Program to Create New Aviation Industry Opportunities for High School Students

Aviation Pathway, a new proposed high school Career and Technical Education program was announced on May 7th by Wichita Public Schools and WSU Tech (formerly WATC) at a joint press conference hosted by Textron Aviation. When approved by the State Board of Education, this pathway will be the state’s first secondary aviation education program.

Through this program, high school students will have the opportunity to receive their high school diploma along with college credit, technical certificates and industry credentials, creating the potential for immediate employment within the aviation industry.

Speaking at the press conference were Jim Walters, Textron Senior Vice President of Human Resources; Dr. Alicia Thompson, Wichita Public Schools Superintendent; Dr. Randy Waston, Kansas Commissioner of Education; and Dr. Sheree Utash, WSU Tech President (appearing via video).

“"We have been impressed with how responsive and thoughtful Wichita Public Schools and WSU Tech have been,"” said Jim Walters. “"They have accomplished in weeks and months what could require years.” “"It is a game changer,"” said Sheree Utash. “"This will change students’ lives and our collective aviation industry, and it will help our community grow.""

It is expected that thousands of jobs in advanced aviation manufacturing will be available in Kansas during the next five years, especially with increases in both production and the number of employees eligible to retire. “"We are excited to introduce our students and their parents to today’s world of advanced aviation manufacturing,"” Thompson said. “"This is an excellent career option that requires great skill and knowledge and will open up many doors.

After additional input from the aviation industry, and with State approval this summer, Wichita Public Schools plan to launch the program this coming year at North, Northwest, Southeast and West High Schools.
High school students involved in CTE are more engaged, graduate at higher rates and typically go on to postsecondary education.

- Taking one CTE class for every two academic classes minimizes the risk of students dropping out of high school.
- The average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs is 93 percent, compared to an average national freshman graduation rate of 80 percent.
- 91 percent of high school graduates who earned 2-3 CTE credits enrolled in college.

The CTE Update is a bimonthly publication of the Wichita Public Schools’ Career and Technical Education office.

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Career & Technical Education Year in Review: Student Activities and Accomplishments

Students from four Wichita High Schools Qualify for DECA Nationals

Over 19,000 DECA members, advisors, business partners, and spectators from all over the country gathered in Atlanta, GA from April 21st-24th to showcase their academic preparation and community focus through competition in one of the largest convention centers in the U.S.A.

The students that represented WPS at this year’s DECA Nationals were:

East- Truc H. Nguyen

North- Maria Sifuentes-Gutierrez, Caitlyn Meraz, Gissele Mosqueda, and Alondra Cabrales

West- Jade Colby and Logan Buttel

Northwest- Madison Bell, Brianna Clark, Jace Hanson, Austin Zaring, Nicholas Cook, Jack Shumway, Adrianna Concannon, Kaitlyn Larose, Trenton Kiefer, Bryce Harman, Joshua Benoit, Daija Chamoff-Kency, and Braylen Gunn

Southeast High School FFA Rocks!

Students at Southeast High School attended a Horticulture competition at Fort Hays State University and came back with much to be proud of!

Horticulture- 1st Place Team
- Jacey Candy- 1st
- Camaron Kneibler- 3rd
- August Farmer- 4th
- Melina Dillon- 5th
- Cindy Morales-Paguada- 6th
- Serenity Radford- 10th

Entomology- 2nd Place Team
- Camaron Kneibler- 6th
- Jacey Candy- 9th
- Cindy Morales-Paguada- 10th

Agriculture Skills
- Melina Dillon- 6th
- Cindy Morales-Paguada- 10th

Congratulations to Ms. Joanna Farmer!

Tractor Supply Company and the National FFA Foundation were pleased to inform Ms. Farmer that her chapter, Wichita Southeast, has been selected to receive a Tractor Supply Company Grants for Growing chapter grant in the amount of $3,268 for the school’s project: Southeast Community Garden and Chicken House. Ms. Farmer’s grant submission was outstanding and Tractor Supply was “honored” to support the program.

Many excellent project proposals were received as a result of the vision and energy behind agricultural education and FFA. Southeast’s was one of the best. With over $80,360 in requested funds and only $4,597 available to award, the selection process “was extremely difficult as many states were underfunded.”
A handful of students from the Chester Lewis SpinMasters, an after school high school woodturning club, decided to spend a day of their Spring Break travelling to Kansas City to compete with other high school wood programs from the KC area. KC Made is a competition for woods students held during the Kansas City Home Show. Each student could enter up to two items and had to bring documentation to show the process included with each project.

Upon arrival at the competition, the woodturners were up against a wide range of other wood projects including projects using wood with a variety of mediums (wood plus metals, slate, resin to name a few). The other schools competing were part of a Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. SpinMasters is purely a woodturning club. The competition included a variety of projects allowing a student to work alone or in groups up to 6 students to make a table, chair, bed, doghouse, dresser, or desk. All of the SpinMasters projects were individually made. Items were divided into categories such as Home Décor, Practical Use, and Other. Students were judged on the following: workmanship, design and materials used, documentation, knowledge of projects, and degree of difficulty.

There were cash prizes for the top winners and awards for the division winners. Three of the SpinMasters brought home Ribbons in their divisions. Tyler Martin placed 2nd and Lacie Bratton placed 3rd, both with Weed Pots (similar to flower pots). Dar White placed 3rd in his division with his Rifle Pen.

“The students were so excited to be part of the competition”, said Janet Sutter, who started the SpinMasters in 2016 with an Educational Occupation Grant from The American Association of Woodturners. “Not only did the students get a chance to compete with students from other schools, they learned from talking to the judges and spending time with people who are currently in the industry. It was a valuable experience.”
'100 Men Who Cook,' a fundraiser for the Pando Initiative, took place on Saturday, March 31st at the new Mark Arts center. The event showcased a giant array of recipes prepared by Wichita men which included councilmen, law enforcement members, restaurant owners, as well as husbands, fathers, and this year WPS students as well. Meals to be prepared by culinary students from North and West high schools were auctioned off as part of the fundraising aspect of the evening, and students from North and Northwest prepared and served samples of signature dishes. The Pando Initiative, formerly known as Communities In Schools is a group that helps nearly 2,000 students in our district by becoming better in school via tutoring, mentoring, and community outreach.
East High Visual Art Students Recognized in 2018 Eastern Kansas Scholastic Art Awards

The Scholastic Art and Writing results were announced earlier this year and East High students were among those selected for recognition. This Spring, the Gold Key recipients had their art work sent to New York where it will yet again be judged at the national level, against the other regional Gold Key recipients.

(left) National Silver Key Recipient- titled “Juicy Lime” by Edgar Mendez, senior

(below) “The Tool” by Danny Velez, senior

“Airdrop” by Tudsajey Vongsena, junior

“Airdrop” by Tudsajey Vongsena, junior
Wilbur Robotics Boys Team Wins State Championship, Qualifying for the World’s Robotic Competition

Our boys 2036D with their alliance partners Hesston HS 7862B and Hesston HS 7862X, won the State Championship—1st Place!! Team members are Kade Fish, Jason Palone, and Chris Hernandez-Del-leon. This win qualified them for the VEX World’s Robotics Competition in Louisville, Kentucky.
The end of each school year brings graduation excitement, planning for the next school, and a change of pace that comes with summer break. It also brings farewells as teachers conclude their careers in USD 259 and look forward to retirement. Eight CTE educators are retiring this May, representing 260 years of educating students in the Wichita Public Schools. We bid farewell to the following CTE faculty:

Barbara Cowles, FACS, 37 years  
Jeff Darr, Business, 30 years  
Diann Faflack, CTE Office, 25 years  
Wayne Henderson, Tech Ed, 19 years  
Bryan Jones, Tech Ed, 30 years  
Sharon Martin, Journalism, 19 years  
Roy Oeser, South, 30 years  
Teresa Sheahan, Business, 28 years  
Matt Silverthorne, Business, 30 years  
Peggy Turner, FACS, 12 years

Diann Faflack Pursues New Opportunities

Having the opportunity to serve and support the students and staff of the Wichita Public Schools has been a blessing for Diann Faflack, CTE Teaching Specialist, College and Career Readiness. Faflack, who will be retiring from USD 259 this year, has always been a strong advocate for students and staff, seeking to create opportunities, promote equity and access, while working to eliminate barriers that stand in the way of individuals reaching their full potential.

Faflack has worn many hats throughout her years as an educator in the Wichita Public Schools. She taught English and Journalism at the Downtown Law, Public, and Social Service Magnet High School and later at Southeast High School. Through her experience as a classroom teacher, Faflack realized students needed support above and beyond developing academically which lead to her decision to pursue a master’s degree in school counseling. Initially, she worked with students in special education at several schools before landing at South High where she served as the Post-Secondary Counselor and Department Chairperson. Faflack came to the CTE Office to help implement the Rigorous Program of Study Grant 2011-2016. Most recently she has provided leadership and support at the district level serving all secondary students and staff while coordinating enrollment at WATC (now WSU Tech), working with Youth Employment, and supporting community partnerships such as the Futures Fair.

Faflack feels most blessed in her career seeing students and staff realize their potential and experience success as they achieve their own unique goals. These experiences representing diverse perspectives have helped her establish deeply rooted relationships with others in 259 and in the Wichita community which will be sorely missed.

Faflack is looking forward to her new position as an Executive Director with the Greater Topeka Partnership. "I am eager about the opportunity to work collaboratively to achieve common goals that will serve community partners in education, nonprofit organizations, business and industry in and around the Topeka community."