



# CTE is education that works!

Mark Deldin, Macomb County Deputy Executive and former Superintendent of Chippewa Valley Schools, was the keynote speaker at the MCTEAA Award Breakfast on Feb 4, 2011 which honored outstanding CTE students from across Macomb County. Reprinted here with his permission is a transcript of the speech:



**Mark Deldin, Macomb County Deputy Executive**

My own career path to superintendent was nontraditional. I didn't arrive by way of the typical progression of teacher and principal, before taking on the challenges of central office leadership. I "took the road less travelled" paved with a different set of experiences, and that is not unlike what many of our CTE students experience.

From the onset, my path to leadership through the less visible, and perhaps less appreciated side of education — maintenance and business operations — was steeped in hands-on, real-world relevancy. Theoretical learning had its place too, but center stage was the contextual application and development of important and necessary skills — characteristics that are bedrocks of career and technical education.

Sometimes the traditional path isn't the right road for everyone. It can delay the inquiry-driven problem-solving that is inherent in real-world application. It can delegate to "later on down the road" that which could have happened earlier in the journey, and perhaps made the pivotal difference at just the right time.

CTE programs are staffed by teachers with related business and industry experiences that enhance and infuse the traditional learning process with relevance. It's the perfect complement to the core areas of math, language arts, science and social studies because it joins in the journey with them that leads to better understand-

ing. It answers the question, "Why do I have to learn this?" — a question, by the way, that is seldom asked in CTE because students experience the answer.

When our GPS is turned on, it's easier to recognize why CTE is the journey of choice for so many. CTE programs are laboratories of innovation and application. It's the place where learning is put into practice each day.

The truth is, CTE cannot and does not exist without math, science, English and social studies because they are the active ingredients embedded into CTE standards. It's what the technical skills, when put into action, are made of. Side-by-side with 21st century competencies — such as the ability to innovate, seek out and synthesize information and apply prior knowledge to new situations, to name just a few — is the whole package that makes up the DNA of CTE. This powerful combination, called career technical education, is the fuel of the future, here today ready to transport any traveler to the destination of success.

Our economy is in a period of transition. It's changing dramatically, and change can be motivating, even inspiring and simultaneously uncomfortable and, for some, even painful. But change also brings with it the promise of something new and the opportunity to create something better. Even as the nature of work is changing — becoming more technology-based, globally competitive, often multidisciplinary, and quick to change itself again and again — the greater is the need to utilize CTE as the powerful learning tool that it is for this set of fluid circumstances.

Right here in Macomb County, we

**Michael Lamach is Chairman, President and CEO of all this...**

**AND...He was a Macomb County CTE Student!**

*"I always felt a sense of accomplishment in your class, and the continuous, subtle challenge you always gave me to take on more difficult assignments...we were always on a mission...to do something that felt of purpose."*

have remarkable outcomes that result in large part from a strong CTE experience.

Let me share just one example: On the very day that Michael Lamach was elected to the position of Chairman of the Board of IngersollRand, in addition to his roles as CEO and president, he took time out to write a letter to his high school drafting and design teacher, reflecting on how his teacher and his CTE experience played a major role in his success. He said, and I quote, "I always felt a sense of accomplishment in your class, and the continuous, subtle challenge you always gave me to take on more difficult assignments.

We were always on a mission — to do something that felt of purpose. Most importantly, I can remember talking with you about college and career choices and the way in which you always provided ideas, input and questions for me to consider. [You] played a major role in pushing me towards an engineering degree. I

was the first person in my family to go to college."

Ingersoll Rand is a 141-year old public company, with more than \$15 billion in revenue, 70,000 employees in 200 countries around the world, and a Fortune 500 company! While every CTE student has their own story — and it may not lead to chairman, CEO, and President of a Fortune 500 company — there are still thousands of students whose pathway to success is shaped and nurtured by taking advantage of career and technical education. It is precisely because CTE works in close partnership with industry that it has, and continues to be, adaptable to reshaping itself to meet the changing needs of the world around us.

We have companies large and small, right here in our backyard, who show us by example how embracing adaptability and having the courage to reinvent themselves has kept them vibrant and broadened their scope of reach well beyond the borders of Macomb County or even Michigan.

LumaSmart in Macomb Township is just such a company. John Hogan, Sales manager, serves on multiple advisory committees for CTE in Chippewa Valley Schools. John has talked to teachers about how LumaSmart had to adapt to changing times and reorganized and reinvented itself twice — and that's just in the last few years.

Just this week, a small group of us had the opportunity to tour the LumaSmart facility and John educated us about the rapidly growing field of LED lighting. The team at LumaSmart researches, designs, engineers and tests their innovative solutions to the diverse needs that their clients require. What we saw was innovation and agility in action.

The company, that just a few years ago, was invested in making tail lights, is now making Broadway lights. LumaSmart is responsible for New York Times Square's only LED solar powered billboard, and the lights were designed and manufactured right here! They're also involved in military and national security projects, and have developed an extensive line of exterior LED lighting products that, by the way, use 50 to 90 percent less energy than conventional lights and last 5 times longer.

We don't need to look far to find models of success. As I begin this new public service journey in Macomb County, in this time of remarkable change, challenge and opportunity, I have reflected on some of our greatest strengths that have and will continue to equip us to face our future successfully:

- Our entrepreneurial spirit
  - Our human capital and the enormous technical and skilled talent in this region
  - The creativity and innovation that continues to spur change agents who find the way to reinvent themselves
  - Our natural resources, not the least of which is fresh water
  - Our educational resources, from preschool to graduate school, apprenticeships and the R & D that spawns more entrepreneurial enterprises
- And right in the midst of this is Career Technical Education — a sometimes overlooked partner in the process — making a substantial contribution to the successful preparation of individuals who, like Michael Lamach and John Hogan, will be better equipped to embrace the opportunities in our global, technology-driven, rapidly changing world.
- CTE is education that works!



**New York Times Square's ONLY LED, Solar Billboard**

## Renee Bailey, a Chippewa Valley Schools' Teacher of the Year, is appreciated by many

**By Claire Brisson**  
Director of Career Technical Education

Renee Bailey has been selected as Chippewa Valley Schools' High School Teacher of the Year for 2010-11!

Renee, who teaches the second-year, advanced Medical Careers course at Dakota High School, is also a principle developer of the Medical Academy — an integration between CTE Medical Careers, English, and science. She recognized long ago that there is only so much you can teach within a classroom setting. To provide a truly contextual learning experience, students need to be immersed in a medical environment.

Renee was instrumental in establishing the very successful learning partnership with Henry Ford Macomb Hospital in Clinton Township, where second year students work four out of five days per week, rotating through a different department each month.

Renee also worked with veteran English teacher Nancy



**Renee Bailey, Chippewa Valley Schools' High School Teacher of the Year, is surrounded by some of her advanced Medical Academy students at Henry Ford Macomb Hospital where the students do their clinical rotations.**

Greeley to expand what started as a teacher externship project between Medical Careers and English into an integrated academy that makes meaningful curricular connections between the two content areas. For example, when students are studying emergency medicine in Medical Careers, they are also reading literature that involves an emergency medical situation while simultaneously addressing the content standards, disposition and critical

questions required by the Michigan Merit Curriculum for English. The academy also provides students with elective science credit in Anatomy in Health and Disease.

It is no surprise then that Renee should be receiving this honor. And while she will be the first to point out that her success with the program was a team effort, there is no denying that she is a teacher leader who consistently goes above and beyond and sets high, profes-

sional standards for herself and her students — and those students rise to the occasion. The Medical Academy would never have happened without her dedication. It is well deserved recognition, and that sentiment is shared by her colleagues and students both past and present.

Just recently, Renee received an email from one of our alumni — an occurrence that happens frequently — reflecting on what a positive impact the program had for her.

After completing the Medical program and graduating from Dakota High School, Julie Hengehold went to the University of Michigan and graduated with a biochemistry major and mathematics minor. She was then accepted to the University of Michigan School of Dentistry and during her first year signed up for the Navy Scholarship, Health Profession Loan Repayment Program. The Navy paid for her tuition and gave her a stipend in exchange for a 3-year commitment with the Navy



**Dentist, Dr. Julie Hengehold, working in Bangladesh while enlisted in the Navy**

afterward.

Julie married another dentist, Dr. Jeremy Parrott, who also joined the Navy. As she describes it, "We were lucky and we both got stationed in Okinawa, Japan for two years. There I worked on active duty military members and their families. I also went on a deployment to Bangladesh, where I got to give dental treatment to the people in need."

After Julie and her husband finished out their commitment to the Navy in July of 2010, they moved back to Michigan

and are now practicing dentistry in Port Huron.

Julie says, "I am glad I get to let you know how much your class has helped me achieve my goals. It gave me medical knowledge and training that helped me decide what career I wanted to pursue. I also received overall knowledge about how a hospital runs and medical terminology which helps in everyday communication with other medical professionals. I found it to be a tremendous benefit and experience."

Dr. Joe Naughton, Director of Medical Education at Henry Ford Macomb Hospital, said, "Every involved, loving parent hopes that his child will be fortunate enough to have a teacher with the passion, dedication, and concern that Renee has for each of her students. She has helped mentor many young people to seek out and achieve their goals. She is truly deserving of this award and we are all very happy that she is being recognized."

MAKING THE

# Connection

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For more information about CTE at the high school level contact the Macomb Intermediate School District. Contact Macomb Community College for college level programs. See contact information above.

**MCTEAA**  
Macomb Career and Technical Education Administrators Association

**TECH PREP**  
Cutting Edge to the Future  
Macomb County/St. Clair County

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