



Prep Center and MCC enter KeyTrain partnership

By Dale Swalya

When the opportunity arose to partner with the Career Preparation Center at Warren Consolidated Schools to launch KeyTrain, it was an easy decision. After all, as educators, we are all in the business of preparing high school students for college and for careers.

KeyTrain, a comprehensive system aligned to WorkKeys, was a natural, interactive way to incorporate math skills into a wide variety of subject areas. This is a

critical challenge for high schools in trying to prepare students for high-skilled, high-wage careers. The WorkKeys employment system and Key Train curriculum system assist in this effort by providing a method for setting basic skill requirements for a variety of jobs, and for assessing a student's skill level relative to those jobs.

Ed Stanton, manager of Special Projects for Academic Affairs at Macomb Community College and a lead partner in the CPC-MCC collaboration, said "From the college perspective, it is equally important for high

schools and community colleges to work in partnership regarding college preparation and career preparation, and KeyTrain is an effective tool in accomplishing that.

"It is exciting to see a district embrace its educational challenges with new innovative methods, and to move forward on them quickly," Stanton said. "MCC is happy to be a part of this project with the Career Prep Center."

Any program that assists students in the development of basic skills as they relate to the

workplace is a value-added investment for any educational institution. The CPC-MCC collaboration, using KeyTrain and WorkKeys, offers:

- A framework for comparing the skills of a student to a specific job

- Helps to close the skill gaps that are identified as below entry level

- Provides performance-based education and training for the classroom and the workplace

- Provides an interactive forum for students to improve their workplace skills

- WorkKeys provides portable credentials that are recognized nationally

- WorkKeys and KeyTrain build partnerships with business, community and schools

Ann Thomason, WorkKeys coordinator — Macomb Community College at M-TEC, describes this unique collaboration.

"Working with Warren Consolidated's Career Prep Center on this math integration project designed to improve math academic achievement was really a highlight. They used all the necessary components available to them to

provide their students with cutting edge information. Preparing students for furthering their post-secondary education and/or preparing them for direct entry into the workplace is essential in view of the current economic situation, and what better place to start than in a Career Prep environment? WorkKeys is a viable tool for identifying workplace readiness and in understanding individual strength directly related to math. KeyTrain is the instructional solution used to raise current levels, closing skill gaps that may exist."

Math integrates well at Career Prep Center

By Dale Swalya

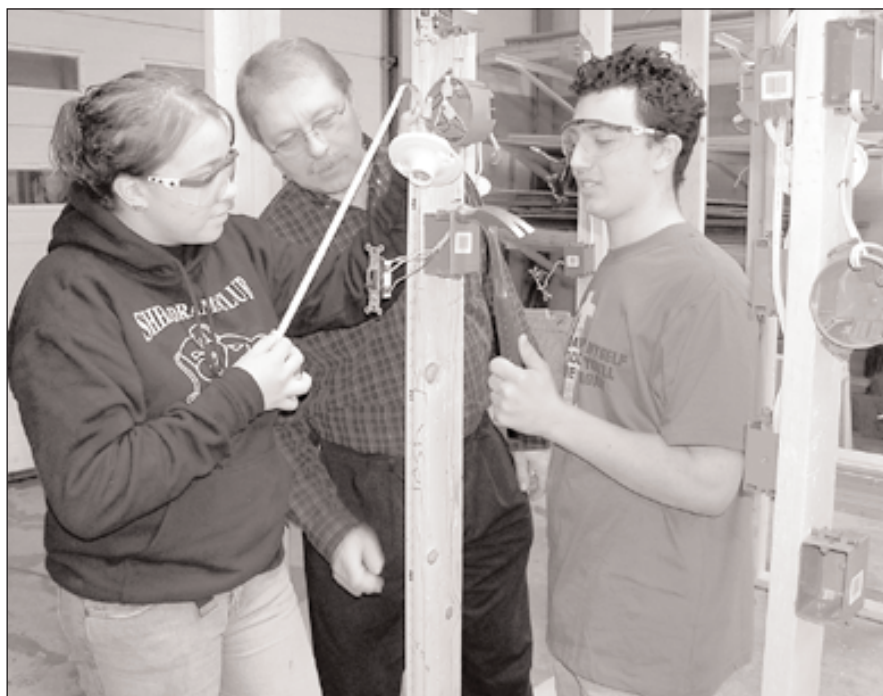
Math is everywhere. It's in the classes we take, the jobs we do and the lives we lead.

At home, at work and at play math surrounds us. Recognizing this fact, the Career Prep Center is working hard, and demonstrating to students how math is involved in everything they do while taking it to the next level by teaching math in the career classes.

"This idea is relatively new to the Detroit area," said CPC Principal Frank Antonucci, "but we like to stay ahead of the curve."

And ahead of the curve is where they'll stay for awhile. CPC Assistant Principal Kathleen Szuminski said, "We feel strongly that with our certified math instructor, and given our lessons and associated assessments, our students have a tremendous opportunity for success. A handful of school districts across the state of Michigan are doing something similar. This trend is just starting but gaining strength nationwide, and we are proud to be a part of the cutting edge."

The Math Integration teacher at CPC, Dale Swalya, couldn't agree more and has hit the ground running this year. "Last year was the pilot program, and our students succeeded above and be-



yond our expectations. Our Warren Consolidated School Board was convinced that we were on to something good and authorized us to award math credit within selected classes. We are offering a combination of math instruction, integrated into each career class, along with self-paced computer training. In the

classroom we strive to make the math meaningful by fine tuning the lessons to the work the students are currently doing. With the addition of computer-based training, which is individualized for each student, we know we can put these kids over the top in math by the time they graduate."

Ann Thomason is the training software coordinator at Macomb Community College who has been working closely with the staff and students at CPC. "Students were pre-tested prior to using the math training software," she said "Combining these individual lessons with the fact that each student progresses at their own rate really helps. I've seen students using this software and how far they've come in a relatively short time. This success is designed to help them now and in the future, either in college, vocational school or on the job."

Some of the classes involved are Building Trades 2, Culinary, Office and Electronics. One of the other targeted classes is Building Trades 1, taught by Chris Mazzola. "The math component of my class is highly specialized. I believe that showing the students how the math is being used helps focus the lesson and get them involved. They understand the math better with these connections."

Student Sean Biltz agreed. "I'm getting the math I need taught to me as I need it and in a way I understand. And the software training isn't bad, either. I learn at a speed that makes sense to me."

Math integration seems to make a lot of sense to a lot of people, and CPC is leading the way.

Science credit now available at CPC

Kaleen Jubenville

The Board of Education for Warren Consolidated Schools approved the earning of science credits at the Career Preparation Center starting with the current 2006-2007 school year.

Students who enroll in selected first-year Career Technical Education courses at CPC have the potential to earn 1 science credit in addition to 2 credits in their career class by the end of that year. Students enrolled in Medical or Dental Careers are studying Medical Anatomy and Physiology embedded within their health career curriculum. Students enrolled in Landscaping or Floral Design are studying Botany, similarly embedded within their program. Science credit can be earned by any student who achieves at least 80 percent proficiency overall on the required class outcomes.

Medical Anatomy and Physiology studies the human body and all of its processes. Students are showing great interest in the course as it relates directly to themselves and how their bodies work. Botany helps the Landscaping Design and Floral Design students to better understand the plants they work with.

Medical Careers is taught by Colleen Canning, AnnMarie Trzasko and Margaret Lane. Dental Careers is taught by Nancy Polcyn. Floral Design is taught by Gilka Paxton. Landscape Design is taught by Paul Marcial. As the certified science teacher at CPC, I am state certified in Biology and Chemistry, and have a medical background as well, which helps me integrate the science with the programs the students study. I spent 26 years working as a medical technologist in hospital laboratories before deciding that I wanted to share my love of science with students. I hope my love of science is infectious.

Integrating science into these career programs is a new educational concept in Michigan. We are proud here at CPC to be leading the way. We have very high expectations for our students, and requiring that students show a proficiency of at least 80 percent is a tall order. We are very confident that our students will meet and even exceed these expectations. I am proud of the job we have done so far and look forward to communicating our successes with you as the year progresses. If you have any questions or interest in our programs, please feel free to contact us.

Next Week's CTE Page will feature Fraser

Students build Sterling Heights homes, learn career possibilities

By Dan Barterian

When you drive by, the house blends right into the neighborhood.

This might look like a house built by professional craftsmen, but Dan Barterian's Building Trades 2 students built it from the ground up. This is the fourth house completed on Maplewood Drive in Sterling Heights. The house will be ready for sale soon and another is already under construction.

The Building Trades classes at the Career Preparation Center provide a 2-year program for juniors and seniors. In the first year as juniors, Chris Mazzola's class learns basic construction, building a functional small house mock-up inside CPC. The class involves learning about safety, tool recognition, estimating, blueprint reading and basic skills in all essential trades to prepare for Barterian's BT 2 class.

Building the house prepares students for the real working environment. Students will either love working in the weather elements or not, but the preparation is quite unique.

This is one of the few programs in the state in which students get involved in 90 percent of the work themselves. Some of the work taught at the house includes carpentry, plumbing, electrical, drywall, cement, tile, masonry and more.

Barterian always explains to his students that even if you don't pursue a career in the trades, using this knowledge for future homes is invaluable. The career possibilities can range from going to a trade school to attending a community college to entering a university for construction management.

The house is completely inspected at every phase of construction by City of Sterling Heights building officials. The house will sell for around \$250,000. Walking in, you will be astounded when you realize that high school students did the work. A lot of sweat goes into each house and the students are always proud of their accomplishments. It is an experience that they will never forget and one that they will appreciate for the rest of their lives.



Showing how to use technology for learning, at Michigan Capital Building

By Dennis Klaas

The AT&T/MACUL Student Technology Showcase is a day-long event held recently at the Michigan Capitol Building. Its purpose was to allow lawmakers, business leaders and other residents to see firsthand how technology is used in classrooms across Michigan.

Students from the Career Preparation Center Network Administration and Computer Aided Design classes, along with K-12 student teams

representing legislative districts around the state, demonstrated best practices of how technology can enhance teaching and learning for the success of Michigan students. More than 60 public, private and charter schools participated in the showcase.

Students from the Career Preparation Center Network Administration class showcased technologies such as Windows 2003 Virtual Server, Net Meeting and VPN services. The Computer Aided Design classes demonstrated the utility of their Rapid Proto-

type Machine to construct a part from a computer-aided design.

The event was sponsored by AT&T and the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning. It was a privilege for us to attend and showcase the talents of our students, our facility and our district. This learning experience is something our students will never forget and is a platform which they may build upon as their careers progress. Warren Consolidated Schools truly is a place "Where Children Succeed."

MAKING THE

connection

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to Career Technical Education

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

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