

THE BEACON

Volume 3, Issue 3, February 2012

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

Did you know that each of our programs has an Advisory Committee made up of local people who work in business and industry related to that program? Without the support of these people, the Seacoast School of Technology would not be the great School it is. In addition to advising us, Advisory Committee members frequently visit classes to meet with students, donate equipment, provide job shadow opportunities and offer internships. It is especially important to have such partnerships during the challenging economic times we are currently enduring. President Obama recently spoke of the numerous career opportunities in the field of manufacturing, despite the struggling economy. He also spoke about career opportunities in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). We offer programs relating to each of those fields. What our students do after they graduate is important to us and we think about it every day. Have we done enough for them? Have we given them relevant knowledge and skills to be prepared for that next step? Our Advisory Committees help ensure we do. Some of their stories follow:

- *Barbara Clark, Program Manager - Technical Development Program, Liberty Mutual Insurance, Computer Programming, Pre-Engineering and Digital Communications Advisory Committee*

By partnering with the Computer Programming, Pre-Engineering and Digital Communications instructors at SST, I am able to provide counsel on the choice of technologies for the Computer Programming curriculum, based on what we are commonly using at Liberty Mutual. Because part of my current role involves hiring college students for IT jobs, I have experience with the college degree programs that may be considered by the SST students, the ability to review their resumes and make suggestions, and an understanding of the types of internships they may qualify for with programming skills. I enjoy spending time with the students discussing these things, and it is very rewarding when it proves to be helpful for a student. The committee has done a great job exploring ways to generate interest in the students as early as possible in the IT field. The potential for a shortage of qualified IT professionals in the future is very real and we need to find creative ways to ensure we are encouraging students to pursue that career path.

- *Nicholas Calias, '90, CEC, Director of Food & Beverage Operations, Corporate Executive Chef, The Colonnade Hotel, Friends of SST Culinary Arts*

For me, my partnership with the SST is a little different since I am local, not my business. I joined the Friends of SST Culinary Arts to help further the Culinary Arts program and to be able to give its students some insight as to what to expect in this career field. Through SST, I am able to build relationships with students and potential employees. Personally, for me it's gratifying to give back to a program that I attended many years ago. The program with its board members and support for the school is a great avenue for students to take their passion and go further with culinary arts.

The Seacoast School of Technology is a regional career and technical center serving Epping, Exeter, Newmarket, Raymond, Sanborn Regional and Winnacunnet High Schools.

- *Michael Wentworth, President, Wentworth Motor Company, Automotive Technologies Advisory Committee*

I honestly don't know how Wentworth Motor Company would staff our repair shop without the partnership with the Seacoast School of Technology. We have hired numerous technicians that have been educated at SST and continue to be delighted by the experience. The students are well-trained in their field and properly groomed to continue their training after graduation. As a member of The Exeter Area New Car Dealers Association, I know of many other automotive dealership owners and service managers that share my sentiment. Bob Nienhouse and Fritz Arseneau bring real-life dealership experience to the classroom and Margaret Callahan makes sure they get the tools and equipment they need to properly train the automotive students. SST brings huge benefits to the automotive industry in this area and we are fortunate to be partnered with them.

- *Kimberly Marineau, Career Development Specialist, Exeter Hospital, Health Science Technologies Advisory Committee*

Having the SST students attend our Healthcare Career Exploration Day is one of the highlights of our year here at Exeter Health Resources. We are also thrilled to be able to offer the students the opportunity to complete their internships with us. Our staff enjoys the chance to educate them about a variety of career choices in our industry. At the same time, it has enabled us to develop a strong relationship with SST and the community. Those relationships are critical, since we are able to introduce students to our organization at a young age so they will consider working for us when they are ready to start their careers. We look forward to nurturing that relationship for years to come.

- *Joshua Murphy, Exeter Lumber Company, Building Construction Technologies Advisory Committee*

Exeter Lumber has worked closely with the Seacoast School of Technology Building Construction Technologies program over the past two years. This experience in partnering together has not only provided an educational platform for the betterment of our community but also created valuable apprentice opportunities. Highly successful projects have included introductions to a variety of new product materials and building techniques in the design and construction of a garage and barn in the local area. The Seacoast School of Technology is highly dedicated and strives to support local schools and businesses and has become an integral asset to our community. We look forward to supporting their efforts by continuing our commitment to the education of the next generation of builders. As the Exeter Lumber family continues to be active members of the community welcoming customers as members of a greater family, it strives to fulfill its mission, as a company that excels in service yet remains competitive with a higher quality product-line.

- *Dr. Jody Kaufmann, Brentwood Animal Hospital, Animal & Plant Science Advisory Committee*

As a small animal veterinarian, I so appreciate the role that SST plays in introducing students to the various aspects of animal science and husbandry. The hands-on experience is invaluable for realistic visions of possible career choices, as well as familiarity with further training programs. Veterinary technician training programs are expensive and time consuming (two years). Veterinary school is even more expensive and requires four years of college followed by four years of veterinary school. There are animal science programs at various universities that prepare students for a variety of careers within the field. SST enables students to make appropriate choices that coincide with their interests and abilities.

- *Mary Driscoll, Director, Phillips Exeter Academy Harris Family Children's Center, Early Childhood Education Advisory Committee*

In my role as Director of Phillips Exeter Academy Children's Center, it has been my pleasure to serve on the Advisory Committee with teacher, Carla Ranks, in support of The Wright Start Preschool and SST. In tandem with other committee members, our goal has been to analyze curricula and address programmatic goals. I have watched the program and the environment evolve from year to year. Committee members review and make recommendations on policy and procedure and seek to promote positive change. The renovated facility has most certainly enhanced the Early Childhood Education experience for both children and students. Over the past 20 years, I have worked closely with Carla Ranks in retaining students attending SST's Early Childhood Education Program to work as Teacher's Assistants at the PEA Children's Center. It has been a privilege to support these young students and assist in preparing them for future employment as Early Childhood professionals.

- *Jay B. Childs, Director, JBC Communications, An Emmy Honored Video and Interactive Design Company, Digital Communications Advisory Committee,*

For a communications company (video production, PR, communications consulting) like JBC Communications, finding and working with people who have honed skills in a particular area, but are also able to think on their feet, is critical to sustaining a small business. Of course, the overall goal for society is to groom the next generation of workers, thinkers and citizens, but we now understand that how students get there can take different paths for different learners. Some learners, like me, do best by utilizing a more "hands-on" learning style. As a small business I need to choose carefully where I dedicate limited time in attempting to make a difference in a community, and partnering with SST allows me to play a hands-on role in applying my experience to hopefully create a more practical but also more engaging/inspiring experience for students. Selfishly, I'm an advocate for grooming the "farm team" of people who will work in my industry and help it grow in the region and expand economic opportunity for more people who want to work in the communications and production field. To see a student in high school find a direction through SST that sparks an interest they see can lead to a career is very rewarding. We need to create more of those moments.

- *Eric Cimon, Community Relations and Marketing Director, Access Sports Medicine & Orthopaedics, Marketing Technologies Advisory Committee*

I have been involved with the Seacoast School of Technology for the past 3 years. My first contact with the school came when we participated in the Annual Small Business Showcase. I was immediately impressed by the enthusiasm of the students and how successfully they were able to carry out the event. In the subsequent years, I have had the opportunity to perform mock interviews with the marketing students, I have been a guest speaker for the marketing class, I have served on the Marketing Advisory Committee and we will be attending our third Small Business Showcase this April. The Seacoast School of Technology provides students with real-world experience and gives them a head-start on a course toward their professional career. By partnering with SST, our business has gained additional exposure in the community and I have had the opportunity to get to know some remarkable students and share my business experiences with them. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to get involved with an institution that makes a difference in the lives of Exeter area students while maintaining a focus on giving back to the community. I look forward to partnering with SST for many more years to come.

IT'S APPLICATION SEASON!

The SST application deadline is
Wednesday, March 7th!

APPLY NOW!



Applications are available in the guidance
office at all regional high schools, the SST
main office, or at SeacoastTech.com.

Please remember to vote on Tuesday, March 13. State funding for the Seacoast School of Technology continues to be a concern. Your votes will signify that you value the work we do.

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Callahan
Principal