

Technology Education Students and Faculty Continue Tradition of Excellence In The Classroom and Beyond

The Technology & Engineering Education Department continues a long tradition of providing Connecticut with technology educators who are well prepared to take their place along side the teaching professionals in the public schools of the State and beyond. Manual Training classes were first offered at the New Britain Normal School in 1884 and we continue that tradition today with a dynamic program.

Faculty members of the department continue to provide leadership roles at the state and national levels

for technology education. **Dr. Pat Foster** and **Dr. Michele Dischino** have recently made professional presentations to the Association for Science Teacher Education in St. Louis. Their work is bringing technology and engineering education topics to the group helped establish the importance of the relationship between science and technology. Their work with concepts appropriate to elementary students as well as secondary has provided teachers with new tools to help build stronger science and technology programs.

Drs. DeLaura, Dischino, Foster, Sianez and **Vincenti** are working on a funded program to bring Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) after school programs to selected schools in Connecticut. The development of curriculum for this area will enhance current and future school programs as more young people become connected to these STEM activities. One of the goals of the after school program is to reach students in an informal setting who may not have had the opportunity to participate in applied STEM activities in their regular classes.

Dr. Sianez continues his work with Central as they design and build their Human Powered Vehicle. The student group is planning to enter their vehicle later this year in the national competition held in Nevada.

The Department Faculty and Students continue to provide a leadership role in Connecticut with the many outreach activities help on and off the Central campus each year. The 1st LEGO competition held in December continues to be a popular event drawing over 400 students and 2000 spectators to this very exciting event. Twice a year, the technology education students and faculty sponsor and run the Electrathon Electric Vehicle competition held at Lime Rock Park. The event held in the fall and spring draws more than 30 entries from throughout the Northeast. Our students coordinate all race activities including registration, driver testing, vehicle inspection as well as running the race, tabulating the results and making the awards. The most recent winning vehicle from Nathan Hale-Ray High School in East Haddam was on display at the MasterCam booth at the ITEA Convention held in Salt Lake City.

Central Technology & Engineering Education Students continue to be very active at regional and state levels as they



enter competitive events at Technology Education Collegiate Association – East conference help yearly in Virginia Beach. Our students compete along with students from twelve college and universities from throughout the north and southeast regions, and consistently place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, in the many events help over three days. Twelve students recently returned from the International Technology Education Association conference held in Salt Lake City where they entered several competitive events with schools from across the country.

The revision of the undergraduate program and renaming of the department and program to Technology and Engineering Education K-12 provides our students with the professional skills that will allow them to provide leadership roles in the Connecticut schools in the 21st Century. CCSU students are being prepared to engage their students in STEM, Engineering by Design, Project Lead the Way, as well as in traditional Technology Education activities.

What's Next?

The undergraduate program will continue to be refined to meet the demands of state and national program goals. We are in the process of developing an enhanced recruitment program in an effort to attract additional students to our teacher certification program. We have graduated 20 students per year for the past five years and are seeking to increase that number as more of the current teacher workforce becomes eligible to retire. We have an active post-baccalaureate certification program and have developed a Pathways Program with the community colleges of Connecticut to enable easy transfer into our teacher preparation program.

As we prepare for the 75th Connecticut Technology Education Association conference to be held on campus in May, we continue to look to the current teachers in the field to be our main recruiters to our program.

The departments' close affiliation with the other departments in the School of Engineering and Technology, provides us with the opportunity to share courses and resources within the School to strengthen our program. The department receives outstanding administrative and financial support from CCSU.