

**Carl D. Perkins Vocational & Technical Education
Act of 1998
Annual Performance Report FY 2007**

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**Program Category: Tech Prep
Technology & Trades Consortium Grant
LEA Grant Award # 0850013**

Executive Summary

The Technology and Trades Tech Prep Consortium grant was funded in the amount of \$25,000 for the FY. The consortium membership involves the high schools and businesses throughout the Eastern Wyoming College service area and beyond. The Tech Prep grant funded equipment purchases for ten high school programs and the college program. Funds were also used for professional development activities. This year the Community Connections Director from EWC attended the Wyoming State convention for Career and Technical Educators in Powell. Funds were also used to support the concept of professional development of college students in technical programs by supporting participation in state and national Skills USA competitions. Visitation with staff at consortium member high schools to up-date tech prep agreements was funded through this grant. The consortium helped to fund the annual Technology Day through the purchase of educational supplies. Technology Day is designed to provide hands-on career awareness activities in various career clusters. This year approximately 178 high school students participated in Technology Day.

Accomplishments of the Project

Three project goals were established and met during this grant cycle.

- 1) Equipment was purchased for ten consortium member high schools to help prepare the tech prep students to transition to Eastern Wyoming College and begin the rigorous requirements of an Associate of Applied Science degree and future employment opportunities. Equipment purchases were also made to update instructional materials and equipment at the college that will provide post-secondary students with equipment similar to that found on the job site.
- 2) Professional development and training occurred throughout the year. The Wyoming Association of Career and Technical Educators Convention was attended by Anne Hilton, the Community Education Coordinator from Eastern Wyoming College and Kristie McGuire, EWC computer instructor. The coordinator and instructors attended other additional trainings held during the year throughout the state. Post-secondary students participated in the State and National Skills USA competitions during the year.
- 3) Efforts to provide career awareness to secondary students were accomplished through participation in the annual technology day event and hosting job fairs for our welding-joining technology students.

Wyoming Career Technical Assessment (WyCTA)

Performance Standards and Measures

According to the district results for the 2006-2007 WyCTA summary evaluation report, the majority of EWC students showed proficiency in all of the areas outlined as state goals. Data used in calculating percentages for this report is based on assessment data collected on two hundred eighty five students. A total of 285 students were entered into the database. However, students who left Eastern Wyoming College or their program before 4/1/2006 are not included in the specific skills category data reported in the overall WyCTA assessment results. The information included in this report is taken from the ratings on 285 students, 119 male, 153 female, and 13 undefined. Of the students two hundred sixty eight (268) were termed a vocational concentrator, one (1) vocational student, and sixteen (16) were undefined.

WyCTA demographic data shows that the majority of our students are White (257) followed by Undefined (13), Hispanic (9), and American Indian/Alaska Native (6). A majority of our students were disadvantaged in at least one category, and often overlapped into other categories. Specifically, the categories showed: disability (22); economically disadvantaged (43); single parent (22); displaced homemaker (10); corrections (13); limited English proficiency (6); and other (12). The distribution of students and grade level is: freshmen (149), sophomores (91), juniors (32), or undefined (13). Students often take more than two years to finish a technical program if they first must enroll in developmental studies courses.

The assessed students included the following career cluster categories: Agriculture, Natural Resources, Architecture & Construction, Business and Administration, Information Technology, Education & Training, Health Science, Human Services, Manufacturing, and Law & Public Safety. Thirty-five (35) of the students were Tech Prep.

Following is a summary of the other results by category. The figures represent vocational students and/or concentrators who were assessed in each skill. Proficiency is calculated by dividing the number of students who were rated as *proficient* and *advanced* by the total number of students who were assessed.

Data must be viewed in light of several factors that may have some bearing on the statistical outcomes reported. The total number of students assessed this year are a few more than was assessed last year. The data must also be viewed in light of the difficulties Press Associates experienced with the database delays and recording errors. Scores reflected in the report are reflective of “Advanced” and “Proficient” ratings only.

*Percentages shown in parentheses reflect the changes up or down from the previous year.

Communication Skills. In the total communication area, 81 % (+3%) of the students were rate proficient in the listening category, 81% (+6%) in the speaking category, 84% (8%) in the reading category, and 85% (+15%) in the writing category. These categories represent a general increase in the communication skills of students. The emphasis on oral and written communications will continue to be reinforced.

Applied Math Skills. In the applied math strands, 84% (+4%) of the students were rated proficient in basic operations, 82% (+9%) in the measurement category, 74% (+7%) in the data representation category, and 67% (+10%) in the advanced math category. The total cluster percentage ranges from 4 to 10 percentage points higher last year's results. The program faculty continually emphasizes and integrates more applied math skills into their courses.

Affective Thinking Skills. The total rated proficient and above in the category cooperation was 76% (+0%). The other categories include 78% (+8%) proficient in problem solving, 83% (+6%) proficient in work ethic, and 81% (+5%) proficient in thinking. Again, this area was emphasized in the vocational courses. The largest growth areas occurred in the area of problem solving. This area has grown steadily for the past two years.

Applied Science Skills: The applied science category indicates that 85% (+7%) of the students are proficient in lab procedures. The group scored 79% (+9%) proficient in Scientific Method, 77% (+10%) in Data Analysis and 76% (+6) proficient in Conceptual Applications. Students showed an increased understanding of the scientific method and data analysis, as indicated by the increase in proficiency.

Pre-Employment: This category contains four areas to be measured. In the Career Interests category, 83% (+3%) of EWC students scored proficient. Students scored at an 83% (+7%) proficiency level in the areas of Career Prerequisites for employment. Instructors rated 81% (+5%) of the students having Employment Potential and 82 % (+8%) of the students were proficient in resume writing, job application and interview skills. These scores show a slight increase from last year's report and reflect the continued emphasis on workplace readiness skills.

Employability Skills. The four categories under this section contained the following areas and proficiency ratings: Interpersonal Relations 80% (+2%); Attitude & Appearance 84% (+7%); Task Completion, 85% (+7%); Skill Performance, 84% (+4%) proficient. The scores in this section reflect a continued emphasis on workplace readiness skills and the requirements of the programs to include student work experiences such as job shadowing, preceptorships, and internships.

Technology Strands. The ratings in this section were 78% (+1%) proficient in operating systems, 83% (+4%) proficient in software applications, 72% (-2%) proficient in hardware, 87% (+5%) proficient in internet searches and 75% (+0%) proficient in business technology. Every technical program has computer labs available in their department. Instructors require some Internet research. In addition, students coming out

of high school are possessing far greater computer skills than they used to—in large part due to the technology emphasis occurring in our secondary schools.

Post-Completion: Of the students assessed, eighty-three (83) students completed the program this year. Of those forty-one (41) were in related employment, thirty-six (36) were unknown, four (4) went on to attend a college or university, and two (2) went on to advanced training or tech school.

Follow-Up: Sixty-three (63) students from 2003-2004 were included in the follow-up report. Of these thirty-nine (39) students were in related employment, seven (7) were in a college or university, twelve (12) were in unrelated employment and one (1) had gone to the military.

Overall, the Wyoming Career and Technical Assessments revealed that students were doing very well in the skills areas. The actual percentage of many of the categories has shown significant improvement over last year. This reflects the strong commitment to preparing students to be successful. The data must be viewed in light of the number of students assessed, the familiarity of the rating scale by the instructors and the difficulty experienced with preparing the database by Press Associates.

The Community Connections Director was responsible for ensuring the completeness of the data. The State Department of Education training that was held in Casper to go over the process, because of this the reports of the WyCTA are easier to understand and interpret. We appreciate the ability to disaggregate the results by career cluster. This will allow instructors to look individually at their curriculum content and make changes accordingly.

Required State Activities for Tech Prep

COORDINATED PLANNING:

The Technology & Trades Consortium at Eastern Wyoming College is comprised of membership from high schools, businesses and the community college. Currently, there are eighteen high schools that hold tech prep agreements with Eastern Wyoming College. Business and Industry memberships include representation from large industry, including Missouri Basin Power, Western Sugar Corporation, Kurt Manufacturing, Kinder-Morgan as well as representation from Economic Development from Goshen County & Converse County and regional school districts.

During the year research regarding Tech Prep agreements with three schools was began. Technical instructors from the interested high schools have initiated contact with the Community Connections Director to develop articulation agreements. At this time, the high schools are preparing their curriculum for presentation to Eastern Wyoming College for acceptance.

Thirty-seven students transitioned from consortium member high schools to Eastern Wyoming College during the 2005-06 school year. Students making the transition came from a variety of consortium member high schools.

Consortium members are kept abreast of the grant activities by a newsletter and at the annual spring meeting. The newsletter is printed each fall upon the completion of Technology Day. The newsletter provides an update on instructional equipment that was purchased with grant funds for individual consortium member high schools and for the welding and joining program at Eastern Wyoming College. Events occurring during Technology Day are also featured. Eastern Wyoming College Welding & Joining Technology department sponsored a job fair on campus for the students in that department. Many of the businesses attending were from the coal oil industry in Wyoming. Consortium members review the RFP for the following year at the spring meeting and received an update on all activities of the current year's activities and expenditures.

The Missouri Basin Power Project Scholarship is open to any Wyoming high school student pursuing a career in a technical field. Missouri Basin gives ten (10) fifteen hundred dollar (\$1,500) scholarships and recipients of the scholarships may use the scholarship at any one of the seven (7) Community Colleges in the state of their choice.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

State Department of Education Tech Prep administrator, Phillip Trujillo, presented a joint training session to participating faculty, staff and business partners during the annual Technology Day.

College CTE faculty attended a variety of in-service and professional development training during the year to including the Wyoming Association of Career & Technical Educators conference in Lander in June. One of the welding instructors attended the National Association of Career & Technical Educators conference in Kansas City, MO.

Eastern Wyoming College hosted a symposium for high school welding teachers in the spring. This past year there were ten teachers in attendance for the two day workshop. At this time their skills are updated with new techniques.

At the college level, students are encouraged to participate in SKILLS USA as one means to strengthen their skills and employment opportunities. Funds are used to defray Eastern Wyoming College students' and sponsors' expenses at the competitions in Casper.

PREPARATORY SERVICES

Technology Day provided high school students within the consortium an opportunity to experience hands-on learning on the Eastern Wyoming College campus. Students were able to choose from a variety of hands-on activities relating to education and job training. College technical faculty and professionals from the trades provided the instruction to the students during the day. The purpose of this annual event is to increase awareness of the technical trades and to increase retention in the tech prep programs.

Career Awareness Sessions:

- Business Office Skills
- Cosmetology
- Information Technology
- Machine Tooling
- Welding & Joining
- Criminal Justice
- Nursing
- Farm and Ranch Management

Each year, equipment purchases are made for consortium member schools from the grant funds. The equipment purchases allow the school to provide state-of-the-art machinery for students to use while in high school as they matriculate to post secondary education.

Equipment purchases for consortium member schools during 2005-2006 as follows:

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| ▪ Guernsey-Sunrise | HP Design Jet 130 |
| ▪ Natrona
&Plasma | Pedestial Ring Roller, Helmets, Head Gear |
| ▪ Southeast | Three Roll Carts |
| ▪ Moorcroft | Arc Welder & Bandsaw |
| ▪ Niobrara | Welder |
| ▪ Wheatland | Impact Wrench |
| ▪ Evanston | Welder, Rotary Hammer, Drill Driver, & Recip Saw |
| ▪ Sundance | Plasma Cutter |
| ▪ Hulett | Plasma Cutter |
| ▪ Cheyenne Central | Bandsaw |
| ▪ Torrington | Torch & Dye Cutter |

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Each of the Tech Prep agreements developed between Eastern Wyoming College and the participating high schools are made available to all high school students regardless of individuals needs. While programs designed to address the special needs of students varied from one school to the next, all students were provided the opportunity to have their needs met. Targeted programs include:

- career guidance and counseling
- The development of Individualized Education Plans for identified students.
- Remedial services on an ongoing or as-needed basis
- Teachers available to work with at-risk students
- Mathematics lab
- Tutoring support
- Peer tutoring
- Remedial classed and
- Occupational internships

The tech prep coordinator works with high school counselors, EWC's Career Center staff and the UW Educational Opportunity Site Coordinator to promote tech prep to students as they complete career interest/aptitude tests.

All Goshen County high school students are encouraged to participate in career testing, while students in other counties can also access this testing either through their local University of Wyoming Educational Opportunity Center or their high school counseling department. Students who demonstrate an interest/aptitude or high level of motivation to participate in an articulated career track were particularly encouraged to consider the tech prep option. Each participating student is provided guidance and information regarding appropriate course selection, and career options. Each of the programs offered through Eastern Wyoming College and the Technology & Trades Tech Prep Consortium reflect the ever-increasing need for highly skilled employees within these high-growth, high wage industries.

TECHNOLOGY

The Eastern Wyoming College website offers access to information regarding the tech prep programs offered. Information pertaining to tech prep activities is also available through the site as well as disseminated through the local newspapers. The website is used as a source of information regarding Technology Day and has become the mode of registration, eliminating much of the communication that once happened through the US mail.

Classrooms instructional methods have been upgraded to use other forms of technology i.e. smart boards and PowerPoint.

Throughout the year much of the correspondence with consortium members takes place by e-mail in addition to more formal methods of communication.

Dissemination of Project Results

The project results will be shared with the faculty this fall during a joint Perkins Group meeting. In addition, all technical programs also have advisory committees and the results are shared with those business and industry representatives. News releases are prepared on a regular basis, such as when grant awards are announced, or special activities are sponsored. Internally, our President's Advisory Council and our Outcomes Assessment Committee will be provided with the results and final reports. In addition, EWC hosts Technology Day annually and participates in job fairs and career conferences. EWC hosts a web page that highlights all of our Perkins programs, and also has a Tech Prep/Perkins home page with pertinent information. Perkins dollars are growing in importance to the community colleges in Wyoming. The community colleges provide the primary technical career training in the state of Wyoming.