

ACE Mentoring Program

By G. Crimm

The ACE participants have had a flurry of working sessions and visits as they worked on the 2010 CIRT/ACE Design Competition due March 10, 2010 in Washington, DC.

Since December 2009 the participants and mentors have been working on their design project *"Thinking Out of the Box Parking Garage"*. These working sessions have taken them from the CCC library to meetings hosted at the mentor offices of HOK, KAI Design and Build, and TRi Architects.

The St. Louis ACE affiliate made a practice presentation of their design for industry professionals on February 24, 2010. The jurors included Joe Kuss, Deputy Engineer for the City of St. Louis, Craig Hood, counselor with the Carpenters' Joint Apprenticeship Program and Michael Carter, founder of Strategic Building Solutions. Please join us in wishing our team the very best in the competition!



Front row L-R: Donyell Todd, Shaunece Huggins, Timothy Jones and Bridget Wings. Back row L-R: Stephen Lang, Eric Larry, Quindarryl Adams, Brittany Madison, Stephon Somerville, DeAndre Jenkins, Eric Redden, Robert Jordan (Cardinal Ritter student) and Felix Cooley

AmerenUE Skilled Craft Education Program

By G. Crimm



L-R: Michael McAlpine, Verle Clines, AmerenUE Ambassador, Deechea Cleveland, Lavon Williams and Jeramy Johnson.

The AmerenUE Skilled Craft Education Program is in its fourth year at CCC and is one of the most unique training opportunities in the city for high school seniors. The year is off to a great start with 13 participants preparing for lifetime careers. AmerenUE Ambassadors have shared with our students how their careers began with AmerenUE, what it takes to continue employment with the company, mock interviews and how to prepare for the entrance exam. They will meet with the human resource department at AmerenUE's headquarters and visit a power plant.

Verle Clines, a 30 plus years AmerenUE employee, explained to the students how the pumps that produce electricity are maintained. The next visit will allow students hands-on use of welding equipment and the simulated mobile power plant will also be on site. We look forward to another successful year of providing great employment opportunities for CCC graduates!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Excellence Everyday for Every Student!



Gina Washington

Spring is in the air and along with spring comes End of Course Exams. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has identified the following purposes for the exams: measuring student achievement and progress toward post-secondary readiness, identifying students' strengths and weaknesses, communicating expectations for all students, and meeting state/national accountability requirements. End of Course Exams will be given to students enrolled in the following courses: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Applied Communications I, Applied Communications II, Biology, American Government, and American History. We are asking for help from our parents to ensure that your student gets plenty of rest, takes the exam seriously, and arrives on time each day. The assessment

window begins April 22, 2010 and will end on May 13, 2010.

Thanks for your continued support of Construction Careers Center Charter High School *"The Home of the Best Career and Technical Education in St. Louis!"*

With Bobcat Pride,

Mrs. Washington

Student Recruitment

By G. Washington

CCC is currently accepting new students for the 2010-2011 school year. The Second Annual Recruitment Challenge will begin on March 15, 2010. Current CCC students are asked to recruit family members, friends, church members, and neighbors for the upcoming school year. The student and seminar class who recruits the most students will be awarded prizes. The first Recruitment Challenge was successful last year and the students are excited about kicking off this year's challenge. New students may fill out an online application at www.constructioncareerscenter.org or by coming to the school and applying in person. For more information about applying to CCC, interested applicants may contact Mr. Wilson, Vice Principal of Student Services, at 314-588-9991 ext. 102. The best recruitment tool is word of mouth, so we appreciate in advance your future student referrals to Construction Careers Center Charter High School.



Academic Progress

By A. Butler



CCC students in Algebra I and English II recently completed their second round of NorthWest Education Association exams and the results are showing academic growth by many students. The NWEA exams are computer-based assessments given to students up to three times each school year to measure academic growth in math, reading, and language usage. These assessments are gaining in popularity across the nation as they also serve as excellent prediction tools for how students will perform on state standardized tests, which for CCC students will be End of Course Exams from April 22 – May 13. In order to analyze all of the assessment reports generated by the exams, a team of CCC teachers attended a training session along with members of other St. Louis charter schools. They learned best practices in analyzing the data and making meaningful adjustments to their curriculum and lesson plans in order to increase the academic achievement.

Project Lead the Way

By A. Buttler



The Project Lead The Way program at CCC is in full swing for the spring semester as student engagement continues to increase. Mr. Carnes and Ms. Reeder welcomed several representatives from AmerenUE into their classrooms during February, which was Career and Technical Education Month. These types of school-industry partnerships are essential to the ongoing success of the program and give students an opportunity to discuss the real-world connections between their projects and those of industry engineering professionals. Currently, the Introduction to Engineering classes are creating a 3-dimensional model of a train using the Autodesk software installed on each computer. This project challenges the students to use the math, reading, and problem solving skills they have been developing all year to design each part and then put them together “virtually” to build their computer generated models.

Service Learning Project at CCC

By A. Butler

This spring the students in Mr. McGowan’s fourth block construction class are working on an exciting project in collaboration with the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts, Lawrence Group Architects and the EarthWays Center. Every other day from March through April, volunteers from these groups will be visiting CCC to offer workshops inspired by Gordon Matta-Clark’s *Garbage Wall*, which is the current exhibition at The Pulitzer. These students will participate in a cross-curriculum learning unit based on principles of both art and construction as they take on different roles (artist, community activist, environmental researcher, and architect) in order to design and build their own structures. Early activities have included creative team building activities that have the students actively engaged in their learning. More information about the Pulitzer’s Transformation series and how the CCC project fits into the overall service learning project is found at <http://mattaclark.pulitzerarts.org/transformation/garbage-wall/>.



A Garbage Wall workshop.

Urban Education Improvement Conference

By J. McAfee

On Saturday, March 6, 2010, the Construction Careers Center hosted its first educational conference. CCC’s Urban Education Improvement Conference mission was to establish a forum to open a dialogue with other educational professionals, CCC parents and students, as well as the community at large to discuss educational improvement strategies.

The list of panel members leading discussions were primarily CCC faculty and staff, with sessions also held by members of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Meltdown Monday’s Hip Hop Health Initiative, and the Pulitzer Foundation. Session topics included: Creating an Environment Conducive to Learning; Cultivating and Maintaining a Diverse Learning Environment; and Mentoring: A Proven Way to Help Kids, just to name a few.

The outcome expected was to begin a dialogue that hopefully will lead to more discussions and actions for improving education, including recognizing the obstacles and helping to establish and maintain resources to improve educational success like ones practiced at CCC. The response from attendees was overwhelmingly positive.



General Session of the Urban Education Improvement Conference