College and Career Awareness

In the late 1980s, the career exploration emphasis of the junior high CTE core requirement led to the development of a single course in program areas of Family and Consumer Sciences, Business and Technology & Engineering known as Technology, Life, and Careers (TLC). A few years later the course was expanded to include exploration activities from the additional program areas of agriculture, information technology, marketing, and health sciences. The course name was changed to TLC II. Later revisions and additions to the course including a name change to CTE Introduction. In 2013 it became apparent that a major course change was in order. With input from parents, legislators, State Board Members, CTE Directors, CTE Specialists and CTE teachers and school counselors, the program was examined and dissected.

In the 2014-15 school year, teams of teachers were pulled together to take the work from the previous year and create new standards, objectives, and indicators along with a new focus and structure for the College and Career Awareness class. A more equal representation of all program areas along with a new dimension of project-based learning arose and the school counselor developed Career Development Applications (CDAs) information. New lesson plans were written with resources for teachers and students. A new configuration of how this curriculum would be presented was formulated.

A component of the CDAs that we felt would help strengthen the program related well to the lesson plans that NAPE (National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity) had developed. NAPE was kind enough to allow us to include two of the lesson plans and their worksheets. Work Values and STEM Careers plus Values Auction Worksheet and STEM Career Scavenger Hunt. They are included in lesson plan 8 and 10 of the CDAs. As we are working to provide translations in the CDA lessons currently, with permission from NAPE these pages were also a part of the translation project and then shared with NAPE for their use.

Another development during this rewriting process was the allocation of State funding for STEM education in the seventh and eighth grade year to the STEM Action center under the direction of Tamara Goetz. With this funding the Technology & Engineering program area was able to acquire curriculum, supplies and equipment from four vendor sources to enhance their curriculum writing for that program area. (ITEEA, Project Lead the Way, PITSCO, and STEM Academy)

Regional professional developments were presented from January 2015 through May 2015 that included an instructional overview, project-based learning concepts, infused math and literacy concepts into the lesson plans and new Career Development Applications. In June 2015, an additional three days of professional development shared demonstrations and instruction on all program area curriculum. An additional opportunity for this training was available at the College and Career Awareness New Teacher Training in July 2015. In total of 634 CTE Teachers attended the two conference/trainings.

During the 2015-16 school year, there will be state wide implementation of the new program and curriculum. Input from teachers will be gathered as the year
progresses and the curriculum will then be finalized. It is an exciting time to refocus on the career opportunities and for the future of young people across Utah.

In the 2015-16 school year this program will be presented to 44,832 seventh grade students in the State of Utah. It is a core requirement, 1.0 credit for seventh grade per Utah State Board Rule.

