

### Goal #3

• *Our schools will provide opportunities for students to be exposed to and acquire twenty-first century career options and work skills. The District will explore opportunities to enhance career and technical education of students through:*

- *Effective partnerships with Community Colleges, business, industry, the Clark County Skills Center, and professional organizations and individuals.*
- *Adjustment and/or enhancement of career and technical education offerings in our secondary schools.*

I am very pleased to report that our progress on the above stated goal #3 has been very positive. Although it may be difficult to quantify, I am confident that we are providing more opportunities for students to be aware of career options available to them after high school as well as increasing their career and educational offerings in our schools. This year we were able to implement several new programs and partnerships that benefited students. Below I have provided numerous efforts we have made to assist students in their career exploration and exposure to opportunities that will impact them for years to come.

- We expanded our **CTE program offerings to middle school students**. With Cari's leadership and fantastic response from the Ken Vetter and Charlie Farnell, many students had great learning experience in courses traditionally reserved for high school students. The success of this program is giving students exposure to these classes earlier in their educational careers and will generate higher level coursework in these areas when those students get into high school. It is commonly heard that adults that went through high school on a college track wish they would have taken more hands on vocational type of classes when they were in school. More of our students are now getting that opportunity.
- We continue to expand our **Tech Prep opportunities for CTE students** at the high school. The students are receiving college credit from LCC if they get a B or better in these courses. We have formed a very positive relationship with the CTE programs and instructors at LCC. In order to qualify for Tech Prep both the instructors at LCC and Woodland High School come to an agreement on a common curriculum. Our teachers have done a nice job with this partnership.
- Also in partnership with LCC we continue to develop **Programs of Study**. At the beginning of this year we completed the program of study for Business Management and Administration. By this September we will complete two additional programs one for CAD and the other for Metals (Welding). They are printed in a color brochure and are available for

students and parents as a navigation tool that demonstrates how high school coursework and college programs lead to various career opportunities.

- **Navigations 101** – With year one of the implementation of the Navigations 101 program we have increased our students in grades 7 – 12 exposure to high school and beyond planning. As you know the Navigations 101 program’s main purpose is to help kids plan their future. There is a plethora of tools used during the lessons that facilitate student’s understanding of their abilities and interest, career and occupational goals and college or additional post secondary programs needed. The program assists students in college funding, financial planning and aid, as well as college applications. It is a great program and directly effects the intend of district goal #3. LaJune Thorson and Kelly Sloniker are the building coordinators and have done a commendable job. It’s not easy to start a program so encompassing as Navigations that requires a high degree of buy in from the teaching staff. They put tons of work in starting with the grant application to the implementation of curriculum and staff training.
  
- **Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Career Development Consortium** – Michael and I participated in a kickoff event that involved round table discussions with local business, workforce representatives and educators from both public schools and colleges. We discussed many issues regarding the preparation needed for the local work force and how we as educators can facilitate getting kids ready for gainful employment. It’s interesting to note that academic preparation was not as critical to them as the soft skills of work ethic, ability to work with others and problem solving. I attended a follow up meeting with the Consortium. Things to look for from this group include a program called bizconnect, Career Cruizing speaker resources and teacher guides. Bizconnect is a data base for schools to access preapproved businesses that provide job shadows, internships and guest speakers. Michael will have more specific information as it comes from this unique partnership.
  
- Six students participated in the **Opportunity Internship Program (OIP)**. We worked with the SW Washington Workforce Development Council to identify and support some of our students through the Opportunity Internship Program. The program is need based. They received a \$500 stipend for the internship and qualified for a scholarship upon successful completion of the internship experience. Heidi Morgan coordinated with a STEM instructor who worked with our students to give them a meaningful experience. The program is designed to get students experience in a career field relating to science, technology, engineering or math.
  
- **Semi High Tech U** – Two of our high schools students participated in a science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) opportunity. The program is a partnership between SWWDC , the SEMI Foundation, Lower Columbia College, and local sponsors Weyerhaeuser and Norpac which brought this program to Cowlitz County in May. SEMI High Tech U is a three-day, industry-driven math- and science-based career exploration program produced and presented by the non-profit SEMI Foundation in conjunction with our local sponsors. The program provided 35-40 sophomores and juniors, focused on the B and C students, with an opportunity learn more directly from practitioners

about how math and science are used in the high tech world. The program ended with giving students a real interview experience with professionals in the field. Our 2 students that participated in this 3 day event were very excited about their experience and the things they learned about a real world application of academic subjects. Heidi Morgan facilitate this program.

- **Career Fair at Lower Columbia College** – this year we brought back the career fair experience for every sophomore at the high school. Heidi Morgan with the help of a couple other teachers took every the students to LCC for a half day of activities designed to expose students to programs that would lead to a career of their choice. Students preselected three presentations that they were interested in hearing more about. The program was a huge success and we received many positive comments from students. It is an efficient way to get a lot of students exposed to post high school opportunities before they go into their junior year.
  
- **“Where are you going”** is a program for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Heidi with help from the counselors, presents each 8<sup>th</sup> grade class with this choices program for high school success. It emphasizes high school success and how important that is to their future. They do interest surveys and broad career exploration. It helps students take ownership of their education and gets kids thinking about their future before they get in the high school. They specifically investigate careers in Washington State, look at the 16 career clusters, and use the survey to examine career clusters that match their interest. They also look at what educational program would best meet their interest. Job outlook for our state also shows students what fields are in high demand and the required education path, and probable wages.
  
- Heidi works with all juniors in completing their **Career and Research Paper**. She attempts to match their research with job shadows, internships and service projects. She assists students with resumes, job applications, scholarships and financial aid. Heidi coordinates senior presentations which brings the students educational experience, research paper and service project all together. Many of the student’s service projects and internships have turned into employment opportunities students.
  
- Heidi also gives **classroom presentations** that connect possible career and employment opportunities with the course they are taking. She has recently done a career outlook presentation to the life skills classes and a presentation on careers that having a foreign language is needed to a Spanish class.

Craig