Dual Credit: Fast Lane on the Road to College

Excerpts from Dr. Thorne's recent article in the Daily Herald—see the full article here, including one student's dual credit story.

DuPage County parents may be surprised to learn that AP (Advanced Placement) classes aren't the only means for a head start on college. Dual credit classes - offering both high school and college credit at the same time - actually provide advanced preparation for college and career success to an even broader range of students...

Dual credit means a student is enrolled in a college-level course while still in high school. The curriculum is aligned with an existing course at a partner college or university and taught by a high school teacher approved by that institution. The student's final grade appears both on the high school record and on a newly generated college transcript...

Technology Center of DuPage has been offering dual credit to students since the turn of this century. Its main dual credit partner is College of DuPage, with additional agreements through Kishwaukee College and Northern Illinois University.

Students enrolled in TCD's career-specific electives can earn anywhere from 3 to 46 college credits (depending on the course and length of enrollment) at no cost to the parent or student. The credit earned is transferable to a substantial list of colleges and universities that accept College of DuPage credit. Parents and students can potentially experience tremendous savings...

Dual credit classes open doors for students who may have thought college was out of reach. The outcome is more students pursuing postsecondary education with confidence.

Dr. Jim Thorne
DAOES / TCD Director
7th Grade Career Fair:
Argonne Labs among presenters

TCD ProStart Culinary Team
Fourth Straight State Championship
On February 28, five seniors from TCD’s Culinary program brought home the state ProStart Student Invitational trophy. This is the fourth year in a row that a TCD team took the top spot in the culinary competition hosted by the Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation.

TCD’s first HOSA Chapter
Future Health Professionals
Members of the new TCD chapter of the Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA) enjoyed a successful inaugural experience in March at the 2015 HOSA State Leadership Conference in Decatur, IL. They were among over seven hundred students from thirty schools across the state competing in nearly fifty individual and team competitive events over the three day conference.

DAOES Board: TCD Students of the Month
Each month, the Board of Directors of the DuPage Area Occupational Education System (DAOES) honors a TCD student nominated by an instructor for excellence.

February:
Marty Stubben, Automotive Technology
Marty is a senior from St. Francis H.S. in Auto Tech and a member of TCD’s A-Team Honor Roll. He is a hard working, highly motivated student with excellent attendance and workplace skills. Passionate about the automotive industry, he takes pride in his work, maintains a very positive attitude, and demonstrates significant leadership potential, providing assistance to other students who may be struggling. After high school, Marty plans to continue his education in automotive technology at Southern Illinois University or Wyotech.
March:
Chloe Simek, Cosmetology
Chloe is a senior at Wheaton North and a second-year Cosmetology student. She is a TCD A-Team Honor Roll member and demonstrates real mastery of hands-on skills. Chloe consistently goes above and beyond, and her willingness to help others is evident every day in the classroom. Last year she participated in Skills USA, an Illinois statewide competition, and currently is part of an after school club to further enhance her Cosmetology skills. After graduation, Chloe will use Cosmetology’s 46 hours of dual credit toward an associate's degree through College of DuPage.

PROGRAM NEWS

Construction Trades
Interning Close to Home
TCD internships and job shadows are generally off-campus, but sometimes they are closer to home. Construction Trades student Gabe Gros (Naperville North senior) has been working with TCD maintenance mechanic Scott Tamkus this semester, building a small bathroom for an evening training program that leases space in the TCD building. Gabe’s acquired framing, electrical and plumbing skills have been put to good use.

Criminal Justice - Multi-Program Project
CERT Tornado Scenario
Four TCD programs helped Criminal Justice stage a tornado disaster scenario as the culmination of CJ’s CERT curriculum (Citizens Emergency Response Training). Students spent weeks learning first responder skills thanks to members of the Addison Police Department's CERT program. If a disaster strikes a community, official lines of communication may be down, making a call to paramedics problematic. CERT gives those who are usually out in the community, including police officers and ordinary citizens, the skills to triage injuries and use materials at hand to fashion splints, bandages, or means of transport for injured people.

Learn how it all went and see the photos!

Culinary, Pastry Arts & Hospitality Management
26th Annual Foundation Dinner
The 26th Annual Culinary Foundation Dinner served 150 guests, including several member school administrators and school board members. Entertainment included music by the Max Clark Group, a video montage by Multimedia, and a silent auction. The evening ended with the announcement of the Culinary Alum of the Year: Michael Elliott, Glenbard West ’09, now with Quince at the Homestead, Evanston, Illinois. Thank you to families, member schools, advisory board members, alumni, and TCD administration for making more opportunities available for culinary students. See photo slideshow here.
Horticulture

Cluck Dynasty: “Peeps” and Plants
TCD is live streaming its own reality show now that Horticulture added an incubator-with-camera to the program area. Target hatching date is April 17; in the meantime, students will built a coop and learn how to care for a small flock.

Keep an eye on TCD's Peeps 24/7 via Livestream: http://new.livestream.com/TCD/events/3922617

Save the dates: Horticulture students will host a Spring Plant Sale on April 24 and 25 and a Summer Plant Sale on May 22 and 23. Watch TCD's website for more information and times.

Coming up at TCD:
April 18-20 National ProStart Invitational
April 23-25 SkillsUSA Illinois Championships
April 24-25 Spring Plant Sale - TCD Greenhouse
May 1 Fire Science Cell Burns
May 8 Early Childhood Spring Finale
May 13 PLTW Engineering Open House
May 15 EMT Year End Scenario
May 19 TCD Senior Awards Night
May 22-23 Summer Plant Sale - TCD Greenhouse