Welcome to our Term 3 newsletter. Term 3 has been another busy term for our team. Our work has included:

- running our Apprentice Ready program each Wednesday throughout the term (see article on page 2)
- marketing of 2011 Regional VET Programs, and information sessions for leaders and teachers
- running our ETSA Electrotechnology Taster Program (see article on page 2)
- planning our first regional White Card course (see article below)
- further development of Industry Pathway Programs (IPPs) across the region
- running professional development for leaders and teachers in video conferencing, Moodle and Centra as eLearning tools
- running information sessions for leaders and teachers in the new VET in SACE Policy and Manufacturing Technologies IPP
- providing networking opportunities for teachers

For more information about our operations and activities, please visit our website: www.wats.sa.edu.au.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Rod Hunter to our team. Rod commenced his role as Industry Skills Manager (Western Adelaide Region) at the beginning of term 3, working with Cherry Robinson.

On behalf of the team (myself, Vicki, Chris, Nick, Cherry and Rod), thank you for your ongoing support during term 3.

Toni Andrew
Regional Senior Secondary Manager
Trade School for the Future Manager
DECS Western Adelaide Region

We have recently advertised to schools our first regional White Card course, to be held on Tuesday 19 October 2010 (week 2, term 4). The flyer and registration form for this course can be downloaded from our website: www.wats.sa.edu.au. Further courses will be added according to demand.

Schools have provided feedback this year about the need for us to offer White Card regionally, so we hope this is the first of many future opportunities.

This course is recommended for students planning a pathway in the trades, or in any job that will require access to building sites. A Construction Industry White Card is needed for access to building sites, including for work experience and structured workplace learning. This course is a nationally-recognised Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) qualification, allowing White Card holders to work on building sites across Australia.

White Card training can also be arranged for individual schools (minimum of 10 students required). School leaders and teachers can contact Toni Andrew to discuss their needs, including planning for 2011.
ETSA Electrotechnology Taster Program

This three-day program was held in weeks 6, 7 and 8 of term 3. The aim of this program was to introduce students to electrotechnology careers, especially in relation to ETSA electrical trades. The 2010 program involved students from Henley High School, Le Fevre High School and Seaton High School.

The program included an ETSA Utilities visit and presentation to large groups of interested students at the three schools; and training days at ETSA Utilities Training Centre and TAFE SA Regency Campus for twelve students from the three schools.

We would like to thank the ETSA Utilities team for their time and enthusiasm in working with our students, as well as the extensive resources they contributed to this program. Teachers and students involved found it very worthwhile in providing career information and real-life experiences to assist students in their future pathways.

Some comments made by students involved were:
- “I learnt how to solder and what electrical tradespeople do.”
- “I learnt a lot that I hope to take away from this program and put into future learning.”
- “I learnt how to make an extension cord and how power points work.”
- “I learnt the process of electricity being made and distributed.”
- “This program has opened up a lot of different jobs that I never knew about.”
- “It was very enjoyable and informative.”

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Apprentice Ready Program

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This apprenticeship and traineeship preparation program was run by our Apprenticeship Brokers, and was aimed to improve student knowledge and preparedness for undertaking a Traineeship or Apprenticeship across a range of industries. The program also included a range of guest speakers, a White Card course and work observation. This helped students to gain awareness of the work environment and employer expectations. The program was also SACE accredited (Stage 1 Workplace Practices – 10 credits).

Eleven students from six schools within the Western Adelaide Trade School for the Future cluster participated in the program. Participation and attendance was excellent throughout the term and they were all excellent ambassadors for their “Home” school.

Vicki and Chris, Apprenticeship Brokers, are optimistic of up to fifty per cent of students gaining School-Based Apprenticeships. The remaining students plan to pursue additional work experience placements with employers in their trade area, and continue to develop skills and knowledge to assist them in their future pathway.

Some comments made by students involved were:
- “I learnt all about my chosen industry and what I need to do in the future.”
- “I learnt a lot about trades, the workplace and OHS.”
- “I found this program a lot of help towards my future career.”

Apprentice Ready students 2010
School-Based Apprenticeships

This term has continued to be a successful period in terms of student, parent and employer interaction. This has included our participation in student course and subject selections in some schools. This has proved to be an effective way of engaging with parents/caregivers.

During our student meetings and interviews, we have noticed that many students have a desire to pursue an interest in the building and construction trades, including Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrical, Bricklaying etc. To enable a student to gain access to work on many building sites, whether it is for work experience or employment, they need to have completed the White Card course. Please see information on page 1 of this newsletter for information on our regional White Card course for term 4.

Numerous School-Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship vacancies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students continue to exist across the western region. Students expressing an interest in these areas have commenced the application process with these employers. You can download our latest vacancies from our website: http://www.wats.sa.edu.au/vacancies.htm.

In August, we managed a booth at the Careers Exposed Expo at the Entertainment Centre. This event provided a great way for us to work alongside a range of employers who we refer students to. In September, Apprenticeship Brokers also managed an information stand at the National VETNetwork biennial national conference, which gave South Australia a great opportunity to showcase the Trade Schools for the Future strategy and the work of Apprenticeship Brokers.

This term, we also presented to staff at Henley, Findon and Woodville High Schools, which enabled us to form a connection with staff, talk about our roles and outline School-Based Apprenticeships. We see this as a significant method of empowering teachers to guide students in making informed choices.

As of the 4th of September, regulations relating to obtaining a drivers licence will prove to be a major barrier for students pursuing apprenticeships. The legislation now states that a person can no longer qualify to obtain their ‘P’ plate in a six month period - it will now involve a one year process. Additionally, they must complete a minimum of 75 hours of supervised driving experience. This will impact greatly on students seeking School-Based Apprenticeships in the following trades: Bricklaying, Electrical, Gyrocking (Fibrous Plastering), Plumbing, Wall and Floor Tiling, Refrigeration, Automotive etc.

These trades require apprentices to be mobile in vehicles throughout the working day, involving moving from site to site, material pick ups, moving vehicles in and out of workshop bays etc. As a result of the new licensing regulations, we envisage a downturn in the numbers of School-Based Apprentices in the above-mentioned trades.

Vicki Bryant and Chris Houlty Apprenticeship Brokers

eLearning and Flexible Delivery Program

This term saw the roll-out of video conferencing computers to each school in our Trade School cluster. This included hardware such as a webcam, podcasting kit and Polycom units. This should enable all schools to be able to communicate with each other via video conferencing and support students undertaking IPPs.

This term we have also run two Centra workshops for teachers across the cluster. I would like to thank Enver Malikic from DECS Learning Technologies for his support in delivering these courses.

We currently have a number of Moodle sites under development - these include Research Skills (Ocean View B-12 College), Engineering Physics (Le Fevre High School), Automotive (Underdale High School), Basic Electricity (Le Fevre High School) and Multimedia (Le Fevre High School).

I would like to especially acknowledge Sam Heiditch, a teacher at Underdale High School, for his enthusiasm and initiative in the eLearning project. Sam is developing an Automotive Moodle for Certificate I in Automotive. Also, Seaton High School has been developing Moodles in the areas of Robotics and Technology. This began with a visit from me to show them what flexible delivery is all about, the role that a Moodle can play in this, and a short training session.

Thank you to all teachers and leaders who are involved in this program. I am available to come to your school to support your staff in the development of Moodles for your IPP courses.

Nick Kyriazis ePathways Coordinator

Peter McLaren from Ocean View B-12 College learning about the use of video conferencing and Centra
Industry Skills Program

Across the Western Adelaide Region, a number of industry-standard Trade Training Centres are supporting young people gain industry qualifications in key skills shortage areas, eg electrotechnology, engineering, construction (civil and building), automotive and manufacturing.

One of these facilities, the Trade Training Centre at Seaton High School was the venue for a networking Technology Hub Group held on Monday 2 September, attended by Technology and Design teachers, and other interested persons. Nigel Stone from TAFE SA and Dave Symonds from Aztronics, an Electronics supplier, gave a presentation on projects that have a focus on electrotechnology. Nigel is currently working with teachers to develop and provide industry relevant, engaging, cost-effective projects for use in classrooms.

A selection of equipment and tools were presented by Total Tools, who generously provided "Tec Show Bags" and a door prize.

Teachers spent time discussing current and planned courses that could be enhanced by Trade Training Centres across the region, further strengthening the Industry Pathways Programs (IPPs) they are developing. This group will have gatherings at different sites as Trade Training Centres and IPPs develop into 2011. All interested teachers are invited to this networking opportunity that will provide support to teachers in the traditional trade areas. Information will be distributed via the VET Coordinators network and the WASPN Vocation Pathways Group.

Manufacturing Technology Industry Pathways Program

The Manufacturing Technology IPP builds on the integration of middle school maths, science and technology to higher level VET with a pathway into an apprenticeship, tertiary or university education. With ‘manufacturing’, we initially think of heavy industrial areas with robotic arms and conveyor belts. This is a small aspect of this emerging IPP.

The key elements are based around a ‘product’, its ‘process’ and its ‘sustainability’. In the area of ‘manufacturing’ courses are being considered that may include tasks in electrotechnology, design, the making and preparing of products in hospitality or the design and manufacture of products in the trade study areas. In this IPP, students would be involved with ‘lean’ manufacturing technology and manufacturing practice. This would be developed around a Certificate II in Manufacturing Technology.

Workshops have been held this term with teachers from a range of learning areas to investigate this pathway within their curriculum area. Further information will be provided to schools as this IPP develops.

Cherry Robinson and Rod Hunter
Industry Skills Managers
DECS Western Adelaide Region

About Us

The Western Adelaide Trade School for the Future provides access to learning that leads to jobs in engineering, building and construction, electrotechnology, health and community services, automotive, creative industries and other industry sectors in the region where there is a growing demand for skilled workers. Students are able to achieve their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) while learning skills and working toward industry-accredited qualifications.

The administrative hub, or Work Skills Centre for the Western Adelaide Trade School for the Future, is located at Le Fevre High School.

‘School to Work’ Apprenticeship Brokers based at the Work Skills Centre link students to training, traineeships and apprenticeships, including School-Based Apprenticeships and employment opportunities.

Schools in the Western Adelaide region also host regional VET (Vocational Education and Training) programs and Industry Pathway Programs, to provide students in western Adelaide schools with increased pathway options through the provision of a wide range of VET choices.

Member schools are:
- Adelaide High School
- Adelaide Secondary School of English
- Bowden Brompton Community School
- Enfield High School
- Findon High School
- Gepps Cross Girls High School
- Henley High School
- Le Fevre High School
- Ocean View B-12 College
- Seaton High School
- Underdale High School
- Woodville High School

Other DECS western Adelaide secondary schools who may also access the Western Adelaide Trade School for the Future include:
- Thebarton Senior College
- Warriappendi School
- William Light R-12 School