

# Teacher Receives NIOSH Award for Developing Safety Training Program

By Sabrina Kidwai



James Hauck

CARPENTRY INSTRUCTOR SAYS,  
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THAT ALL TEACHERS . . . TEACH  
SAFETY.”

**AS A CARPENTRY INSTRUCTOR, JAMES HAUCK** strives to ensure the safety of his students. To help achieve that goal he developed a safety training program for Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools (MCVTS) in East Brunswick, New Jersey. The program was recognized with the 2007 National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) award at ACTE’s National Policy Seminar held in March.

“Winning [this award] instills in me a sense of pride and validation in that I have done my best, and I am recognized for my efforts,” Hauck said.

The NIOSH award, co-sponsored by ACTE, recognizes a teacher or professor who promotes occupational safety and health in school laboratories. Hauck’s program includes safety rules and regulations, a safety awareness program, classroom rules, and the appropriate use of personal protective equipment. The program established a Council of Safety Representa-

tives—a safety referral program for the prevention of unsafe activities, attitudes and injuries, and an accident review system.

Each year, MCVTS compiles a comprehensive annual report of statistics about accidents and incidents that is used to identify trends and put in place prevention measures to reduce risk. Because of Hauck’s work, the county has a Safety Standards Plan and conducts an annual safety analysis of accidents for all of its schools.

“It is absolutely essential that all teachers, especially laboratory instructors, teach safety as an integral part of everyday life,” Hauck said. “Teens have an intrinsic feeling of immortality in that they may not realize the potential for serious injury like losing one’s sight or an appendage. They believe it won’t happen to them.”

For schools or districts that would like to implement a safety program, Hauck suggests districts develop a comprehensive plan and set of rules and guidelines

addressing safety issues as well as individualized safety standards specific to each career major or course being offered. Districts should also have biannual meetings to discuss the issue of safety. Schools can involve students by appointing one as a leader who monitors and reports unsafe conditions and practices.

For the contest, entrants wrote a paper describing specific actions that ensured adequate safety, outlined physical safeguards that protected the students, provided a report on research conducted on lab safety that contributed to the design of safety measures, and developed a safety manual for a specific lab class.

For more information on the NIOSH award, please visit [www.acteonline.org/about/awards/awards-niosh.cfm](http://www.acteonline.org/about/awards/awards-niosh.cfm). 

If you have a CTE professional or student that you would like to profile, please contact N. Susan Emeagwali at [semeagwali@acteonline.org](mailto:semeagwali@acteonline.org).