

## STUDENTS CAN EARN HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS FOR WORK

The program is called **Cooperative Work Experience** and any employed student who has taken or is currently enrolled in a qualified CTE course is eligible. Students can earn .5 credit for 180 hours of work or 1.0 credit for 360 hours.

Students enrolled get to learn in the real work world and through the program get guidance and advocacy from the District Work Based Learning Coordinator, Charissa-Eggleston. They also learn how to enhance their employment experience to create career opportunities after graduation; strategies to get great evaluations for references for future employment and applying for scholarships.

Ms. Eggleston is at each high school weekly. She shared "several students needed to work in the district to help their families make ends meet, without compromising their ability to graduate. This program gave them the chance to work during a portion of the school day and still obtain all needed credits. Often students will also translate their success in the world of work to become more successful in school."

Ms. Eggleston is also available to give guidance to students seeking employment for job leads and strategies for effective job searching.

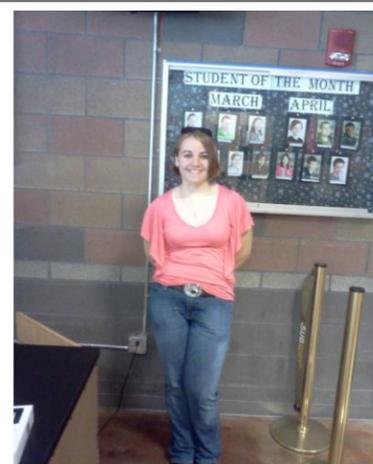
What are the requirements while in the program? Students are required to attend a program orientation, an employee orientation, complete a learning agreement, a learning plan, and provide monthly documentation of work hours.

Contact Ms. Eggleston at: [cegglest@fwps.org](mailto:cegglest@fwps.org).

## CTE Works!

*Students benefit nation-wide through enrollment in career and technical education*

- A ratio of one CTE class for every two academic classes minimizes the risk of students dropping out of high school. (Plank, S., et al., "Dropping Out of High School and the Place of Career and Technical Education," The National Center for CTE, 2005)
- Students at schools with highly integrated rigorous academic and CTE programs have significantly higher achievement in reading, mathematics, and science than do students at schools with less integrated programs. (Southern Regional Education Board, "Linking Career/Technical Studies to Broader High School Reform," 2004)
- CTE students were significantly more likely than their non-CTE counterparts to report that they had developed problem-solving, project completion, research, math, college application, work-related communication, time management and critical thinking skills during high school. (Lekes, N., et al., "Career and Technical Education Pathway Programs, Academic Performance, and the Transition to College and Career," National Research Center for CTE, 2007)
- In 2006 a report for the Gates Foundation, 81 percent of respondents said that more learning opportunities that make the classroom relevant to the real world would have helped them to finish high school. (Bridgeland et al., The Silent Epidemic: Perspectives of High School Dropouts, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, 2006)



Stacey Irish, cooperative work-study student from Todd Beamer who has been involved in the program since last school year.

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# OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Spotlighting Programs in Career and Technical Education



*this issue*

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**FIRST ROBOTICS** "To transform our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and technology leaders." Dean Kamen, Founder

Imagine a competition of 400 teams, 10,000 high-school students, from seven countries building Robots in six weeks from a common kit of parts provided by *FIRST* and weighs approximately 150 lbs. Now include in that picture Federal Way students. That's right, Federal Way students at Thomas Jefferson, Federal Way, Todd Beamer, and Decatur will have the opportunity to be part of the competition this school year.

*FIRST* was started in 1989 by Dean Kamen an inventor, entrepreneur, and advocate for science and technology. The mission of the organization is to inspire young people to become leaders in this field in an exciting mentor-based program. Students get to:

- Design, build, and program robots
- Apply real-world math and science concepts
- Develop problem-solving, organizational, and team building skills
- Compete and cooperate in alliances and tournaments
- Earn a place in the World Championship
- Qualify for nearly \$9.7 million in scholarships

First Robotics includes building a team of professional engineers, adult mentors, high school aged students, sponsorships, and the time to build the robot.

"*FIRST* redefines winning for these students by rewarding teams for excellence in design, demonstrated team spirit, gracious professionalism and maturity, and the ability to overcome obstacles. Scoring the most points is a secondary goal. Winning means building partnerships that last."

To learn more: <http://www.usfirst.org/> If you would like to be part of the action as a volunteer from the community contact Nancy Hawkins, Career and Technical Education Director at: [nhawkins@fwps.org](mailto:nhawkins@fwps.org).

# Microsoft IT Academy Comes to Federal Way

Recently, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and Microsoft Corporation partnered to provide the IT Academy to all Washington State high schools. This is an effort to assist high schools to stay current with industry standards in relationship to the world of work. It is a college-and career-ready program for education that provides 21st century technology skills to our students. Students will be able to obtain skills required to get certifications and become competitive in today's ever changing workplace.

The IT Academy offers the following features to schools: the latest software; access to a wide range of E-Learning courses and Instructor Learning Management System to assist teachers to monitor student work and progress; E-Reference Libraries; TechNet subscriptions; official certifications; and discounts on official courseware.

Our students will have the opportunity to receive hands-on experience with the newest software and web-based E-Learning courses. The certifications that will be offered to the students upon completion are widely accepted by employers and will give our students a competitive edge in employment prospects. One high school in Florida

awarded over 850 technical certifications. The IT program also has benefits to educators and staff for professional development opportunities. It provides a world-class technology curriculum complete with lesson plans, student projects, assessments, and E-Learning. The Academy provides educators with the resources to stay current with the latest technology and integrate these technologies into new or existing curriculum. Teachers can then utilize these resources to meet the needs of students of all levels of technological experience.

A number of Microsoft products are available, including Word, Excel, Access, Project, as well as advanced topics, including programming, Web development, and database development. OSPI has also partnered with CCI Learning Solutions to provide free certification testing for students, teachers and staff at each high school. This is an amazing benefit as some of the testing fees would be cost prohibitive to many of our students.

Several of the programs in this newsletter demonstrate the potential opportunity for students when industry and education work together to provide valuable learning experiences for our young people. We are grateful to these businesses that are willing to invest in the next generation of workers and leaders for their support.



## Aerospace Composites Course Partners Federal Way School District With Boeing

The idea for the program started when Jay Cardwell, a TBHS physical education teacher was having a conversation with a friend who told Jay about the composites program. Jay met with the Principal Randy Kaczor and they took the idea to district officials that were excited for the opportunity to partner with Boeing to train our students with skills to possibly fill future positions in the industry.

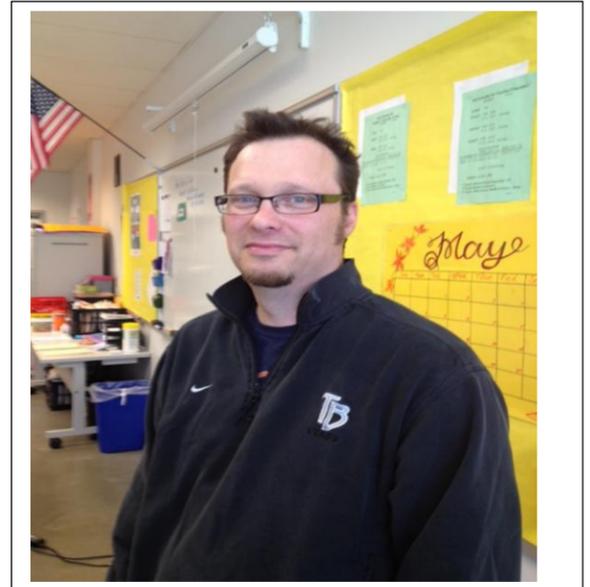
They then approached Larry DuFresne (right) about incorporating this program into his Technology Foundations course. Larry was the perfect choice for the program teaching Drafting, AutoCAD, Technology Foundations, and Applied Math. We asked him to tell us a little about the composite program.

What skills will be taught? "Students will get an introduction to different fields of engineering. They will also learn about composites construction which prepares students for jobs in the field. Students could possibly become composite technicians in various industries that use and supply composite materials throughout our state."

How can students benefit from taking the course? "Students earn occupational credit while learning career skills which could help them enter a field that is steadily growing in our own state. Major manufacturers in our area are looking for individuals with the skills to work with composites."

The program is getting started this school year and will hopefully grow in the future.

Mr. DuFresne has been with the district since 1998 where he taught woodshop at Lakota for five years and has been at Todd Beamer since it opened ten years ago.



### Food Handler's Permits Can Be Obtained Online

Are your students seeking employment in the Food Industry, Day-Care Centers, or working with the elderly? It will certainly help them be more employable if they have a Food Handler's Permit.

Did you know it is now available online? <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/foodsafety/FoodWorker.aspx> provides you with instructions of how to obtain this. It only takes about an hour to take the test and you can pay the \$10 fee with your credit card. The test is available in eight different languages and a certificate is available for print out after taking the test.

By having the card when an individual applies for the job it expedites the hiring process.