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Journal of the WTEA

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Spring 2011  
Volume 50 Number 3







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Cover design by: **Howard Roloff, 116 S. Morris St., Stoughton, WI 53589, hroloff1@netzero.com**



*Interface* is the journal of the **WTEA**. It is published and mailed from Stoughton, Wisconsin three times a year and is distributed to members of the **WTEA**. Articles for publication should be sent to: Doug MacKenzie, *Interface* Editor, 960 Yuma Circle, Stoughton, WI 53589, [doug@wtea-wis.org](mailto:doug@wtea-wis.org).

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## What's Next?

by Pete McConnell, WTEA President

Have you ever watched an enthusiastic puppy chase its tail? It's kind of funny at first and at some point you might catch yourself actually cheering the dog on, hoping he is actually successful! I have often described the journey of teaching Technology Education as a profession that is much the same as a dog chasing its own tail. No matter how hard you try and how dedicated you think you are, you never really catch up! Or do you...?

In the middle of my career, there was a huge explosion from Industrial Arts moving to Industrial Education and before the dust had settled, the powerfully academic academies of our time were suggesting that Technology Education was right around the corner. The products that once squeaked out of the manufacturing forefront were now flying about with blistering speed! We went from 8 tracks, to cassette decks, to Walk-Mans, to digital music in a blink of an eye! A hands-on traditionalist like me could be heard proclaiming, "I'm not worried about those personal computers. What makes this world go around is hard work, dedication, and a trade skill done better than the next person" (I probably said "guy" back then!).

Little did I know then, at what pace I would start chasing my tail as I realized that the longer I chased it, the further I would be left behind! I have never been known to be a stick in the mud, but I have also always been the pinch hitter or the "clean-up" person in our technology education department. I did not have the luxury of sitting back on my haunches in a comfort zone and watch the world whizz by at lightning speed! I will admit, however, that as I aged and matured, I still contended and professed not to "throw out the baby with the bath water!"

As I stop and look at the current climate of Technology and Engineering Education in Wisconsin, I think it is necessary to move forward like the puppy that can't stop to catch its breath! I'm still chasing! Holy Buckets! I still have not caught my breath! I'm defining and mastering relevant, cost effective, and attractive curriculum, or deciding what offerings will work with core competencies. Is it bird houses made by hand or should we develop an automated manufacturing system to crank them out accurately and efficiently? How does all of this fit into the

current educational reform discussions? Is this the time to catch my breath?

Maybe we need to pause and reflect upon where we have been. Appreciate the positives and learn from the mistakes. Celebrate the victories and gather the tools we used. Dig in a bit and get ready for the next round of chasing the tail! The political climate, the financial challenges, and the reforms in education will overshadow the advances in technology for a short time. However, much like the tragedies in Japan required more news coverage than the politics in the Midwest for a time; the reality is and will always be clear.

The quality of education we offer to the students of this great state starts with the love and passion that exists in our souls! It is the same passion that drives that puppy into circle after circle! I know we will catch our tail soon! I know it with every fiber of passion and dedication that exists inside of me! And if I do not catch it today, I know well that I will tomorrow. And for what it's worth, if it is not tomorrow, I will keep trying because I know how IMPORTANT it really is AND how many children count on me catching it to make their lives make sense!

It takes much energy to chase one's tail. It probably helps to be in command of thought and mind even though it appears as though the world is spinning out of control. I know that when my emotional state is questionable it is crucial for me to focus on lowering my stress, eating and sleeping right, and get enough regenerative exercise. Gee, that sounds a little like something Kay Francis would say. Take care of yourself and the strength you possess in mind and body will guide you in your endeavors.

Go ahead! Keep up the chase. Look for the positive in everything you do. Create opportunities. Celebrate the victories, and invite everyone you can to share in the circus! It is great fun to chase! Take time to catch your breath and evaluate where you are. Share what you have learned with others. Encourage others around you that are chasing too! I hope you catch your tail some day, but not for too long. There is more going on in the journey and we all need to catch on! Good luck with your journey and stay in touch with the WTEA. Let us know how we can get involved with your goals and dreams!



## WTEA BOARD NEWS

### Winter 2010-2011 Board of Directors Meeting Highlights & Summary

The WTEA Board met at the Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells on Friday and Saturday, January 14 and 15. Below is a summary of the Board's activities. Members can receive a full copy of the meeting minutes by sending your request to Joe Ciontea, Executive Director.

- New Board members introduced included Ken Bremer, (temporary secretary treasurer; Jesse Domer, Awards Chair; and Blake Greisinger, new secretary/treasurer following the spring conference.
- Greg Groom and Ryan Ubersox presented information on the licensing discussion at DPI – primarily involving issues in flexibility in licensing.
- Steve Johnston updated us on conference presenters, particularly keynoters Humorist Kay Frances, and Tim Johnson – Construction Consultant.
- Doug MacKenzie discussed the Interface. End of March is the deadline for Interface. Doug is always looking for articles!
- Bryan Albrecht moved that the president appoint the Student Showcase Project Committee for WACTE and provide an annual budget of \$1,000.00. Seconded by Greg Hedrichs. Motion passed.
- Greg Groom moved that the amount of \$1,000 be awarded in support of the 100th anniversary of the

Technical College System to be held at Gateway Technical College. Motion seconded by Mike Beranek. Motion carried.

- Recommendation of Steve Meyer for Teacher of the Year. High School Program of the year goes to Hartford High School. Awards of Excellence go to Luke Siebert of Oostburg High, and Rich Hemler of Portage High. Greg Groom will receive ITEEA educator of the year. Pulaski High School will receive High School Program of the Year at ITEEA.
- Discussion was held on the constitution and the need for changes due to items being confusing and out of date. Bryan Albrecht moved that recommendations of the Constitution changes as discussed be forwarded to the membership with approval by the board for a vote at the annual meeting. Seconded by Sylvia Tiala. Motion passed.
- WTEA will have a vendor booth and work with ITEA on promotion. Motion made by Bryan Albrecht to provide \$500 per person for up to 6 board member volunteers to work the booth at ITEEA. Seconded by Steve Meyer.

Respectfully submitted – Ken Bremer, WTEA Secretary/Treasurer

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## District #2

*Tom Martin*



Here's hoping by the time you read this that some signs of spring are upon us. District #2 held its final meeting on Tuesday, February 8 at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. WTEA sponsored a great meal for both current WTEA professional and student members.

I gave a brief overview of the upcoming state conference encouraging everyone to attend. All 18 people that attended indicated they would be coming! The fact that more current and future teachers from District #2 attend the conference is a solid testament to the depth and breadth of offerings at WTEA.

Dr. Charlie Knox gave an "energizing" presentation on his work with students on alternative energy sources. He began by taking people through the steps to build a windmill. He provided several key insights that only experience could share. He then showed a mockup of one particular prop he and students worked on.

After that, colleagues were left to have time to network with one another before venturing out into the cold. It was a great meeting prior to the conference.

It was another great year and I look forward to providing updates as well as helping host workshops again next year!

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## District #5

*Brian Schiltz*



A fantastic time was had by all who attended the 42nd annual WTEA conference this year. The eyes of the world are upon us, nevertheless, we continue moving forward doing what it is that we do, influencing and preparing the future of the world. The times we are entering are buzzing with excitement and uncertainty. You hold the key to take responsibility for the way you react to this change. Nelson Mandela is quoted saying, **"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."** That education doesn't start in the classroom; it starts with you and me. Continue doing the great things that you do in Building Wisconsin Strong and good things will happen.

## District #6

*Phil Bickelhaupt*



Obviously this spring the political happenings in Madison have brought much turmoil to the world of education and beyond. Unfortunately, things in the world of education will be in a "wait and see" mode for some time. However, at this year's Spring WTEA conference I had the opportunity to be

involved in some great sessions and had great conversations with great educators. It was nice to get away from the turmoil for a bit and focus on what matters and that is our students and classrooms.

For those of you at the conference you witnessed firsthand all the great things happening in Technology and Engineering education across our state. If you weren't able to attend, I will sum up for you the three most important topics that I took away from this conference.

1. Be ready! Our WTEA president spoke about this at the general business meeting. Being ready could mean a variety of different things to different people. To me, it means be ready to justify what you do. It means be ready to CHANGE. It means don't just be happy with the status quo, go beyond! Promote your program and its outcomes. We truly will need to BE READY for anything.

2. Virtual education and technology in the classrooms was another topic. Numerous sessions focused on the changing landscapes in our classrooms. Whether you agree or not, virtual schools are happening. You need to look into how virtual schools and courses might impact your own programs. Find out who in your school is taking virtual courses right now. Find out if this is something you may want to pursue or not. Bottom line is you need to BE READY for virtual schools and courses. Take a look and see what they are all about. To help you get started, take a look at <http://www.wisconsinvirtualschool.org/>.

3. The third topic was STEM education and collaboration. Some argue that STEM may be the future. Students could come to school for STEM and complete other courses virtually. You need to see if this might be a fit in your school or if the traditional program is best.

Of course there were many other great topics and discussions. For now, hang in there and we will weather the storm as best we can. If you live in the Mid-State Tech College area, please let me know. The best way to reach me is via e-mail at [phillip.bickelhaupt@wrps.org](mailto:phillip.bickelhaupt@wrps.org).



# WTEA PRESIDENT-ELECT

## The Time Is Now

by Greg Groom, President-Elect

Greetings all and I'm hoping that our professional conference gave people new insight into what is new and the upcoming changes that may be coming to our profession. I have assumed a new role in our association as President-elect. My tutelage is under President Pete McConnell and our Executive Director Joe Ciontea, the heart and soul of the WTEA. What most members see when we come together at the conference is the endless hours put in by Steve Johnston, Program Coordinator and Jeff Dowd, Conference Coordinator. Both of these gentlemen will say it is the Board of Directors that helps to pull it all together. It is really a team effort that works well to put on one of the best Technology & Engineering Education Conferences in the United States.

All of the uncertainties that we face in our livelihoods today are daring and challenging. My stepping up as President-elect of the WTEA is going to be challenging and exciting, and I will need the support of the great members on the Board of Directors. In the near future our profession may have some new requests and cut backs. As an individual, your program, in all likelihood, may not look the same in five years. But as a well organized group with strong public relations awareness, we can still do what we all love and cherish. At no other time in my thirty plus years in this profession is a strong, well organized WTEA more crucial.

It all starts with a true inward look into yourself to find what it means to be a true professional. We all know how outside politics can change our livelihoods. In some cases we have done everything right and still we meet

adversity. So, after doing a true gut check and seeing that you can no longer do everything yourself, you have to ask what other things will help your students learn knowing you will have fewer assets in the future. We all know you must keep your administration in the loop on all the good things going on in your shop. Invite not only the Administration team into your lab, but ask the school board members in also. This year at our conference we had several school board members in attendance. They only had praise and good things to say about the conference and the professionalism they saw. Ask your school board and administrators to accompany you to next year's conference.

Looking outward we all need to form a better local group of Technology & Engineering Educators. As a WTEA District Director for almost 10 years I saw little interest in doing things on the local level. But actually a lot of good can come from sharing ideas and concepts on the local level. But this needs to start with YOU making it happen within your District.

The next part of the puzzle is having local industry and labor as a very active part of your program. It could be donating scrap metal for your welding program or providing grants in your next large purchase. Get those people involved into your program. Nothing sells your program like an active SkillsUSA chapter. Immeasurable good can come from this approach. A strong program is sure to get help from the major employers and employees. If you have a history with SkillsUSA, then how about an alumni chapter as another voice to help you out.

To sum things up, the time is now! The time is now to become involved with your students and your program. The time is now to become active in your district with fellow tech ed instructors. The time is now to become active at the state level with the WTEA and SkillsUSA.



*Check out the WTEA Home Page*  
***[www.wtea-wis.org](http://www.wtea-wis.org)***

## The 43rd Annual WTEA Conference and Trade Show

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### Who is this guy anyway?

*by Mike Cattelino, WTEA Vice President*

The decision for me to put my name into consideration for the position of VP of the WTEA board was not one that I took lightly, made on a whim, nor accepted without humility and honor. I could have very easily used the usual excuses not to accept this responsibility, but that would have been the easy way out I believe. Ultimately, a WTEA colleague told me that it is not necessarily what license you hold but what you believe in and what you do that has gotten you to this point. That wisdom was the tipping point for me to move forward with accepting the president's nomination for the position of vice president.

I want to take this time to introduce myself to the membership that may not know who I am, what I do, and what I believe in. I have a very simple history.

I am a:

Farmer by BIRTH

Machinist by TRADE

Educator by CHOICE

The story behind that history is simple. I grew up on a small dairy farm west of Hurley, Wisconsin, in the small town of Saxon. I am and always will be a proud Midget from Hurley High School. Yes, their mascot is indeed a midget. Simple upbringing, great family, and great memories are what shaped me to this point. My parents still reside on the farm and operate a road-side stand during the limited growing season in northern Wisconsin. I have a brother residing in Jefferson, Wisconsin, a sister in Slayton, Minnesota, and a sister in Los Angeles. I have resided in Appleton since 1988. I will be celebrating my 22nd wedding anniversary this year and have three great kids.

I earned a technical diploma in Machine Tool Operations from Indianhead Technical College, completed a Machinist Apprenticeship at Fox Valley Technical Col-

lege (FVTC) and spent fourteen years as a skilled machinist at two businesses. When I left industry to become an educator in 1999, my specialty was building production tooling such as welding and machining fixtures, automation cells, etc. The variety of machining, assembly, and team skills gained from those years will always remain at the core of my abilities.

When the opportunity to become an educator came to my attention, I was not hesitant to act. I had no doubt that I could teach the students in the Machine Tool program at FVTC many aspects of the trade that would make them successful. After teaching six years, an opportunity to move into a leadership position came about. I continue in that roll today with responsibilities for manufacturing and agriculture programs at FVTC.

My connection with the WTEA started around 2001. Since then I have been proud to become a board member as the technical college representative. What has been the most rewarding to me since then is all of the connections that I have been able to make with the members of the WTEA. It is exciting to watch this group of diverse educators in action.

Where can I take the WTEA? Nowhere without the membership's involvement and commitment. Those that know me understand that I will make every effort to do what it takes to make sure that the mission of the WTEA is carried out in a productive and efficient manner. We certainly are in an interesting time and that will bring new challenges for sure. My goal is to look beyond the present and see where things can be when my 6-year old graduates from high school. I look forward to the years to come and will surely call on many of you for advice and support, as I learn the intricacies of the position that I have been appointed to.



### Check your mailing label now!

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Your subscription to the *Interface* will expire with the Fall 2011 issue unless your dues are paid beyond 2011.

## WTEA SECRETARY/TREASURER

### Spring Conference a Welcome Respite

by Blake Greisinger, WTEA Secretary/Treasurer

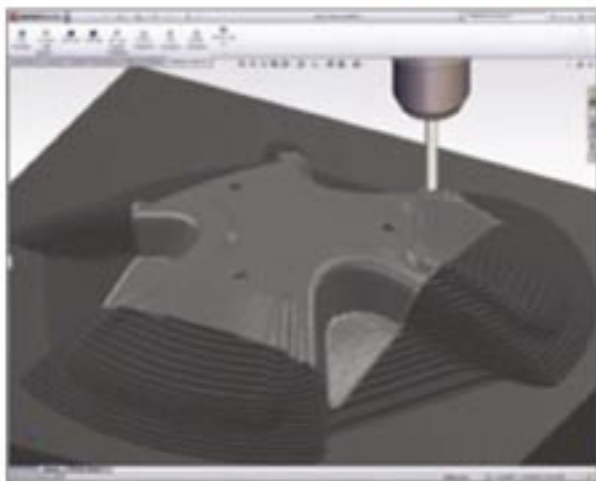
While we are indeed living in unprecedented times when many of us are seeing our profession vilified and marginalized, it is incredible, although not surprising, that the Spring Conference can seem like a welcome respite from the storm. Over two days I had the privilege to witness professionals who care deeply about their students, their teaching, and the experiences they provide in the classroom. These qualities serve as a strong reminder that regardless if we teach in a classroom, in a lab or on the shop floor what we do has merit and value. That value is not to be underestimated, as I learned during the Presidents Dinner, when we were invited to share stories about classroom experiences both as students and as teachers. As stories were shared it served as



a cathartic experience to be cleansed of the overwhelming politics, if only for a few moments, to be reminded that the impact that we as teachers have on our students leaves marks which stand the test of time.

For me, the conference served as a beautiful reminder of what we do and why we do it. Seeing knowledgeable presenters who are willing to share their experiences and programs with us so that we can share in their success, and witnessing incredible student projects, and playing host to high tech vendors gave me a renewed passion for Technology Education. We all know that tough times are ahead, but with our continuing passion for students, technology, and education, I'm sure that we will continue to bring excellence to the state of Wisconsin.

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## What Does the WTEA Provide?

### A Strong Organization

The WTEA . . .

- is financially sound.
- has a governing Board of Directors with district representatives.
- holds meetings of the Executive Board in the Fall, Winter, Spring & Summer.
- publishes the Interface three times a year.
- has a professional exchange with DPI.
- established and supports the WTEA Foundation.
- works with the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- establishes strong vendor relationships and contracts for advertising and exhibits.
- maintains a website to communicate and share curriculum.

### Services to Members

The WTEA . . .

- conducts a yearly business meeting for all members at the conference.
- works to investigate, develop and share relevant and rigorous curriculum.
- is involved in gender research and works towards gender equity.
- provides recognition for achievement and excellence at the Awards Program and Banquet.
- sponsors appropriate and important conference program topics and presenters.
- publishes professional articles in the Interface.
- actively works with DPI on teacher licensing.
- provides workshops and training sessions.
- provides encouragement for instructors and students.
- provides vendors a place to showcase equipment at the annual Conference & Trade Show.
- supports ALL Technology and Engineering teachers.
- strives to produce and maintain the best technology educators in the world!
- provides assistance to align with Wisconsin Model Academic Standards.
- helps to provide data to support decision making.

### Services to Students

The WTEA . . .

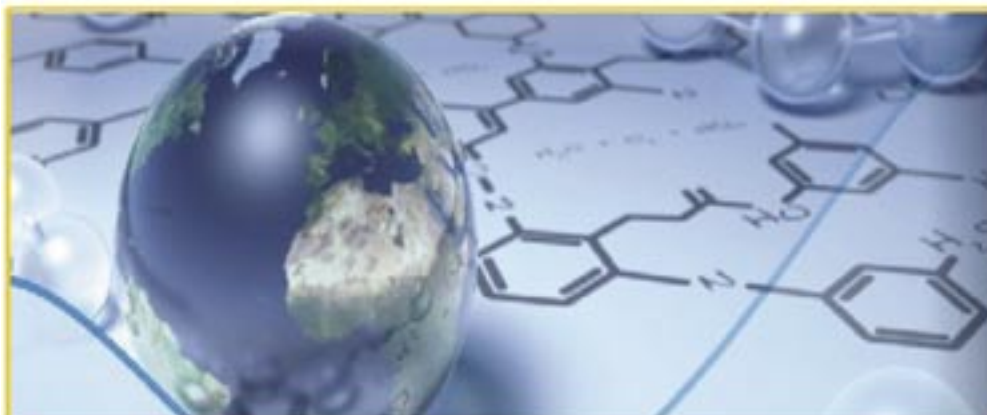
- develops and maintains strong relationships and programs with teacher training institutions.
- financially supports a scholarship program.
- sponsors a Project Showcase of student work.
- supports and works with student organizations.
- strives to serve all students.

### Services to Community and Other Organizations

The WTEA . . .

- encourages the members to involve their classes in community service.
- establishes industry connections and resources for professional advice from business and industry.
- established strong technical college connections.
- supports important curricular programs such as KEEP, STEM, and PLTW.
- supports CTE and other related conferences.





# 2011 Wisconsin STEM Summit

June 12-14, 2011  
Kalahari Resort & Convention  
Center  
Wisconsin Dells, WI

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## SHARE

## INNOVATE

## LEAD



Pre-Conference Sunday, June 12, 2011  
Noon-4:00p.m.

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Peter Pappas, President, Edteck

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Kenneth Wesson  
Educational Consultant, Neuroscience  
*"How Children Learn: Research and Inquiry-  
based Science"*



Kevin Honeycutt  
Teacher, Technology Integration Specialist  
*Inspiring through his passion and  
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## SkillsUSA Leadership Conference Successful

*by Cogan Kirchenwitz, Pardeeville High School, SkillsUSA State Treasurer*

The 2010 Wisconsin SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference was held September 30th to October 1st in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. On the first day, students had the chance to become officers or serve on committees in their respective “false” chapters. General members learned about basic parliamentary procedure, while officers learned about their specific duties.

During the next session, committees had to work to fulfill their given roles. For example, the Ways and Means committee had to plan and carry out a fund-raiser, using membership dues to buy supplies. Other students also used this time to work on their Professional Development Program workbooks or to strive for the Statesmen Leadership Award, an award given to members for presenting the required knowledge to certain advisors and state officers about SkillsUSA.



After lunch, students headed out to the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station for the community service project. Opportunities to help included busting up concrete, tearing apart a deck, changing out screws in bunk beds, or carrying firewood. It was rewarding to see so much done by so many dedicated SkillsUSA members.

However, that day there was fun to be had too. Following the community service project, that evening a dance was held where students could hold their fund-raisers. One creative group decided to raise funds for their chapter by offering conference-goers the chance to pie an advisor of their choice in the face. It was enjoyable for students to kick back a little during the conference. The

remainder of the dance was also exciting and fun. It felt good to cut loose after a day of hard work.



The next day, students were introduced to some competitions that any SkillsUSA member will be able to compete in this year. Every student had signed up for one of the following contests: Job Interview, Job Skill Demonstration, Chapter Business Procedure, Opening/Closing Ceremonies, Prepared Speech, Extemporaneous Speaking, Community Service, Promotional Bulletin Board, or Outstanding Chapter Display. I had the experience of judging the Job Interview competition at the conference. When I judged, I saw potential in many applicants. I felt like with some practice, a few applicants could achieve success at the District or even State level.

Even so, at the Awards ceremony not everyone could receive first place, but I think all attendees enjoyed themselves, learned a lot, and built a foundation for leadership to bring back to their chapters. They had all become Champions at Work.





## 100th Anniversary of Wisconsin's Technical College System

*information provided by Bryan Albrecht, President of Gateway Technical College*

Gateway Technical College is hosting the 100th anniversary of Wisconsin's Technical College System. On July 12, 2011, Gateway along with representatives from all 16 technical colleges will gather on the shores of Lake Michigan at Gateway's Racine campus to celebrate the 100 year history of technical education in Wisconsin. Events are planned throughout the day starting with a centennial walk from Racine's first continuation school to the current Racine campus. More information on the 100th anniversary events can be found at [www.gtc.edu](http://www.gtc.edu). The WTEA has been a strong advocate to the Wisconsin Technical College System and will be represented in the event by the WTEA board of directors. All technology education teachers and administrators are invited to attend and participate in the celebration.

As the Wisconsin Technical College System celebrates its 100th Anniversary in 2011, it will be our District, and particularly Racine Campus, that will receive the spotlight as the first publicly funded, compulsory vocational continuation school in the state and the country.

1911 legislation, fostered by Wisconsin Governor Francis E. McGovern, was passed July 11. The legislation created:

- Compulsory attendance
- State Board of Industrial Education
- Local Board of Industrial Education in municipalities over 5,000 population
- Local taxing authority by the Continuation Schools
- Boards' membership to consist of employers and employees of Wisconsin industry.



The first school in the new system was the Racine Continuation School, founded in 1911. Kenosha Continuation School was started the following year.

A Racine Journal Times article, published November 9, 1936—the day before the Racine Vocational School (as it was then called) celebrated its 25th Anniversary, highlighted a three-day open house featuring student demonstrations of what was taught at the school. The article explains a key difference in that this opened up the opportunity to all youth to continue their education, since numbers of those who were able to continue to high school, let alone college, were quite small. Students were not required to attend school past age 14. H.E. Miles (title not available) and then Racine school superintendent Burton E. Nelson sold the idea to Governor McGovern of compulsory education to better prepare youth for their future job or career. A primary driver creating the vocational continuation school appeared to be lack of student engagement and/or finances. According to a Stout Institute historical report in 1932 about the beginnings of the state system, it was felt that students would become less “restless” if they could see a job as reward for their schooling. Racine lost no time after the passage of legislation and started classes less than four months later at the Christie Building on the west side of Wisconsin Street, south of 7th. Classes were held 7:00am - 9am and from 4:00pm - 6:00pm. As course offerings grew, they were parceled off to different locations until consolidated at the Racine Vocational School on 800 Center Street, which was its location in the 30s at the time of the system's 25th anniversary.







CELEBRATING

100 years

1911-2011

1911: Racine Continuation School begins classes just weeks after state legislation is adopted.  
1912: Kenosha establishes its Continuation School.  
1917: Federal Smith-Hughes Act is passed establishing the federal government as a partner with the states by financially supporting vocational training of its citizens. Wisconsin lawmakers conformed with the act by removing vocational program control from the office of the state Superintendent of Public Instruction's office and creating a separate board called the State Board of Vocational Education.

1965: Kenosha County established the first Vocational, Technical and Adult Education District under state law, which then allowed district formation beyond city limits established July 1, 1966.  
1967: Walworth County joins Kenosha's vocational district to form District 6.  
1967: Racine continuation school expands beyond the city limits July 1, to include all of Racine County.  
1971: A new state Vocational, Technical, and Adult Education District was established that encompassed all of Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth counties.  
1972: The name "Gateway" replaces District 6 as the district's official state system name and is known as Gateway Technical Institute.  
1987: State Board approved changing name from technical institutes to technical colleges. Gateway Technical College is born.



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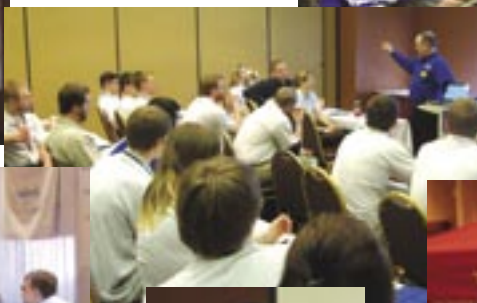
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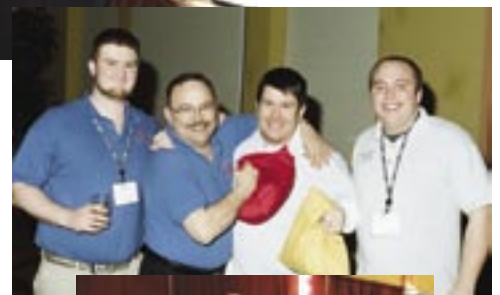


March 10 & 11, 2011

Chula Vista Resort - Wisconsin Dells

# ***“Generating Innovation”***

## **Highlights**



***“Building Wisconsin Strong”*** March 8 & 9, 2012



# AWARDS

## 2011 WTEA Awards

Presented at the Awards Banquet March 10, 2011

### WTEA 25 Year Award

*"For 25 Years of Service to Education"*



Bryan Albrecht  
Kevin Hach  
Jeff Jurisch  
Pete McConnell  
Larry Mulder

Dennis Flathom  
Doug Kugler  
Joseph Lass  
Francis Steck  
Ronald Rost

• • •

### WTEA Future Teacher Educator Scholarship

Matthew Hansen, UW-Stout

• • •

### WTEA Award of Excellence

*"For Exemplary Achievement in Technology Education"*

Rich Hemler - Portage High School  
Luke Siebert - Oostburg High School

• • •

### ITEEA Teacher Excellence Award

*Presented on March 26, 2011 in Minneapolis, MN*

Greg Groom - Badger High School, Lake Geneva

• • •

### ITEEA Program Excellence Award

*Presented on March 26, 2011 in Minneapolis, MN*

Pulaski High School

### WTEA Special Recognition Award

*"For Dedicated Leadership and Service to the WTEA"*

Al Gomez, Ph.D. - WTEA President 2008 - 2010

• • •

### High School Program of the Year

*"Outstanding High School Tech Ed Program"*



Hartford Union High School

• • •

### Technology Educator of the Year

*"For Outstanding Contributions to Tech Ed"*

Steve Meyer  
Brillion High School



• • •

### Special Thanks

The WTEA would like to thank First Technologies, Inc.  
for donating the watches presented to the  
25 Year Award recipients.

# EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

## WTEA Technology Educator of the Year

### Steve Meyer

*The WTEA is proud to honor Steve Meyer as our 2011 Technology Educator of the Year. Congratulations!*

#### Education

- Bachelor of Arts: Physics, Mathematics  
Luther College
- Masters of Science: Technology Education  
University of Wisconsin Stout
- Working towards : Applied Engineering Degree  
Fox Valley Technical College



#### Teaching Positions

- Brillion School District Brillion, WI  
2004 - current
  - High School and Middle School  
Technology and Engineering Teacher
- UW-Stout, Menomonie, WI  
2003 and summers
  - Summer Class Teacher:  
Technology Education Department
- UW-Green Bay, Green Bay, WI
  - Summer Class Teacher:  
Digital Technology: Multimedia in the Classroom
- Nekoosa School District, Nekoosa, WI  
2000-2002
  - High School  
Technology and Engineering Teacher

#### Other Positions

- Current - T.L.C. Solutions L.L.C., Brillion, WI
  - Owner: Technological Literacy Curriculum Solutions  
Educational Consulting Company
- Current - Ariens Company, Brillion, WI
  - College Internship Coordinator/Consultant

#### Accomplishments

- Keynote Speaker, Pennsylvania's Technology Education Association
- Keynote Speaker, Florida Technology Education Association
- Presenter, National Academy of Engineering, K-12 Engineering Education Summit
- Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Fellowship Award Winner
- National Academy of Engineering Research Assistant
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Lemelson Excite Award Recipient
- International Technology Education Association Board of Directors 2007 - 2009
- Wisconsin Technology Education Association: District Representative
- Review Board Participant, Companion Standards for the Standards for Technological Literacy:  
Content for the Study of Technology
- Fox Valley Technical College "New Technology Teacher of the Year Award"
- Channel 7 "Seven On Our Side" Innovative Teacher Recognition Recipient
- Author, ITEA CATTS: Center for the Advancement of Teaching Technology and Science Technological Systems
- Lead Teacher, NCETE: National Center for Engineering and Technology Education
- Curriculum Writer: Project Probase, Illinois State University
- Curriculum Writer: Lynde and Harry Bradley Technology High School
- Presenter, Davenport One, Economic Development Conference
- Building of the Ariens Technology and Engineering Education Center

# WTEA PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

## 2011 WTEA High School Program of the Year Hartford Union High School

At Hartford Union High School it is our mission, with supportive businesses and industries, to prepare all students to adapt and function in an ever-changing technological society, develop employability skills & provide the transition from school to ultimate gainful employment.

Our current facility is made up of eight basic areas. They include Automotive, Graphic Arts, Drafting, Project Lead the Way (PLTW), Wood Products, Construction, Machine Shop, and Welding/Metal Fabrication. Each area has some of the latest equipment so students can engage in real life projects that they may encounter in their future employment.

In our tech ed department we have two computer labs. These labs are used to teach several classes for us including; Drafting, CAD Engineering, Architecture, Intro to Engineering Design (IED), Principles of Engineering (POE), Civil Engineering and Architecture (CEA) and soon Digital Electronics (DE). Each lab has twenty-five powerful computers with several industrial grade software packages to support the classes above.

The Auto shop was built to resemble an automotive diagnostic and maintenance facility. It contains five automotive lifts and the current diagnostic equipment to help students solve customer described issues. Students are able to accomplish tire and suspension work with a laser alignment machine and rack. They also can perform tire installation and balancing along with brakes service if needed. Over the years students have performed many different maintenance activities from electronic troubleshooting, routine brakes and suspension service to major engine and transmission overhaul.

The Graphics Arts facility has five basic areas. It has



a classroom, computer lab, printing area, darkroom and photo studio. The computer lab has twelve high powered PC's. The printing area has two screen printing carousels with a dryer, a

three sink film development area, a two color offset press, three offset presses which will soon be upgraded to new presses to be donated by Quad Graphics. Quad Graphics has been a long time partner in the graphics area. They were instrumental in starting the graphics program in 1994 by donating funding for the creation of the facility. They continue to be very generous to make sure the program stays current.



The Wood Products lab was designed to introduce students to the custom cabinet and millwork market. Students are instructed and work with a variety of products to develop desirable skills to pursue a career in the wood products industry. Entry level students focus on proper machine usage while more advanced students design, manufacture, finish, and install residential furniture and cabinetry. Wood Products students are able to create professional grade products in a well equipped lab including a sliding table saw and a CNC point to point router.

An advertisement for G-W Publisher. At the top, it says "Content for SUCCESS" in large red letters, with "Accurate | Authoritative | Dynamic" below it. In the center, there are three book covers: "Video Game Design FOUNDATIONS", "AutoCAD and its Applications COMPREHENSIVE 2011", and "CNC Machining". At the bottom, it says "Choose G-W the best products for Technical / Trades / Technology" and "G-W PUBLISHER Goodheart-Willcox Publisher www.g-w.com • 800.323.0440".



The Construction lab is set-up with several workstations that are designed for the students to do a variety of construction related activities. On the outside of the



workstations, students will install house wrap, window, soffit & fascia, siding, and roofing materials. On the inside, students will do some basic wiring, hang dry-wall, tape out the dry-wall, hang a door, install door casing and base trim. The rest of the

shop is large enough for the students to build some small sheds to experience building floor systems, walls and roof systems. We have a full complement of tools, air compressors, nail guns, saws and ladders to build a home.

In the Machine Shop lab, students are provided the opportunity of broadening their general knowledge and skills in the tool and die industry. Students learn advanced machining techniques on the following machines; five surface grinders, four vertical mills, seven CNC lathes, four CNC milling machines, two CNC machining centers and a wire EDM. The classroom has eight computers for students to learn Mastercam and Milltronics software for design and programming of CNC equipment.

The Metal Fabrication shop is set up like an industrial replica of a job shop. This way, students who may become engineers can understand the equipment available and constraints that may affect their design. This concept



also helps the future school-to-work student understand what all goes into a real product and how significant their job is in the manufacturing system. Our system

starts in the classroom where there are seven computers with CAD software on them that can download to equipment in the shop. The shop has an overhead door for shipping and receiving, a crane for material handling, a CNC laser and plasma cutting machines, a CNC brake press, welding robot, and five welding booths for hand welding applications.

The Welding shop is setup like a training facility. It has twenty welding booths around the outside of the shop. All twenty are setup with DC welding inverters that can stick weld, MIG weld and TIG weld. Five of the twenty welding booths also incorporate oxy-fuel equipment. In the middle of the shop there is a teaching station set up with a DC welding inverter and a plasma cutter. This is where the teacher can perform demonstrations and students can get a close-up look at their learning tasks. Sheet metal equipment finishes up the shop including shears, benders, notcher, slip roll, and spot welders.

Thankfully, our facility is now current, a long way from where we were in 1997. We have been blessed with community support for TEE education, but the biggest reason for our success is our local industrial support. These industries continually donate material, equipment, and technical support. In an effort to keep our facility and curriculum current we have created a TEE advisory group to keep us in touch with the changes in industry such as industrial trends, new equipment updates, and change in job requirements.

## Co-curricular Activities

### SkillsUSA

Hartford Union High School SkillsUSA has been active since 2005 competing at District, State, and National Leadership and Skills Competitions. The chapter also attends the fall leadership conference. Currently there are 25 student members and three professional TEE staff members. This past year, six students qualified in four events at the National Leadership and Skills Competitions, and one student was elected Vice-President for the State of Wisconsin.

### Bots IQ

Hartford Union High School began competing in Bots IQ battle bots in 2008. In spring of 2009, we took 1st place in the Wisconsin Bots IQ competition and also took best design award. This bot then competed at the National Bots IQ competition at Mall of America in Minneapolis, MN and took 12th place. Three TEE staff members are advisors of Bots IQ.

### FIRST Robotics

Hartford Union High School began a FIRST Robotics club in 2001 and has continued to compete each year since. Two TEE staff members oversee the manufacturing of the robot with cooperation from community members who volunteer their expertise to the project.

*(continued on page 20)*

## Hartford Union High School *(continued from page 19)*

### Community Service Activities

#### VISION Program

The VISION (Vocational Instruction Supporting Individual Occupational Needs) class built homes for Habitat for Humanity in 2008-09 and 2009-10. This activity obviously provided a new home for families with limited means in the city of Hartford.



The VISION class is presently in its 19th year of building homes in Hartford. This program works cooperatively with the Hartford Rotary, Hartford Chamber of Commerce, local industry and of course students at Hartford Union High School.

The VISION class will be constructing a 14' high and 68' long scoreboard for the 2011 U.S. Amateur and 2017 U.S. Open. Both tournaments will be hosted by Erin Hills golf course in Hartford.



#### Spring Sale

Each year in the metal fabrication classes students design and manufacture lawn art items which are sold at the spring sale. All proceeds go to charitable organizations or donated back to HUHS.

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## Oh, to be Young and Hungry! WTEA Builds Strong Relationships with Students and New Teachers

*by Pete McConnell, WTEA President*

### New Teacher Workshop - UW-Platteville April 8th and 9th, 2011

As you may know, the WTEA has sponsored several new teacher seminars during the summer months and New Teacher “Boot Camps” at our annual Spring Conference for many years. The programs were intended to give new professionals a voice to ask questions and get assistance on troubling issues that created challenges for them in the classroom or laboratory. Vendors, veteran teachers, industrial practitioners, DPI, and WTEA members would stop into these seminars and offer a kind word of encouragement and maybe drop off a business card with the promise of future support. The evaluations from the workshop participants have always been appreciative and complimentary.

There has been an expansion of interest shown in the past couple of years in addition to the conference activities. Students from the Stout and Platteville campuses have reached out to communicate with the WTEA board without the immediate directives of their program chairs in the 2009-2010 school years. Members of the WTEA attended a Stout TECA picnic and handed out door prizes, while the Platteville Tech Ed Association raffled off CNC bean bag games at the President’s reception last spring. Both schools boasted their colors by sharing their club shirts with WTEA President Pete McConnell.

There were plans made to further these activities in 2010-2011. We attempted to host a Stout workshop for new teachers in the fall, but the cancellation of the Fall Technology conference rained on that parade. The spirits of the students and the association did not falter, however. The Pioneers from Platteville pitched in to host a spring workshop onsite at UWP. The workshop was planned for April 8th and 9th with a host of activities. The WTEA donated some snacks and door prizes. New students, new teachers, and experienced teachers looking to encourage the young professionals were involved with this mentoring process. If you didn’t get to come to Platteville, we will hope to see you at Stout in the fall!

The participation at this Spring Conference was fantastic! There was much concern about the health and validity of the technology education profession in the future.

I suppose there are those that could get scared away from education at this confusing historical time in our state. There have been and always will be challenges that face the success of education. I know that the youth of our profession are strong, dedicated, and unwavering in the importance of Career and Technical Education as a top educational priority in Wisconsin. The certified teachers of the WTEA will stand strong to support and assist you in any way we can. We have survived challenges in the past and we shall meet future challenges as well! The WTEA encourages you to take advantage of the conference offerings and workshops that are offered for the development and support of new technology and engineering educators!

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## Bridging the Gap between Stout and Platteville

by Nolan Otremba, UW-Stout

Although UW-Stout and UW-Platteville have always had a healthy sense of competition and rivalry, many have felt that it would be best if the schools worked to create a closer partnership. At the 2010 WTEA conference, representatives from Stout and Platteville met to discuss how the schools could start collaborating more closely. There was much discussion about how the students who attend these institutions will be working side by side for the rest of our careers. We felt it was important to start building the connections now, so that we are comfortable working with each other for the years ahead.

A year has passed since this initial discussion, and we are proud to say we have started to bridge the gap between Stout and Platteville with the creation of the New Teacher Boot Camp which is lead by Pete McConnell. The focus of this workshop is to help the students build networking connections within the universities as well as across the state. It is an extension of the "New Teacher Seminar" that is held at the WTEA conference. The first workshop was held on April 8th and 9th at UW-Platteville. Both uni-

versities are excited to get together and discuss the issues that new teachers face as they enter the field. This workshop is planned to occur annually, switching off between the Platteville and Stout campuses.

This experience isn't meant to lessen the competition that the two universities have with each other. It is meant to create contacts, find mentors, and perhaps develop friendships that will last for quite a while.



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## UW-Platteville Tech Ed Association Enjoyed WTEA Conference

*by Randall J. Charles, UW-Platteville*

The WTEA spring conference is something the UW-Platteville Tech Ed Association looks forward to every year. This is an enjoyable and educational event for us. It is our biggest event of the year with this year being no exception. Year in and year out it provides us with the opportunity to network with other students preparing themselves for the education field along with being able to get the insight of professionals already in education.



The Project Showcase was an excellent opportunity for us to get some project ideas from teachers and gave us a chance to show off some of our own projects we have done. The trade show also gave us a great opportunity to learn about new technology and gain some resources that we will be able to use when we get into the education field. The breakout sessions gave us the opportunity to learn about relevant topics that will better prepare ourselves for becoming professionals in the education field. Some of the sessions we found most beneficial this year included "Technology Education in New Zealand," "WTEA Service Award," "Using Wood Waste for Classroom Projects," "Electronics: Energize your Curriculum," "Hands-On Wind Energy," and "One Good Turn Deserves Another - Woodturning for Today's Students." The keynote speaker gave us some excellent insight into the future of the needs of our society and the direction of technology education.



As for next year, UW-Platteville and Pete McConnell will be ready for a rematch in giant bag boards with Al Gomez and UW-Stout, because we are pretty sure Al was making up rules as we went along.

We look forward to another successful conference next year.

### The 43rd Annual WTEA Conference

***"Building Wisconsin Strong"***

**March 8 & 9, 2012**

**at Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells**

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# CALENDAR

## - Dates to Remember -

June 19 - 25, 2011	<b>SkillsUSA National Conference</b>	Kansas City, MO
October 5 - 7, 2011	<b>SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference</b>	Rosholt, WI
October 27 - 30, 2011	<b>SkillsUSA Mid-America Leadership Conference</b>	Columbus, NE
March 8 - 9, 2012	<b>43rd WTEA Conference</b>	Wisconsin Dells, WI

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March 8 & 9, 2012 at Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells

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# Interface

## It's Kind of a Big Deal

*by Joe Ciontea, WTEA Executive Director*

If you check out the cover of this issue of the Interface, you will notice that this issue is Volume 50, Number 3. This issue marks the final publication for the current year, the 50th volume for the publication. Our editor, Doug MacKenzie, and I thought it might be fun to look in the archives and see how the journal has evolved into the publication that it is today. I went through the association archives and randomly chose a variety of past issues and scanned the covers. Doug combined those images with some covers from the last fifteen years and created a collage for you to enjoy. You will notice that our publication's name and format have evolved many times over the years. While we have boxes of association records, minutes, old conference programs and journals, the collection is not complete and I was not able to find volume number 1. I did come across a letter from the WTEA President that was used as the cover in the fall of 1984 when our president was Len Sterry, Tom Baldwin was the Business Manager, Jeff Dowd was the Conference Coordinator, and Lee Smalley was the Copy Editor for the Interface. The article was entitled "I'm Extremely Optimistic". We have reprinted that article on page 28 in this issue. When you read it you will find many similarities to curriculum discussions we still have today.

Please read Volume 50 of our journal and think about where our association has been. The WTEA is always looking for members to join our leadership team; maybe this issue will inspire you to call your District Director and get more involved. While the current political climate has unknowns for many of us, "I'm extremely optimistic" that our profession and association will overcome whatever challenges the future holds.

Please remember to support our advertisers and the exhibitors who participated in the conference trade show. Volume 50, it's kind of a big deal and one that your Board of Directors is proud of!





# *The Journal of the Wisconsin Technology Education Association*

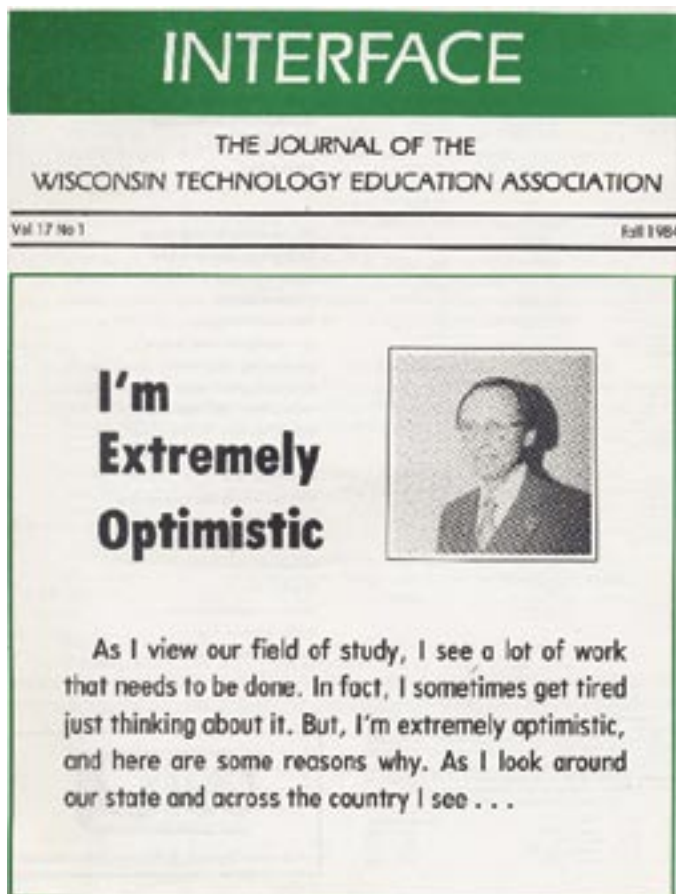




## I'm Extremely Optimistic

by Len Sterry, 1984 WTEA President

*Reprinted from the Fall 1984 issue of Interface, the Journal of the Wisconsin Technology Education Association*



As I view our field of study, I see a lot of work that needs to be done. In fact, I sometimes get tired just thinking about it. But, I'm extremely optimistic, and here are some reasons why. As I look around our state and across the country I see . . .

- Growing agreement on what we must do to help students prepare to live and work in a rapidly changing, technological world. Curriculum seems to have some common elements – a shift from a specific trade orientation to a technology emphasis.

- School districts in Wisconsin and other states revising instructional programs to help students understand and make judgements about technology and its impacts. In addition to Wisconsin, I see interesting developments in states such as Illinois, New York, and Virginia, to mention a few. Until recently, much of the innovation was happening in smaller schools, those with a one or two teacher program. Not so anymore. Medium and large districts are now also doing some very exciting planning and implementation.
- Fewer people are saying, "it won't work," and are saying instead "how can we do it." Up until the last year or so, proposed changes usually met a lot of resistance. Now, I hear more agreement that we must make some changes and most questions focus on finding the best way to make the necessary adjustments.
- Closer working relationships being developed. Schools at all levels, agencies, organizations, business and industry are developing new, and strengthening old, partnerships and relationships.
- Conference programs featuring developments in many aspects of our world community. More often than before, presentations are being made by persons interested in education, but not directly involved in the education process.
- Publishers and suppliers working together to provide materials necessary to support new programmatic trends. Their interest and investment is, to me, a show of confidence.

These are just a few developments that I have seen as I look back over, let's say the past ten or more years. And, these are some of the reasons why I'm optimistic about our field. I think it's an exciting time. But, we had better get on with it. I think if you will take a few minutes to look past some of our immediate problems, as real as they are, and look to the opportunities of the future, you too, will see reasons for optimism.

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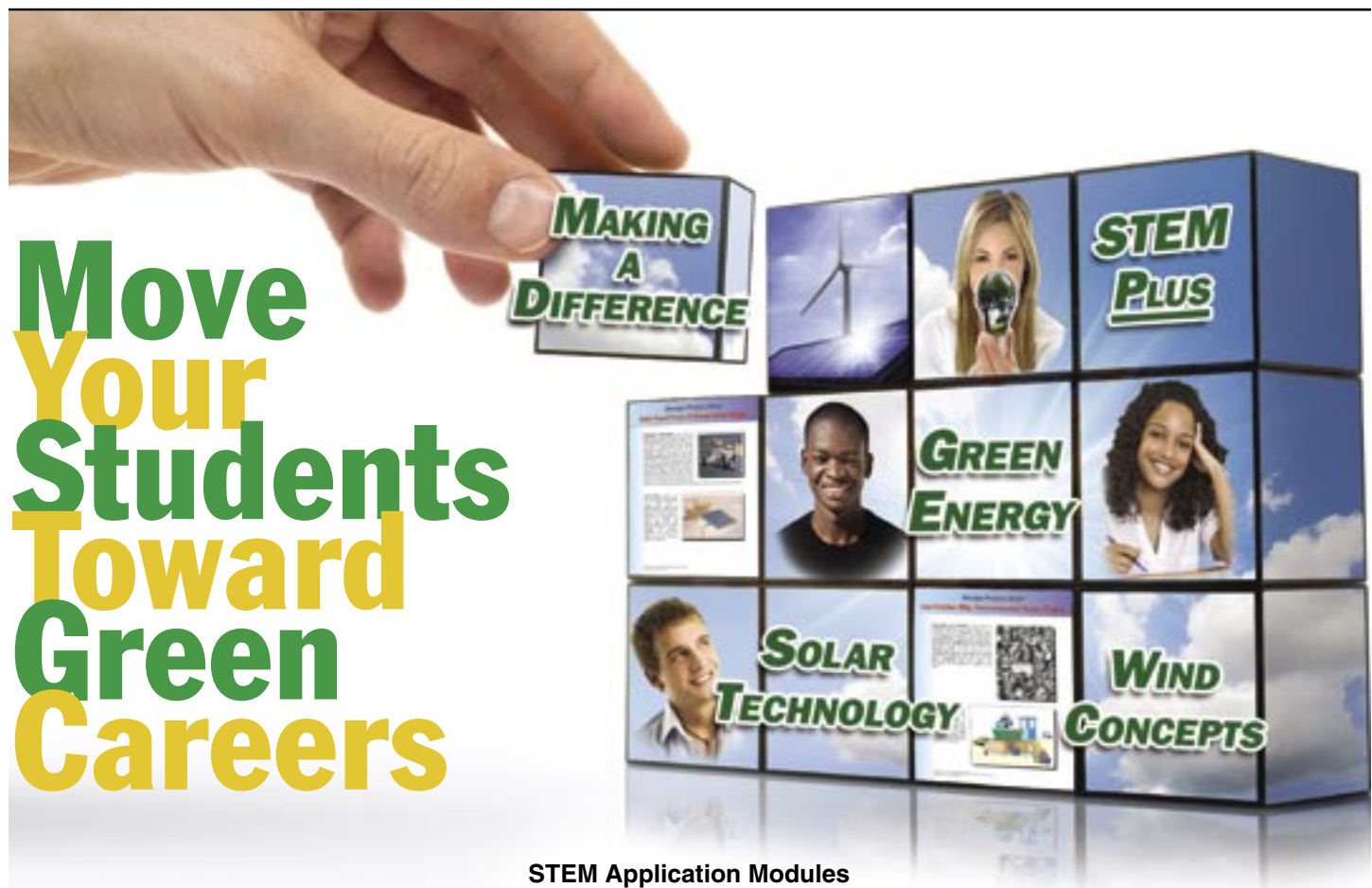
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