December 8, 2014 TREES System Updates

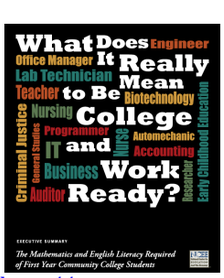
Fiscal – The TREES office was recently notified we will receive an additional $21,550. Due to a tight time frame for my amending our budget to receive these additional CTEI funds, I have assigned that money to the Equipment line in our budget (consistent with additional funds received last year). I will discuss this with the Executive board on the 18th to confirm this is how we will proceed with the use of these funds.

A Tremendous **Resource** – Our friend Jim Nelson from the Illinois Manufacturing Association shared this 8 minute video from Edge Factor – "addressing the challenges industry and education are facing in regards to workforce development" www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgORRGuhFW8
These are Engaging Curriculum Resources at a very reasonable price. While there are great natural tie ins for our industrial technology teachers, I would have figured out a way to integrate them in to my business curriculum.

Research – With Gates Foundation funding, The National Center for Education and the Economy conducted a study of high school and first year community college curriculum. The linked executive summary is a worthwhile read. The findings are consistent with what Neal and I have found in studying industry pre-employment screening exams. Excerpted conclusions of their math findings include:

* The mathematics needed is mostly middle school mathematics. But the failure rate in our community colleges suggest many of them do not know that math very well.
* We are not teaching mathematics concepts in a "durable" way. They state "This is a very serious problem that needs to be addressed in the first instance by the way mathematics is taught to prospective teachers of elementary and middle school mathematics in the arts and sciences departments of our universities and the way mathematics education is taught in our schools of education."
* Don't rush through middle school mathematics; master Algebra I by sophomore year
* Algebra II not a prerequisite for success in community college or in most careers; high schools should abandon requirement that all high school students take it
*Mathematics modeling, statistics & probability, complex measurement, schematics and geometric visualization needed in many community college programs are not now taught in most schools

"There is a lot of interest these days in redesigning high school, in particular the high school curriculum so that students will be ready for both college and career. A simple statement, but there is a considerable lack of clarity as to what that actually means". – Marc Tucker, NCEE



http://www.ncee.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/NCEE_ExecutiveSummary_May2013.pdf

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of students!

Brian