



# RETC: Students Planning For the Future

## Career preparation helps students get ready for many of life's paths



The Romeo Engineering and Technology Center (RETC), which is an extension of Romeo High School, offers an opportunity for students to pursue and attain their career goals in a state of the art setting which fully integrates technology in a student friendly learning environment. The programs offered at RETC give students the skills they need, whether they are entering directly into the workforce or pursuing further training and education.

CTE classes/programs offered include: electronic and computer repair, Emergency Medical Technician and Medical First Response, architectural and mechanical drafting, machine tool technology, construction trades, account-

ing, hospitality food service/culinary arts, office technology including desktop publishing and computers workplace classes. Career counseling as well as co-op placement is also offered to the student. Automotive technology, also a CTE

classes, is housed at the Romeo High School building.

Some of the fastest growing careers are projected to require national skill certification. RETC provides students the opportunity to research and acquire skills to prepare them for successful career entry. The programs at the RETC bridge the gap between education and the world of work.

Even if students are not quite ready to enter the workforce, RETC offers a whole variety of post secondary career options, helping future professions find the career pathway best for them. The daily emphasis is on career preparation in whatever avenue the student decides. RETC's goal is to provide the student with the best tools and background to make their decision relevant and meaningful.

### Career Cruising helps students plan

An online career assessment tool called Career Cruising is helping students develop their 4 year high school development plan. With over 600 occupations covered by the tool, it makes it easy for students to get a better idea of where they may want to go in the future. All ninth, tenth, and eleventh graders update their Education Development Plans (EDPs) regarding career, post secondary and life goal plans on a yearly basis.



### Career Night gives overview of opportunities

Every year the Romeo Engineering and Technology Center hosts Career Night. This year's event was attended by 72 professionals who shared knowledge and expertise in their respective fields. Throughout the night, the various career stations were open, educating students in engineering, human services, military careers, alternative energy, and numerous other potential fields of work. The night gave students an opportunity to look at possible future careers, find their interests, and learn how they can meet their career goals. Mr. Bryant, Career Counselor and construction lab teacher, has also scheduled a Law Day Event, in which students can explore careers in all aspects of law enforcement and criminal justice, for March 28; and a College Night 2009, in which RETC will host over 60 visiting post secondary schools, for March 18.



### Machine Tool Tech.

In Machine Tool Technology students are instructed on the use of metal working machines found in industry. Students are introduced to several manual machines including the band saw, vertical mill, horizontal mill, lathe, electronic discharge machine, and grinders after they have been instructed on proper safety techniques. Concurrently, students also learn how to program and operate CNC machines, which are controlled by a computer. After becoming proficient with the machines, students often go on to compete in MITES and Skills USA. They may also co-op at a machine shop, applying what they have learned in the classroom/shop.

### Former student makes it to Skills USA World

Congratulations to Josef Schwarzer, a former RETC/RHS graduate, on his admission in the Skills USA World Competition, held in Calgary, Alberta Canada. The USA world team will be competing against teams from 50 other countries. It's an opportunity to be proclaimed not just the best in the nation, but the best in the entire world. Josef is representing the USA in CNC turning.

### Thanks for the support

The Career Technical Education classes wish to thank Mr. Jeff Fruchey, owner of the Romeo Theater, for his continued support of CTE programs. The theater owner has been running ads in his theater, free of charge, encouraging career planning including career tech classes.



### Business Graphic Design students compete in national contest

In January, students enrolled in Business Graphic Design competed in the NAIAS 2009 Poster Contest as part of the International Auto Show held at Cobo Hall. Fifteen students from RETC participated in the national competition. Pictured are just four of the RETC students (left to right): Kaitlyn Cook, Lauren Duggan, David Pizzimenti, and G.arrett Smith who submitted their posters. The Business Graphic Design students are already gearing up for their next competition, The Society of Automotive Engineers student poster competition to be held in mid-April.

### Drafting program gives students skills for success

RETC hosts one of the best Technical Drafting classes in the state. Students have the opportunity to learn the basics of creating and reading drawings in a professional environment. These drawings include automobiles and packaging (mechanical design); and houses and buildings (architectural design). Working with AutoCad, a high level drafting program, each student not only designs and constructs hands-on projects, but also gains technical skills that can help them succeed in the future.



### Students have good showing at Regional Skills Competitions

The Regional SKILLS Competition was held at RETC and other locations on Saturday, February 28. The Regional competition encompasses Macomb, St.Clair, and Wayne counties. RETC hosted the metals, technical math, drafting, and EMT competition. St.Clair hosted the construction aspect and Macomb CC hosted the culinary art phase as well as the auto tech.

Amber Sutton 1st Commercial Baking	Alex Willenborg 4th Culinary Arts	Nick Palka 1st Job Specific Lathe	Joseph Pusdesris 1st CNC Milling	Kevin Wanczyk-Brand 1st Technical Drafting	Michael Lohrer 2nd Technical Related Math
Kala Braet 2nd Commercial Baking	Lance Gaiser 5th Culinary Arts	Ryan Mihelcich 2nd Job Specific Lathe	Sam Iannamico 2nd CNC Milling	Josh Ballinger 4th Technical Drafting	Caymen Novak 3rd Technical Related Math
Mark Whalin 3rd Commercial Baking	Taylor Cox 4th in Overall Precision Machining	Adam Schwark 1st CNC Lathe	Alex Stankiewicz 2nd CPR/ 1st Aid	Maddinah Ahmed 8th Arch. Drafting	Steven Saliga 4th Technical Related Math
Brian Drown 4th Commercial Baking	Dean Yoho 1st Job Specific Bench and Grind	Nathan Saliga 2nd CNC Lathe	Jacob Waggoner 2nd Plumbing	Andrea Moran 9th Arch. Drafting	Those RETC students qualifying will make their way to the SKILLS State Competition to be held in Lansing toward the end of April.
Timmy Seidel 3rd Culinary Arts	Zachary Stankiewicz 2nd Job Specific Bench and Grind	Cameron Lohrmann 3rd CNC Lathe	Guiseppi Pagano, Dakota Ponkey, Spencer Gall Construction Team Build Project	Justin Peyerik 1st Technical Related Math	

CTE Page designed and written by seniors Joseph Pusdesris and Ken Wilkins

MAKING THE  
**Connection**

**Macomb Community College**  
Education • Enrichment • Economic Development  
Ed Stanton 586/445-7640  
email stantone@macomb.edu

**MISD**  
Macomb Intermediate School District  
Karen Johnston 586/228-3469  
email kjohnston@misd.net

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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