



Superintendent's Report

To: Board Members

From: Leah M. Christman

Date: February 24, 2014

- **Vote today for Southern Lehigh's video in the What's So Cool About Manufacturing contest!**

What's So Cool About Manufacturing? video contest is part of the Lehigh Valley Skill Up Partnership's efforts to raise awareness of manufacturing careers for students in grades K-12, their adult family members and educators. This program is funded in part by the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development's "Discovered in PA, Developed in PA" program.

The Lehigh Valley Skill Up workforce project is led by the Manufacturers Resource Center (MRC) of Bethlehem, Pa. Additional project partners include the Da Vinci Science Center (DSC) of Allentown, Pa.; the Lehigh Valley Workforce Investment Board (LVWIB) of Allentown, Pa.; and the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute (LCTI) of Schnecksville, Pa.

The Lehigh Valley Skill Up project is funded by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). Its purpose is to raise awareness of manufacturing careers for students in grades K-8, their adult family members, and educators. Its goal is to engage and train more students from Lehigh and Northampton counties in the technical skills required by area employers. The student teams were provided video equipment and training in the fall of 2013 and were matched with manufacturing companies and teacher coaches. They created short video profiles of their companies and the career opportunities they offer.

Awards, including a **Viewers Choice Award that will be determined by public voting**, will be presented to student teams involved in the Lehigh Valley Skill Up contest.

Please vote for our Southern Lehigh 8th grade team by selecting their video at the link below:

[Dream It Do It PA](#)

- The High School will be hosting visitors tomorrow- teachers and administrators from 3 schools interested in learning more about the Block Schedule, Spartan Block and the 1:1 ubiquitous computing environment. Pascack Valley High School in NJ will be bringing 10 people, including their Superintendent to visit us. They have been a 1:1 district for 10 years so we are hoping to learn from them as well. Lancaster Catholic High School, whose Principal is a Southern Lehigh 2008 graduate will be bringing 5 people and Liberty HS, Bethlehem will bring several visitors.
- A team of teachers, technicians and administrators representing all buildings and levels attended the Pete & C Technology conference in Hershey, Feb 9-12, and returned full of new ideas to enhance teaching and learning. The administrative team has already shared out information and resources and the teachers are in the process of doing the same. Faculty meetings and Academy offerings will provide an avenue to share many ways others throughout the state are improving teaching and learning through technology. Hot topics this year included Flipped, hybrid, and blended classrooms, electronic textbooks, MOOC's, differentiation through technology, and many free online resources.
- I attended the Global Education Symposium in Washington DC last Friday and shared what we are doing in Southern Lehigh with global education with 43 administrators from throughout the nation. The event was sponsored by the US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, partnering with IREX, a NGO (non-governmental organization). The program provides intensive professional development for secondary teachers on global education for all content areas, and ends in a 2-week shadowing experience abroad. This year the 73 teachers involved will travel to a school in Columbia, Ghana, India, Morocco, Philippines, or Russia. Evan Ryan, Assistant Secretary of the Bureau welcomed the participants by discussing the importance of many of the things we have discussed here at Southern Lehigh in terms of a vision for the future and preparing our students for a global society. I was able to make some new connections and learn of additional resources for our teachers and classrooms to continue promoting the importance of global education. I've also shared the 2015 application with our high school and middle school teachers.