial. For example, in addition to the facility the high school has furnished to Construction students, access has been arranged that provides them the opportunity to use Aims' exemplary nearby Automotive facility.

Key to implementing the District's CTE ambitions has been professional development and the hiring of a new principal and counselor who both have a background in Career and Technical Education and understand the characteristics and needs of these programs. The new principal is looking for new ideas for CTE and has good administrative support for follow-through. Finally, the Family and Consumer Science teacher attended the national Association of Career Technical Education conference and brought back information to present to the District's community-based Career Advisory Council.

Looking ahead, advertising and clarifying the District's CTE programs have been deemed desirable to advance the District's CTE program. Plus, further articulation with post-secondary providers to keep students engaged in their career beyond high school is being sought (e.g., expanding current efforts to Catering students).

RESULTS

The District is fully embracing the implementation of Career Clusters, Career Pathways and Career Plans of Study. For example, in 2008, the CTE Department's new Construction Plan of Study was validated by the District's Career Advisory Council and approved by the Colorado Community College System. Further, the District's Freshman Academy is maintaining a cohort of teachers and students tracking individualized career plans and plans of study.

Additionally, Plans of Study for Advertising, Manager, Business Executive Mechanical Engineering and Food and Beverage Manager were drafted and reviewed and revised by Career Advisory Council members.

Via counseling, the District has successfully encouraged non-traditional gender participation in CTE. For instance, through counseling, a female student taking Construction is very excited about what she is learning and the guidance she has received has led her to commit to pursuing this career pathway.

Further, counseling is finding that students are staying in school because they are attracted to the post-secondary CTE options that are being explained to them.

A number of efforts are being instituted in the advising realm. First, the District has furnished Counseling with CTE Plans of Study incorporating Language Arts and Social Studies to be utilized by the Freshman Academy. CTE Plans of Study incorporating English are being considered for other grade levels. Second, all staff are being trained to use the resources provided by College in Colorado and to access the Naviance web advising resource that is being provided by CSU. Third, the CTE Department is pleased to report that the Special Education staff is starting to use ONet, the nation's premier source of occupational information. Fourth, posters illustrating the Colorado Community College System's Career Cluster Model are being mounted on walls as an advising resource and a Greeley/College in Colorado Career Guide is being acquired for student usage.

The Ft. Lupton High School has collaborated with Aims Community Colleges to create "Academies" for Construction, Multi Industry Systems Technician and Horticulture and Automotive. Plans are underway to also create a Medical Assistance Academy.

The District's Business students are experiencing statewide success. 94% of 47 Marketing students have completed a 30 page Community Marketing Research Paper which should lead to the opportunity for these students to attend a state writing competition. 60% of these students qualified through districts to go to the state DECA conference. Additionally, 28 Future Business Leaders of America students are attending a district conference.

Perkins funding has facilitated the acquisition of equipment, texts and technology. For example, RAM has been added to the Business Computer and students now have mini keypads upon which to train. Technology is also being upgraded in Multi Media, Construction and Marketing. Additionally, Construction is acquiring new textbooks with crossover Math content. The District is also redistributing equipment to follow current need with Marketing transferring a refrigerator to Family and Consumer Sciences after Ag transferred its freezer to them.