



Van Buren Technology Center

250 South Street
Lawrence, MI 49064
269.674.8001

VBISD.org/techcenter

Annual Report 2010 - 2011

Serving:

**Bangor
Covert
Dowagiac
Hartford
Lawton
Mattawan
South Haven**

**Bloomington
Decatur
Gobles
Lawrence
Marcellus
Paw Paw
Watervliet**



*Engineering,
Manufacturing, &
Industrial Technology*



*Arts and
Communications*



Health Sciences



*Business, Marketing
& Management*



Human Services



*Natural Resources
& Agriscience*

From the Director:

The Van Buren Technology Center serves approximately 1,000 students from eleven local and three out-of-county schools daily. Eleventh and twelfth grade students choose to participate in one of 27 programs that focus on college/career ready skills.

While attending the Center, students are exposed to a variety of experiences ranging from area field trips, to opportunities to participate in one of several student organizations. These organizations allow students to compete in Regional, State, and even National competitions. These types of experiences would not be possible if not for the commitment of our partners from business and industry and post secondary institutions who comprise our program advisory committees. The time, knowledge and resources that our partners contribute is priceless. They allow students to participate in work experiences and job shadows. They volunteer to be guest speakers in the classrooms, sponsor field trips, mentor student organizations, and give endless support to our students and programs.

Our most recent partnership has generated an Early College, focused on the health care industry. This fall will mark the beginning of the Van Buren Early College Health Alliance (VBECHA). Students enrolled in the VBECHA will graduate high school with one year of college credits toward an Associates Degree in the health field. This program is only possible through a consorted effort between Lake Michigan College, Bronson Lakeview Hospital, South Haven Health System (formerly South Haven Community Hospital), and the Van Buren Technology Center.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners in education for their time and dedication to Van Buren County students. Without your help, it wouldn't be possible to create a world of opportunities.

Scott A. Starkweather



Our Mission:

The purpose of the Van Buren Technology Center (VBTC) is to provide career/technical education to learners in Van Buren County and the surrounding region. Students who attend the VBTC receive individualized career, academic, and technical instruction.

Our mission is to “Empower students to progress toward their life goals.” Technology Center staff believes that all individuals should take responsibility for their learning and that positive experiences and hard work facilitate high achievement. In cooperation with local schools and businesses, we accept the responsibility to provide an education for all learners so they can better prepare for life-long learning and the job market of the future.

Through many of the programs at the Van Buren Technology Center, students have the opportunity to earn state or national certifications/licensures, or are eligible for post-secondary credit that is available through several area community colleges.

Career Pathway Benchmarks 2010 - 2011:

- 100 percent of the area high schools use a career development system that incorporates the Career Pathways Model. This system assists students in choosing careers that are high skill, high wage, and in high demand. Career counselors assist students in exploring careers that match students' interests and abilities with careers in our region, state, and national labor market.
- 100 percent of the area high schools have established a four-year plan of study which assists students in choosing courses to reach their career goals, and gives them a clear picture of the credentials needed to reach those goals. The four-year plans also lead students to additional training at 2- and 4-year institutions.
- 80 percent of the Educational Development Plans (EDPs) created in area high schools are reviewed annually so students can revise their career goals to meet changing interests and demand for jobs in our region, state, and national labor market.
- 90 percent of all 8th and 9th grade students, and 95 percent of all 10th - 12th grade students have an Educational Development Plan (EDP) that has been reviewed by a career counselor. Students can use their EDP to plan their course of study while in high school, develop a resume, or utilize it in their next training path at a 2- or 4-year institution.

CTE Program Offerings:

The Van Buren Technology Center, as an extension of the local school districts, offers 27 Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.

Arts & Communications

Commercial Art
Graphic Arts



Business, Management, Marketing & Technology

*/**Business Management and Finance
*/**Computer Networking
**Marketing/Entrepreneurship
**Programming/Interactive Media



Engineering, Manufacturing & Industrial Technology

Auto Body Technician
Auto Parts
**Auto Technician - Brakes, Engines, and Suspension (BES)
**Auto Technician - Electrical and Engine Performance (EEP)
*/**Computer Aided Design
Construction Trades
Machine Tool Operations
Plastics
Welding



Health Sciences

**Allied Health Technologies
**Emergency Medical Technician
**Fundamentals of Patient Care
**Health Academy
Pharmacy Technician
**Phlebotomy/EKG



Human Services

**Cadet Teacher Academy
**Cosmetology
**Early Childhood Careers and Education
**Fire Science
**Hospitality Services
**Law Enforcement



Natural Resources & Agriscience

Agriculture and Natural Resources



* Also offered as satellite programs in Mattawan and/or South Haven
** Dual enrollment (college) credit, and/or state or national certification available for qualifying students. Minimum 2.5 GPA required for college credit. Other requirements may apply.

Student/Parent Events

Back-to-School Parent Night: The annual Back To School Night was hosted at Van Buren Technology Center on Monday, September 27, 2010 from 5:30 to 8:00 PM. Students were encouraged to bring friends and families to visit their program and meet their instructor. Advertisements were placed in area papers encouraging community members in Van Buren County to visit any of our 27 on-site programs. Over 500 people attended this event to learn more about career and technology education programs.



College Day: On Tuesday, October 12, 2010, the Van Buren Technology Center held its annual College Day. This event gives students the unique opportunity to visit with representatives from colleges, universities, trade schools, and the military. More than 50 representatives were available to answer questions and hand out materials about their institutions. Several area school districts took advantage of this opportunity to bring non-Tech Center high school students to visit with representatives. Overall, over 1,200 students participated in this event.

10th Grade Cluster Visits: From November 29 through December 3, 2010, the Technology Center hosted 10th grade students from all Van Buren County schools, plus students from Marcellus, Dowagiac, and Watervliet for the annual 10th Grade Cluster Visits. Prior to the event, Tech Center counselors worked with students to identify a specific program cluster to visit. Over 1,500 students participated in a variety of hands-on learning activities as they rotated through programs within their chosen cluster.



Open House: The Van Buren Technology Center hosted its annual Open House on Wednesday, December 8, 2010. Approximately 150 students, parents, and community members participated in this event, which is to showcase the Tech Center's programs and facilities to the community. The holiday dual themes, "Unwrap Your Future," and "Career Education...the Gift of a Lifetime," followed the annual 10th Grade Cluster Visits, which were held the prior week.

Eighth Grade Visits: Eighth grade visits mark the beginning of middle school students' exploration of career and technical educational choices. Eighth grade visits took place on March 1 - 3, 2011. Nearly 1,700 8th grade students from Van Buren, Cass, and Berrien counties visited the Technology Center. Students gained valuable information about career and technical education and participated in a variety of activities that related to current Technology Center programming.



Entrepreneurship Day: Van Buren Technology Center students participated in the Edward Lowe Young Entrepreneurship Day at Lake Michigan College on May 3, 2011. This event is a collaboration between the Edward Lowe Foundation, and Van Buren, Berrien, and Cass counties. The purpose of the event is to expose the students to portfolio and business plan reviews. Approximately 150 Technology Center students participated in this event, which gives students valuable feedback on their portfolios and business plans.

Mock Disaster Day: What happens when students from Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and Fire Science get together with area law enforcement and fire officials, and medical personnel? It's Mock Disaster Day! In this culminating activity, students from these programs respond to a simulated "mock disaster" to test the emergency rescue and preparedness skills they've learned throughout the year. Twelve area local, county and state agencies participated in this capstone event for the emergency service classes. Mock Disaster Day was held on May 11, 2011.



Career Camp: This isn't your typical summer camp! Career Camp is a fun week in which students who have completed grades 7, 8, or 9 explore a career in their area of choice. Students learn some skills, complete a project, and participate in a camp-related field trip. Each year, a number of different camps are offered to students. The 2011 camps included: Medical Mania Marathon, Babysitter's Bootcamp, Auto Crew, Art-O-Rama, Build A 'Bot, and CSI: Camp for Science Investigation. In 2011, over 120 area students participated in Career Camp week, which took place from June 20 - 24, 2011.

Student Organizations:

Students at the Van Buren Technology Center have the opportunity to participate in a number of Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSO's). During the 2010-2011 school year, over 260 students participated in one of the following organizations.

BPA: Business Professionals of America is the leading CTSO for students pursuing careers in business management, office administration, information technology and other related career fields. This year, 11 students from the Tech Center's Computer Networking and Business Finance programs participated in the national BPA competition.



DECA: The DECA student organization, which was founded in 1946, prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. Students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities, including regional, state, and national competitions.



FFA: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Agricultural education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems.



FNA: Through volunteering and community service at area nursing homes or community projects, students in the Fundamentals of Patient Care program are able to put the skills they've learned to practical use. During the 2010 - 2011 school year, FNA students volunteered at the ISD's Bert Goens Learning Center, Bronson Nursing and Rehab Center, and did a free blood pressure clinic that was open to the public.



F.I.R.S.T. Robotics: Fourteen students from the Computer Aided Design, Machine Tool, Plastics, Welding, and Programming/Interactive Media programs competed in the 2011 West Michigan F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Regional Competition. To prepare for the competition, students must put into practice the math, science and CTE skills learned through their programs to build and program a robot to complete a specific series of tasks set by the competition organizers.



FCCLA: Students from the Cadet Teacher Academy and Early Childhood Careers and Education programs had the opportunity to participate in the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) student organization. Sixteen students competed at the State event, and all 16 received medals. Three students will go on to participate in the National Leadership Conference in July, 2011.



Junior Auxiliary: Students in the Fundamentals of Patient Care program have the opportunity to learn more about different aspects of health care. By visiting/volunteering at area hospitals, students enhance their classroom training.



CTE College Connections:

Through partnerships with three area community colleges, students enrolled at the Van Buren Technology Center have numerous opportunities to earn direct college credit through either Lake Michigan College (LMC) in Benton Harbor/South Haven, Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC) in Kalamazoo, or Southwestern Michigan College (SMC) in Dowagiac. During the 2010 - 2011 school year, 121 high school students earned over 650 direct college credits through one of these three community colleges. The following Technology Center programs offer direct college credit to qualifying students:

Allied Health/Early College Health Alliance
Business Management and Finance
Cadet Teacher Academy
Computer Aided Design
Computer Networking
Early Childhood Careers and Education

Health Academy
Hospitality Services (off-site)
Law Enforcement
Marketing/Entrepreneurship
Phlebotomy/EKG
Programming/Interactive Media

In addition, the Technology Center also maintains agreements with several colleges/universities for articulated (indirect) credit. Articulated credit is granted based on the policies of the individual college or university. Depending on their CTE program, students have the opportunity to earn articulated credit through either Baker College, Davenport University, Ferris State University, KVCC, LMC, SMC, or the University of Northwestern Ohio.

K-12 Services/Career Pathways:

- 27 centralized CTE programs
- Offer leadership in Michigan's high school redesign for districts in Van Buren County
- New program development
- Coordinate college direct credit programs with Lake Michigan College, Southwestern Michigan College, and Kalamazoo Valley Community College.
- Entrepreneurship curriculum
- Conduct training in portfolio development.
- Comprehensive Guidance Model training
- Coordinate and Complete Federal and State Reporting Data
- Develop and implement Educational Development Plans (EDP's) for 8th/9th grade students.
- Maintain program advisory committees

CTE FACTS 2010 - 2011:

- 915 CTE high school students participated in various major Career Pathway components such as: CTE training, job shadows, and internships/mentoring.
- 80 percent of Van Buren County students participated in the Career Pathways portfolio component.
- 100 percent of CTE completers graduated from high school.
- 64.3 percent of completers are continuing their education. Students use their CTE education as the foundation for four-year college or university degrees.
- 74.1 percent of the CTE completers who are available for work are employed.
- Four students, one from each of the Technology Center's four areas: Information Technology, Physical Technology, Bio Health Technology, and Bio Human Technology were each awarded a \$750 college scholarship.
- Three co-op students were each awarded a \$250 college scholarship for their outstanding performances in the workplace.
- Over 150 business and community members participated on CTE Advisory Committees.
- In partnership with Global Media LLC, the Van Buren Technology Center was selected as a recipient of a Gold Aurora Award for their 2010 marketing video: *A World of Opportunities*.
- In partnership with Global Media LLC, the Van Buren Technology Center was selected as a recipient of a Communicator Award of Distinction for their 2010 marketing video: *A World of Opportunities* in the Film/Video Educational Institutions category.

Services and Programs:

Business Management & Finance: Every year at tax time, students in the Business Management & Finance program shift into high gear. Through the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, students under the supervision of their instructor, provide free income tax preparation to qualifying families. To see if you qualify, or to schedule an appointment for tax preparation, please contact Ron Bishop at 269.539.5279.

Cosmetology: Run by senior students, the Technology Center's full-service salon, *Soon To Be Stylists*, offers the community an affordable alternative to commercial salons, while giving students much needed hands-on experience. Under the supervision of the program's certified instructors, students in the salon have met the State's minimum proficiency and hourly standards to work on clients. The salon is open from mid-September through mid-April on Thursday and Friday during the day, and Thursday evenings. For an appointment, please call 269.539.5331.

Early Childhood Careers & Education (ECCE): The ECCE's Playschool Nursery, open to all children ages three to five, offers a half-day of activities and learning experiences. High school students enrolled in the program gain practical experience by working hands-on with the preschoolers while under the supervision of program instructors and assistants. To enroll your preschool student in the Playschool Nursery, please contact Jan Hansen at 269.539.5316.

Hospitality Services: The Van Buren Technology Center's dining room and facilities are available for meetings and banquets, both large and small. As part of their Hospitality Services training, students learn all aspects of food preparation and catering. They are set to impress, from a buffet luncheon to a sit-down dinner. To book a room for a meeting or banquet, please call 269.539.5352.

Graphic Arts: Printing is the name of the game in Graphic Arts. In this program students learn the entire printing process, from initial design and layout, to the final finished product. Students produce business cards and stationery, brochures, and even screen printed T-shirts. To inquire about Graphic Arts services, please contact Tim Verdries at 269.539.5266.

Plastics: What better way to recognize other's achievements than with a plaque or other service award? With a wide variety of materials at their fingertips, the Plastics program offers engraving services on both acrylic and metal for plaques, awards, and other mementoes. To inquire about these services, please call the Tech Center office at 269.539.5352.

The Van Buren Technology Center has been established as a **VUE** (www.vue.com) testing center since March, 2011. **VUE** is one of two companies that manages industry certification tests around the world. **VUE** testing is available to staff, students and the public. Since opening, over 20 adults have taken a variety of tests including IT, Hospitality, Child Care and Financial Management. As an area **VUE** testing site, the Tech Center provides a convenient location to area residents; the nearest location is Grand Rapids. The Technology Center was also finalizing the contract with **Thompson Prometric**, the second of the two testing companies. Testing services are available from almost all of the Technology Center's programs. Please call David Holmes at 269.539.5264 for additional information.

Collaboration with Business & Industry:

Most, if not all of the Technology Center's programs provide services to area business on a case-by-case basis. The following are provided annually to area business.

VBISD Health Screenings: Each year in February and March, the Technology Center's Health Cluster students and staff offer free health screenings to VBISD staff and employees at the Van Buren County Road Commission and Coca-Cola plant. Screenings include vital signs, height/weight, body mass index (BMI), non-fasting glucose and cholesterol, pulmonary function, and an electrocardiogram. All tests are performed by students under the supervision of their instructors. All personal information is kept strictly confidential.



Habitat for Humanity: In collaboration with Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit, Christian housing ministry, students in the Construction Trades program build a sectional house for the organization each year. Construction takes place on the Technology Center campus within the Construction Trades building. Students working on the Habitat House gain valuable job skills as they assemble the house, starting with its initial design and layout, to the completion of two the sections, which are later moved to their permanent site during the summer months.



“Empower Students to Progress Toward Their Life Goals.”

For additional information, please contact:

**Scott Starkweather
Director
269.539.5345
sstarkweather@vbisd.org**

**Robert Smith
Administrator for Guidance, Placement , & CTE Services
269.539.5325
rsmith@vbisd.org**

**Cindy Kent
Administrator for Curriculum, Instruction, & Professional Development
269.539.5255
ckent@vbisd.org**

**Gary Brown
Dean of Students
269.539.5348
gbrown@vbisd.org**

www.vbisd.org/techcenter



**Van Buren Intermediate School District
Statement of Assurance of Compliance with State and Federal Laws**

The Van Buren Intermediate School District hereby agrees that it will comply with State and Federal Laws prohibiting discrimination, and with all requirements imposed by or pursuant to regulations of the United States Department of Education. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the Van Buren Intermediate School District that no person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, weight, height, marital status, arrest record, genetic information, handicap condition or disability, or any other legally protected characteristic, shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any state or federally funded program or activity for which the Van Buren Intermediate School District is responsible or for which it receives state or federal financial assistance from the Department of Education.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the district's non-discrimination policies:
**Barbara Matthews, Director of Operations and Finance
Van Buren Intermediate School District
490 South Paw Paw Street; Lawrence, MI 49064
269.674.8091**

Printing of this booklet is paid for in part by Perkins grant.