

CTE Programs to Industry Standards

HISTORY:

There has been talk for the last few years from DOE and the legislature concerning CTE programs to have an industry certification and for students to have the ability to take industry certification exams at the completion of certain courses and/or programs. During the 2007 legislative session, SB 1232 passed which mandates CTE programs to have industry certifications. At this time I don't know exactly how DOE will interpret this legislation, but the intent is for all 9-12 and Adult CTE programs to have an industry certification and for the students to earn an industry certification or state licensure.

The new Perkins IV legislation gives us 2007-08 as a transition year for Perkins. Beginning in 08-09 Perkins will require industry certification for Perkins funds to be spent on a program. The Perkins grant is the main source of funding for purchasing equipment for all of our programs. Again, until DOE completes the transition plan and there is a new state plan for Perkins, I don't know exactly how DOE will interpret the legislation, but the intent is the same as stated above.

Clay County School Board gave CTE \$100,000 in 04-05 (I think the timeline is correct) to bring the automotive programs up to industry standards. In addition to that \$100,000, this office has spent roughly another \$40,000 (including the expenses of the accreditation team that came May 21-25) to get through the NATEF certification, which is the industry certification for the automotive industry. This only included 3 programs. Industry certification was required by DOE for the Automotive Technology programs.

This year we have gone through the process of certifying the construction programs by NCCER. Since I have put other construction programs through this process before, I know the costs involved. It would have cost approximately \$100,000 for the eight construction programs in Clay County, but Haskell Co absorbed the training costs, and this office accessed funds from Haskell and the Northeast Florida Builders Association to purchase equipment needed to bring those programs up to standards. We will not have that ability in most areas.

WHERE WE NEED TO GO:

These two certifications are a good beginning. The Agriscience teachers will attend a training this summer that is a first step on the plant/landscaping/horticulture side of Agriscience certification by the Florida Nursery, Growers, and Landscape Association (FNGLA); these teachers will also need to earn a certification in the animal production side of Agriscience. My goal, and the intent of DOE, is for all Clay County CTE programs to earn certifications in business, technology, consumer science, culinary and all CTE areas. There is a multi step process for industry certification: instructor certification, program certification, and the ability of the student to earn an industry certification out of the course/program.

The \$20,000 per year requested would allow us to methodically go through the process of getting instructors certified, programs certified, and facilitate students earning industry

certifications. As I have already demonstrated in my tenure in Clay County, I will be very aggressive in getting industry support and accessing funds through grants. It is unrealistic to think I can get all of our programs industry certified through grants and industry partners. While I will continue to pursue all funding sources, I don't think it would be prudent of this office to expect to find outside funding sources to get all of our CTE programs industry certified.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.