

MA in CTE Portfolio

EVT 6948 - Practicum in CTE – Summer 2013

Section II. Core Understanding of CTE

Part 1: Reflection on Example for Organizational Supports

Write a Reflection on the Selected Artifact

The example chosen is a article written in the Spotlight on Success magazine published by the Manatee County Schools Board. On the front page article the development of the first middle school career academy is discussed in great detail. The article relays important knowledge CTE administrators need to hold to keep programs aligned with legislation, funding and policy. Much of the information skills to develop this career academy was obtained in EVT 6264 Administration of Local Educational Programs.

Describe the rationale for selection. What are the reasons for choosing the particular example?

Studies of Current Trends in CTE show students of the 21st century who are entering adulthood and work environment lack employable skills. Career and technical education has been *the neglected stepchild of education reform* (Technical Education Today Postsecondary Edition Issue 31). CTE can be tied into sweltering topics and current trends of programs such as *Race to the top* and *Industry Certifications*. According to Robert Schwarts, academic dean and Professor at Harvard University, America ignoring its European roots in CTE, is one of the only nations singly dependant on higher education to transition students into the workforce (Technical Education Today Postsecondary Edition Issue 31).

Race to the top

President Barack Obama stated in a speech at the U.S. Department of Education headquarters that America's children, economy and America itself would be bettered by the results of Race to the Top. The program rewards school districts and states for creating innovative ways to reform education. In order to receive the grants states are required to meet key benchmarks for reorganization. Four key categories will play the centerpiece for the expectations for race to the top. Districts will be rewarded a piece of the \$4.3 billion dollar pot if they adopt international benchmarks, employ effective teachers and administrators, build data systems to assist in reform, and improve low performing schools (<http://ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2009/07/07242009.html>).

Applying related concepts in your professional practice

To align middle school Career and Technical Education programs with high schools, according to Florida statute 1003.4935, by 2011- 2012 as part of a five year plan each district must include plans of developing a career academy in at least one middle school. My school was chosen to be the first engineering academy in the district. Part of a successful implementation model a middle school student will have the opportunity to complete a industry certification exam, take Career and Technical Education courses for high school credit, and integrate content with core subject areas. Districts will provide data to show student achievement within the academy (Florida Statute 1003.4935).

The Engineering Academy at Haile Middle School last year certified eight of the youngest people in the world to in SolidWorks. This year 13 of the academy members obtained there industry certification and all will be attending engineering programs in high school.