

Project Lead The Way



Issue #5

Pre-Engineering at McCann Technical School ~ Summer 2007

Williams Olmsted Award, trip to Lenco Armor, National Certification!

... McCann Pre-engineering News for all our friends...

Williams College Olmsted Award

McCann will continue the project begun in 2005 to develop its pre-engineering program and to provide students with the rigorous and relevant knowledge needed to pursue engineering programs in college through the generous aid of a Williams College Olmsted Award grant. Two members of the McCann faculty will get intensive training at the University of New Haven in preparation for teaching Digital Electronics. www.williams.edu/news

Lenco Armor

When students and faculty were being fired upon at Columbine High School, rescue attempts were made using fire engines. Manager Steve



Protecting Our Nation's Defenders™

Mix explained that was a turning point for Lenco Armor. Now manufacturing Bear and Bearcat vehicles for law enforcement and the military, Steve and the folks at Lenco showed the IED students the entire process of cutting F-350's and redesigning and rebuilding vehicles with ballistic steel, "bulletproof" windows, and chemical-resistant paint. Our entire class easily fit inside one of these huge vehicles, which help protect and save our police officers' and soldiers' lives on a day to day basis. Steve also

shared the work philosophy of "attendance, attitude, ability—in that order" that he hoped students could learn while they still have the luxury of going to school. www.lencoarmor.com



McCann Program Certified!

Worcester Polytechnic Institute has recognized McCann Technical School by certifying that its *Project Lead The Way* Pre-Engineering and Engineering Technology Program has met the stringent standards of quality set by the college. (continued...)

Dr. Martha Cyr, director of K-12 Outreach at WPI, said that McCann Tech has demonstrated its commitment to the quality standards of the PLTW program by having teachers of pre-engineering trained during the summer and by teaching the PLTW courses using the latest computer software. Cyr recognized the district's commitment to teacher and counselor ongoing training during the school year.

The certification process included a self-assessment of the PLTW program and a one-day site visit by Cyr and Amanda Simpson. The Site Visit Committee met with teachers, administrators, counselors, students, and community members, and reviewed students' course portfolios.

The district also provides an invaluable opportunity to its students through the certification process. Students may now apply for transcribed college credit at a variety of national affiliate colleges and universities, if they demonstrate exemplary work in their pre-engineering courses and pass the appropriate PLTW End-of-Course examinations. We are very excited about the possibility of our students earning 3 college credits for each of our courses!

www.mccanntech.org/showShop.asp?area=PLTW

New PLTW Instructors!

Instructors **Perry Burdick** (Information Technology Dept.) and **Matt Barlin** (Science Dept.) head off to *Project Lead The Way* training (affectionately known as boot camp) this summer to develop the Digital Electronics course, the third of our courses to be offered in the pre-engineering program, beginning during the fall of 2007.

Boeing Connection

In January 2006, *The Transcript* printed an article about the promotion of John P. Bishop to vice-president of prototyping of Boeing, the world's largest civil aircraft company. We look forward to a visit from Mr. Bishop, (McCann metal fabrication graduating class of 1978) in October of 2007! We are also pricing one of the new Boeing 787 Dreamliner jets to be used for student field trips... www.boeing.com

Water Bottle Rocket Launcher

Emily Serrano, Kristin Euchler, and Hailey Morgan of the Machine Technology Department test out the water bottle launcher apparatus they built in shop, while Instructor Scott Botto pressurizes their "rocket" to 90psi. The rest of the Engineering Design class stands at a safe distance from the launch pad!



Thank you!

The PLTW students and instructors wish to thank our partnership team members Dr. Irene Addison (Williams College), Dr. Charles Kaminski (BCC), Jim Leitch (Westall Architects), Tom Mahar (Williams College), and Neil Segala (Segala Builders) for their continuing support and advice, especially during our certification visit.

Please contact any of the following educators with your questions about pre-engineering at McCann...

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...Read more about *Project Lead The Way* at www.mccanntech.org/programs.html

(Back issues of our newsletter are also available!)