

## *2006/2007 Annual Report*

### *NCWHS Agriculture Department*

#### **Special Education Horticulture Cooperative:**

- Students in the Normal West High School Agriculture program are working cooperatively with the Special Education department to offer Cognitively Impaired students in Miss Newcomb's 2<sup>nd</sup> hour class the opportunity to develop greenhouse production skills.

#### **GRANT FUNDING:**

- Program Improvement Grant- \$10,000.00 - Facilitating Coordination in Agriculture Education, matched with \$5000.00 for a total of \$15,000.00. Funds were used to purchase Arc and Mig welding equipment for the shop.
- Carl Perkins Grant- \$1840.00 – Funds used for greenhouse and landscaping activities for minority students, students with disabilities and low income students.

#### **FFA ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- **Career Development Events (Contests):** State FFA Horse Judging; Section 9 FFA Land Use Contest; Section 9 FFA Parliamentary Procedure Contest; Section 9 FFA Crops Evaluation Contest; Section 9 FFA Dairy Products Contest; Section 9 FFA Public Speaking Contest; Section 9 FFA Horticulture Contest; Section 9 FFA Sales Contest; Section 9 FFA Agriculture Management Contest; Section 9 FFA Agriculture Mechanics Contest; Section 9 FFA Greenhand Quiz Bowl.; Section 9 & State FFA Dairy Cattle Judging Contest; Section 9 & State FFA Livestock Judging Contest; Section 9, District 2 and State FFA Proficiency Interviews.
- **Advanced Degrees:**  
Dan Guth and Tyler Hospelhorn will receive the Illinois State FFA Degree at the FFA convention this summer.
- **Conferences Conventions:**  
Illinois FFA Convention; Washington Leadership Conference; FFA Leadership Camp;  
National FFA Convention; Made For Excellence Conference; Farm Bureau Youth Conference.
- **Heartland FFA Alumni Annual Meeting and Fundraising Auction:** Over 250 people attended this years dinner and auction. Over \$14,000.00 was generated from the auction to support the students in the Agriculture program.

## *Art Department*

- The Unit #5 Art Department was awarded an ISBE Foreign Language and Fine Arts Planning Assistance grant written by Julie Basting. The grant amount of \$40,000 will help the department articulate our curriculum as well as better address the needs of our growing diverse student population.

### **Elementary: CURRICULUM and ASSESSMENT**

- The elementary art department is continuing with facilitating the district assessment. Additionally, we are sending home art letters to those 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who have consistently met qualities that we would consider very talented and suggest that students pursue the art education through classes at the middle school or outside the school.

### **Middle School: CURRICULUM and ASSESSMENT**

- Middle school students continued to work with different media to create visual art and also learn about artists. The PJHS 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders had a wonderful show on the Parent-Teacher conference day; while the PJHS 6<sup>th</sup> graders had strong shows at the conclusion of each grading period. PJHS coordinated the mural painting in the gym for the rock wall. The rock wall was painted by the PE and Art Department. The KJHS and PJHS art clubs had a successful year too. They donated painted toy boxes for the Boy's and Girl's Club auction. CJHS and West also donated five toy boxes to the auction. CJHS installed 6th grade sculptures in the school's IMC. CJHS created new public display areas for art within the school and have plans for a new display case in the main lobby and cafeteria. CJHS created a natural sculpture garden to the school's main garden. Next fall, the CJHS hopes to expand this project to several other areas on school grounds. CJHS also will be painting a mural for field day, which we are hoping to turn into a tradition for the next several years.

### **High School: CURRICULUM and ASSESSMENT**

- This year the high school art department continued to develop curriculum, align curriculum between high schools, and make future curriculum decisions. High school staff also participated in the Commercial Art 2 Task Force. This task force implemented a much-needed second semester of technology in the arts. There was a positive response from students, as the course offered for the first time next year already has multiple sections filled.

### **COMMUNITY**

- There were also continued efforts at both schools to have students participating in community and public service related art activities and competitions. These included:
- Art Speaks against Tobacco Competition (130 entries) and Arthritis Foundation Walk
- Town of Normal Preservation Society (Students rendered historic homes, submitted 30 entries and winners all categories)
- Secondary art students entered artwork in the 78<sup>th</sup> annual McLean County Amateur Art Competition held at the McLean County Arts Center. NCHS and NCWHS students placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in several categories.
- Students created artwork for the Normal Public Library to display and ACT Poster Contest.

## ***Business Department***

### **Middle School**

- Computer instruction continues to be taught for 9-weeks at the **6<sup>th</sup> grade level only**.
- Students in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade computer instruction class continue to develop efficient use of the computer keyboard, *basic* Microsoft word commands, and report formatting.
- Integrated Business Week activities into each quarter of computer instruction – including a presentation of the course options available to each student in the Business Department once they begin high school
- Student use of the SmartBoard continues to increase. Teachers are utilizing the SmartBoard on a daily basis for classroom presentations and instruction.

### **High School**

- The Business Department once again instituted Business Week using the theme “Think Business” in November 2006. During this week a variety of classroom and lunch time activities were actively and successfully participated in by students in all grade levels. These activities promoted business course awareness and curriculum content. In addition, there was a “Word of the Day” which exemplified common business vocabulary and daily announcements that highlighted specific department courses. Students participating in these activities earned opportunities to win prizes donated by various community sponsors.
- Business education course enrollments have increased for the 4<sup>th</sup> straight year. We are excited that next year the Business Department will have 11 full-time teachers at the high school level.
- Personal Investment & Finance will fulfill the consumer education graduation requirement starting in 2007-2008.
- Task force proposals were completed and course content, instructional materials and software were updated for Advanced Accounting and Introduction to Computer Applications (which will also serve Office Keyboarding & Office Computer Applications). Business teachers also participated in completing the task force for Consumer Education.
- The proficiency exam was administered at both NCHS & NCWHS on January 22, 2007. Two out of seven students passed the exam and will be exempt from taking the Introduction to Computer Applications course.
- A pen pal program was implemented between the high school and middle school computer classes incorporating skills that are acquired and developed in their respective computer classes.
- Both high schools added new technology with funds provided for career and technical education courses through the Bloomington Area Vocational Center. NCWHS received a video cart with a new projector, laptop computer, and wireless remote. NCHS received a color printer that possesses the ability to print poster-sized and other special projects.
- Each high school also utilized funds received through the Perkins Grants for career and technical education. NCWHS purchased use of FantasyStockMarket.com and received money for Business Week, while NCHS purchased a digital camera and Financial Literacy textbooks.

### **Department Goals**

- With the change in content of the Applied Communications curriculum to focus on Language Arts only, we would like to work on a proposal to offer computer instruction (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher) at the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade level for one quarter of students’ study hall time.
- Implement a Pen Pal program between the middle school and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in the district. Develop possible implementation of a Pen Pal program between all three middle schools.
- Develop a Unit 5 Business Department website that will include teacher information, links to business education course descriptions, the Business Department master schedule, and Business Week information.
- Continue to increase course enrollment at both high schools. We will work with the junior high and high school counselors to educate them about the life-preparation skills that are taught in the Business Education Department. High school teachers will investigate possibility of promoting business courses at the middle schools sometime during Business Week.
- Continue to promote our business curriculum and courses through various media—brochure, Business Department PowerPoint, Business Department & Teacher Websites, and especially our Business Week activities.
- Continue to update curriculum to reflect the changing business environment. Task force proposals for 2007-2008 will include Computer Applications/Business Simulation, Business Management, Personal Investment & Finance, and an update to English Business Communications in conjunction with the English Department to meet the new state English requirement that starts with the Class of 2011.
- Implement some type of classroom management software (i.e. Vision) for all secondary buildings.
- Work toward getting SmartBoards in each Unit 5 business lab and a permanent data projector in room 217 at NCHS.
- Determine the number of students currently graduating from Unit 5 without having taken a computer course and investigate the possibility of a task force to study the need for a technology requirement for graduation. This semester credit could come from a variety of options—Art, Business, English, or Technology. Many high schools have already adopted this technology component. Every student should have exposure to formal computer instruction for at least one semester before graduation.

## *Driver Education Department*

- Driver Education used many outside resources and speakers again this year. We utilized services from the Illinois State Police, Unit 5 Resource Officers, Illinois Secretary of State DUI Prevention and Display Board, State Farm Insurance and Country Insurance, and Operation Cool.
- Normal West was the host this year for the Operation Cool Night. A brand new Mitsubishi Eclipse was won by a student from Central Catholic. Over 100 prizes were given out this night. The Operation Cool Program has increased seat belt usage across Unit 5. We perform seat belt surveys in the student parking lots and give out prizes for seat belt usage.
- Both schools had very good 8<sup>th</sup> grade orientation nights. It is very important for us to inform the parents about the new State regulations and the process for obtaining an instruction permit and license.
- We now give the State written test and also State vision test to our students. We provide this service so that parents do not have to make a special trip to the DMV with their child to get the instruction permit. Many parents are very happy with this being done at school.
- Students at both schools were selected by State Farm to take part in a test survey that will be conducted to 15,000 teen drivers across the United States later this year.
- NCHS students were selected by WHOI News to produce their own driving commercial. They were picked from 50 applicants across central Illinois. The commercials will be running all summer. The commercials target the number of teen drivers killed this year in central Illinois. One teen driver has died in an auto accident every three days in Illinois this year.
- We continue to meet the needs of all students. Both high schools offer an Adapted Driver Education classroom for students with IEP's. We are one of the few school districts in Illinois to offer this. Only 27% of students with IEP's in Illinois are offered Driver Education. Many of these students will get their driving license later in life without any education in traffic safety, laws, or defensive driving.
- We continue to stay aware of all new laws and regulations concerning Driver Education. Our teachers attended Driver Education conferences at the local and state level.

## *English/ Language Arts Department*

### **ELEMENTARY (K-5)**

- Supported classroom teachers in regard to the Harcourt series by visiting elementary buildings.
- Completion of curriculum guides and curriculum maps.
- Compiled and submitted elementary teachers' questions and suggestions about the Harcourt series to the Unit Office.

### **UPCOMING FOCUS:**

- Continue conducting school visits to keep lines of communication open between curriculum directors and elementary teachers.
- Offer continued support for elementary teachers through professional development.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL (6-8)**

- Held grammar review/training sessions for all English/language arts staff, grades 6-12, on School Improvement days.
- Submitted a textbook proposal for use in teaching grammar in grades 6-8.
- Prepared and submitted proposals for:  
A task force to look at adding language arts minutes at the middle school level  
A task force to review and adopt a new literature series at the middle school level

### **UPCOMING FOCUS:**

- Continue to support grammar instruction through professional development and a new text.
- Research and review various models of a double language arts period.

### **HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)**

- Developed grammar exercise materials for grades 9-11.
- Held grammar review/teaching sessions for all English/language arts staff, grades 6-12, on School Improvement Days.
- Created Unit 5 Secondary English Department Writing Rules and Tools, which will be distributed to all students, be available online, and be available for purchase in school stores.
- Submitted AP English Literature and Language for audit; received approval in both buildings.

### **UPCOMING FOCUS:**

- Continue with grammar curriculum work.
- Examine research skills requirements for each grade level and develop research skills materials to ensure consistency between and within buildings.

## *Family and Consumer Sciences Department*

### **Department Accomplishments:**

- Students enrolled in FCS 111 at Illinois State University continue to observe FCS teachers in Unit 5 as part of their required hours of observation.
- Completed curriculum guides and maps for three new food courses: Culinary Arts, Food for Thought and Life Style Management.
- Teachers attended Illinois Association of FCS conference
- Teachers continue to enroll in a variety of PDA courses offered by the district
- Mary Watterson joins Barb Bush and Teri Wilson as National Board Certified Teachers.
- Two teachers mentored teachers through the second year mentoring program.
- One teacher mentored a teacher through the second year mentoring program.
- Department members received additional funding from Perkins “Special Populations” and Program Improvement grants, and State Farm’s Good Neighbor Grant.
- Students continue to take advantage of the articulation agreements with the Family and Consumer Sciences Department at ISU and the Early Childhood Education Department at Heartland Community College.

### **Goals:**

- Continue to update all guides and maps
- Expand articulation agreements to include Eastern, Western and Bradley University.
- Prepare for the implementation of Lifestyle Management, a course to be offered in conjunction with the Physical Education Department, Culinary Arts and Food for Thought.
- Add Fashion III to our curriculum.
- Continue to meet the needs of a diverse student population through real life applications of the curriculum.

## *Math Department*

### **Students**

- Forty-four students took the AP Calculus test.
- Middle School Students are learning concepts within Geometry and Algebra through activities that incorporate the technology of Geometer's sketchpad.
- **ACT Scores:** At NCWHS, the average ACT composite score was 21.5 with an average math composite score of 21.8. At NCHS, the average ACT composite score was 22.5 with an average math score of 22.5.
- **Mu Alpha Theta:** At NCHS, 45 students were inducted into Mu Alpha Theta. NCWHS inducted 15 students. Mu Alpha Theta is a national math honor society.

### **Teachers**

- Middle School teachers have continued to utilize Geometer's sketchpad.
- Middle school 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers are looking forward to a new text series for 7<sup>th</sup> grade regular math and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade Pre-Algebra. Each teacher will enjoy Smartboard technology with the new adoption.
- Elementary math curriculum chairs began building visits to assist with the implementation of the math curriculum. A presentation of a typical elementary math lesson was made to elementary principals by the curriculum chairs.
- In the fall, NCWHS' Sharon Walesby co-presented at the ICTM conference in Chicago.

### **Programs**

- At NCHS and NCWHS, math homerooms are offered to students who are in need of help in their math classes. The homerooms have limited enrollment and teachers help the students on an individual basis.

# *Music Department*

## Elementary Music Program

- General music classes are taught to every student in the elementary schools, as well as sixth grade students who are not enrolled in band or strings
- Each elementary school averages 2 performances per year
- Fifth grade band and string students perform participated in the unit band and strings concerts, and students also participated in the Elementary Band Festival
- **Over 400** fifth grade students began playing an instrument this school year
- Several elementary schools have 5<sup>th</sup> grade choirs that meet outside of the school day

## Junior High Music Program

- Sixth grade band and string students perform two concerts per year and participate in an in-house solo-ensemble contest
- Seventh and eighth grade bands, orchestras, and choirs each average 4-6 Concerts per year
- Students participate in IGSM Solo-Ensemble Contest and IESA Organization Contest
- All three schools have active extra-curricular jazz bands, choirs, and chamber / jazz string groups that participate in concerts, contests, elementary school tours, and other community events throughout the year

## High School Music Program

### Bands

- Marching bands perform at 5 home football games, 4-6 marching band contests and 5-6 basketball games
- Concert bands perform 4-6 major concerts per year and at several community events, IHSA Solo-Ensemble and Organization Contests
- Numerous extra-curricular ensembles (jazz bands, pep bands, small ensembles) rehearse throughout the year
- First-ever Intercity Band Festival concert involved bands from NCHS, NCWHS, UHS, BHS, and CCHS. Honor Band from these groups featured many Unit 5 musicians

### Choirs

- Four to six major concerts per year, participation in IHSA Solo-Ensemble and Organization Contest
- Unit Choir concerts at both NCHS and NCWHS provide eighth graders a glimpse at the high school choral programs
- Madrigal dinners at both NCHS – NCWHS, 700-800 people combined attendance
- Vocal jazz ensembles, and other a-cappella groups at both high schools perform throughout the community

### Orchestras

- Four to six major concerts per year, participation in IHSA Solo-Ensemble Contest
- Small chamber ensembles perform throughout the community
- Orchestras participated in the annual Tri-School Concert, featuring orchestras from NCHS, NCWHS and BHS, along with a festival orchestra of the top students directed by guest conductor Louis Bergonzi (U of I)
- Unit Orchestra concert featuring every string player in the district (approx. 600 students in 2007-2007)
- The theme for Hauntcert 2006 was “A Night at the Zoo.” This young peoples concert, held each fall, brings in 1200-1400 people from the community

## Highlights of the 2006 – 2007 School Year

- Musicals: *Aida* (NCHS), *Footloose* (NCWHS) bring in thousands of people from the community
- Jazz Nights – featured performances by all the Jazz Ensembles in the District
- NCWHS orchestra participated in the University of Illinois String Consortium
- Many JH and HS students successfully audition into IMEA District Festivals (too many to count...probably 100+)
- 24 high school students successfully auditioned into IMEA All-State Bands, Choirs, and Orchestras
- PJHS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band and KJHS Girls Ensemble were named “Best of the Day” winners at IESA Organizational Contest
- NCHS & NCWHS both finish in the top ten of the IHSA Music Sweepstakes competition
- NCHS Marching Band participated in the Citrus Bowl Parade in Florida, January 2007
- **Approximately 30 % of the Unit 5 student body is enrolled in elective music, grades 6-12**

## ***PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT***

### **Elementary:**

- The learning and implementation of Skyward grade book.
- Brigham 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade used pedometers and calculated “Steps to Disneyland.” They each received a certificate and coupon’s from McDonald’s, who they are partners with.

### **Middle schools:**

- PJHS added a climbing wall with assistance from PTO. With the help of Julie Basting they painted the sports mural, and with the help of Jill Garneau and her husband they drilled and put the rocks on the wall.
- PJHS used handheld PDA’s to download fitness scores to Illinois State University.
- Compared fall and spring scores as well as grade level and gender to determine strengths and weaknesses.
- CJHS added the “Flying Squirrel” to their curriculum.
- CJHS added 12 Heart rate monitors, also 2 hand held PDA’s to the department, and the Tri-Fit system from Illinois State University to download fitness scores.
- KJHS added Dance revolution to their curriculum to incorporate technology and meet the state standard for Dance.

### **Adapted**

- Added adapted PE at Normal Community High School. (2 sections)
- Added adapted PE at Parkside Jr. High.
- Added another full-time teacher due to increase in numbers.

### **High Schools**

- We had opportunities for curriculum development for next year’s Lifestyle Management class. This course will be taught by the Physical Education and Family and Consumer Science staffs.
- NCWHS sent three staff members to attend workshops in the summer of 2007 for an Adventure Education Course and an Understanding Nutrition, Exercise, and Weight Control.
- NCWHS sent two staff members to Polar Camp, which provides training for the use of fitness assessment entries into a Palm Pilot device as well as the TriFit program.
- Continued use of heart rate monitors in Physical Education classes. These allow students to identify their target heart rate and to determine if they are working within their target heart rate zone
- Continued to give students local assessment feedback through the use of four TriFit reports per student
- Continued to provide Red Cross certification through our Advanced Aquatics classes for new lifeguards and re-certifications
- The use of community resources for the introduction of scuba diving, kayaking, dance fitness and various health topics
- Successful eighth grade orientation to help incoming freshman become familiar with the various opportunities in the Physical Education department
- Continued emphasis on the development of physically fit teenage students
- NCHS staff re-certified with the American Heart Association

## *Science Department*

### **Elementary**

- The first year of the new Scott Foresman K-5 science series has been a learning experience for teachers and students alike.
- Curriculum chairs are leading an upcoming grade-level discussion group on ways to improve the teaching for next year now that teachers are familiar with the content.
- Teachers look forward to utilizing the parent/student access component more effectively next year

### **Middle School**

- Prentice Hall was adopted as the text series for grades 6, 7 & 8. New curriculum facilitates further integration of 6<sup>th</sup> grade into the middle school.
- With new text adoption, an increased level of technology availability for middle school science classrooms
- Continued emphasis on differentiated instruction and utilization of other teaching strategies to increase standardized test scores to meet AYP

### **High School**

- The teachers of AP classes have submitted their syllabi to the College Board for approval and the majority of them have heard that they have indeed been given the AP designation.
- Due to the Grading Procedures Task Force, all AP classes will be weighted for the current freshmen and sophomores for the school year 07-08.
- Project Lead the Way Biotech Course task force will be submitted for work during the 07-08 school year to be implemented the following year.
- Looking forward to using the equipment that was approved with the Biology II and Advanced Placement Biology adoptions.
- Task force proposals for the 07-08 school year include Science Research, Chemistry II, AP Chemistry and changing Physics II to AP Physics.

## *Social Studies Department*

### **Middle Schools:**

- 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at the 3 middle school students in Unit 5 have a unique opportunity to participate in the Town of Normal's Government Day on May 4th. These students will be learning how their local government works and how it influences their day to day lives.
- CJHS 6<sup>th</sup> grader Ryan Kopka won the Chiddix Geography Bee.
- CJHS 7<sup>th</sup> grader Claire Steen won the DAR American History Essay Contest. The topic was "A Letter from Jamestown".
- PJHS 7th grader Mike Decramer competed in the state geography bee for the second straight year. He finished in 25th place, which made him one of the top non-8th graders. Mike is determined to make a run at a state championship in 2008.
- KJHS 8<sup>th</sup> grader Sam Wylde won the KJHS Geography Bee. The students who participated in the Town of Normal's Government Day learned about many of the changes that will be happening in our town. They said, "I never thought government stuff could be so cool!"
- As a result of Government day, KJHS 7<sup>th</sup> grader Casey Edwards is going to become a member of the Teen City Council.

### **High Schools:**

#### **The two departments have collaborated quite a bit this year.**

- Fall semester, several freshmen students from both high schools RWS participated in a debate on Genocide. Kelly Keogh (NCHS) and John Bierbaum (NCWHS) organized this activity. The students from West traveled to NCHS. It was a great activity.
- Spring semester sophomore history students from NCHS went with Pat Lawler to NCWHS to debate immigration policy. Melanie Tevis (NCWHS) coordinated this activity.
- Kelly Keogh (NCHS) and Jason Klokkenga (NCWHS) took several students to Capitol Forum in Springfield in February.
- Jason Klokkenga (NCWHS) is assuming the role of Lead Teacher for the CHOICES Capitol forum in Springfield. (He is taking this role from Kelly Keogh (NCHS) who has done it for the past few years.) This is an annual statewide event is attended by both high schools. Jason will go to Brown University this summer.
- Kelly Keogh (NCHS) and John Bierbaum (NCWHS) have organized the McLean County Diversity Project that meets on Sunday afternoons. Students from area schools have been participating in debates using the Choices materials. Both are traveling to New York with the program this summer.
- Both schools had students participate in the Mock Trial in Springfield, IL.
- Teachers LaTishia Baker (NCHS) and Julie Hagler (NCHS) are traveling to China this summer on a part of a group sponsored by a Freedom Foundation Grant.
- NCWHS Teacher Deanna Wiist has been selected to participate in the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History summer seminar series in June at the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library in Staunton, Virginia. This is a very competitive opportunity.
- Deanna Wiist (NCWHS) and Tracy Freeman (NCWHS) are traveling to Williamsburg, Virginia to write curriculum.
- Megan Novotney (NCWHS) received a Beyond the Books grant for technology to use in teaching Geography.

## *Special Education Department*

The Special Education Department has worked on several tasks this year. It has been a year of anticipation and accomplishment.

- Teachers and students at the secondary level have implemented begun to implement student directed IEPs. Throughout the district, students are now becoming more involved in their programming by leading their IEP meeting and sharing their strengths, difficulties, and needs.
- The department's informal writing assessment was revised to evaluate specific areas in the writing process. As part of the ongoing monitoring and assessment of students for progress and to determine their needs, we assess their writing ability. Through the revision, we will be able to make more data driven decisions and report progress.
- The middle school instructional LD math classes started using the newly adopted SRA Real Math series and have found great success for their students. In our ongoing effort to mirror the general education curriculum as much as is appropriate, we are aligning our curriculum and educational practices with the district.
- The larger aspect that we have been working on is training for staff and preparation for the legal changes under IDEA and the state regulations. NCLB and IDEA have aligned with many provisions that affect both laws and the educational practices of the district.
- A significant portion of this includes professional development activities and staff impact of change (staff to student ratios will be changed under the revisions). The evaluation process for identifying students also needs to be totally changed.
- One product done this year was a training specific to annual reviews. All special education staff were provided a binder with processes outlined for conducting effective annual review meetings. This incorporated some of the changes anticipated. We will again be changing this process next year and implementing "year round IEP's".

## ***Technology Department***

Once again the Unit 5 Technology Department has improved the course offerings and opportunities to its students throughout the district. The following is a thumbprint of the 2006/07 school year.

### **High School**

- Both high schools will be implementing Project Lead the Way engineering courses next year. The first in a sequence of courses will be Introduction to Engineering Design. Each high school will have three sections of this course.
- Normal Community High School acquired a Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grant totally \$40,000.00 to implement two PLTW courses over two years.
- Normal Community West High School acquired a Kern Family Foundation Grant totaling \$25,000.00 to implement two PLTW courses over two years.
- The Science and Technology Departments are currently investigating the implementation of a science bio-technical engineering course through PLTW which has the possibility of acquiring another \$40,000.00 of grant money to implement.
- The NCHS Technology Department producing a Football highlight video that was over 45 minutes in total length that captured the entire football session and the championship game.
- The NCHS Technology Department joined with the Drama and Music Departments to help aid in the design, construction and production of 7 NCHS theatrical productions and this year's musical.
- The NCHS Tech Club helped to construct the decorations for Homecoming, the Sweetheart Dance and Prom.
- The NCHS and NCWHS Technology Departments has been very busy producing banners, signs and t-shirts for various clubs and organizations with their vinyl cutting equipment.
- Two NCHS student produced movies were entered into the Bloomington-Normal Film festival.
- The NCHS Tech Club offered personalized Christmas gifts through their die-sublimation equipment.
- Our newest NCHS Technology Department faculty member (Jesse Brobston) started a very successful after school RC Club that explores the use of remote-controlled technologies.
- John Mackinson (NCWHS Tech/Ag) acquired AG grants totaling over \$10,000.00.
- NCHS and NCWHS conducted an inter-school LAN party to explore networking computers and their use. The first LAN party was held at NCWHS.

### **Middle School**

- All three middle schools continued to update the current Tech Ed curriculum.
- Students combine math and technology skills to design, build and test model balsa bridges. Some bridges held more than 90 pounds of live load weight! This unit fits in well with PLTW.
- Adjustments were made in the Transportation/Problem Solving unit to require more higher order thinking skills.
- Students at PJHS experimented with a new model rocket design that worked very well.
- An effort was made to increase time spent in the measurement unit to better prepare students for the rigors at the high school.
- Two new projects were tested at PJHS, a wind power project in an Alternative Energy unit and a CD rack. Both went very well!
- Students continued to amaze their instructors with very creative Rube Goldberg devices.
- The KJHS Tech Club built websites, DVD's and CO<sup>2</sup> cars. Six students participated in or presented at this year's SIT Conference(Student's Involved in Technology) held at Heartland Community College.

## *World Language Department*

### **Some highlights of this year:**

- Guest speaker on Teaching Proficiency through Story Telling an in-service session to teach this current approach to foreign language instruction.
- Headsets and microphones grant to KJHS from State Farm
- I-Pod grant from beyond the books at NCWHS collaborating with BHS
- NCHS Hosted Winterfest in March of 2007
- West hosted several downstate meetings of AATSP
- Two teachers from NCWHS presented at AATSP international conference.
- Student trips overseas from NCHS, NCWHS, CJHS
- Work to improve articulation of Spanish I and Spanish II curriculum
- Approval by AP Central for Advanced Placement courses in French, German and Spanish.

### **Here are the areas of concern based on the items from last year's report:**

- Teacher participation in professional development at state and national level via: Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, and related foreign language professional organizations (AATF, AATG, AATSP)
- Established a protocol with guidance for placement of freshmen and seventh grade students into foreign language level one courses.
- Maintain a viable level one foreign language program at each high school and middle school.