

ACTE in the News

ACTE Features an Interview with Bob Vila

—*Construction Informer Blog*, October 4, 2007

The construction industry is facing a challenge of finding enough people, especially people with the right training and experience. The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) has added an interview with Bob Vila, former host of television shows “Bob Vila” and “This Old

House,” to its “Career Tech Talk” podcast series. Vila describes the current state of the construction industry, and he provides advice on how to increase the number of talented workers in it. He suggests making more apprenticeships available and encouraging students to obtain certifications. In the past 20 years, the construction industry has experienced many changes, and Vila reveals the top innovations in the field.

“Career and technical education (CTE)

plays a vital role in addressing the skilled worker needs in the construction industry,” says Bryan Albrecht, president of Gateway Technical College in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and president-elect of ACTE. “In a highly skilled profession like construction, students must be as well prepared in math and science as they are in the tools of the trade. It is that awareness and experience that CTE provides to students.”

<http://blog.sunworldventures.com>

CTE News

Grant puts BCC Students on the Trail of a Crop Killer

—*The Seattle Times*, October 18, 2007

Students at Bellevue Community College (BCC), located in Bellevue, Washington, will get the opportunity to do hands-on DNA sequencing of a fungus that’s a real crop killer. It attacks plant roots—particularly wheat and barley—and can devastate an entire field with a disease called Take-All. BCC received a \$478,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to engage in genetic-research projects. Gita Bangera, the project’s director and BCC Life Science director, said students will study and analyze genes of a specific bacterium that has shown the potential for protecting crops from the fungus.

They will determine how the bacteria benefit the plants. According to Bangera, grants being awarded to two-year schools are rare because of competition from four-year universities and independent research labs. She hopes to change students’ perceptions of science with this project. “I know how exciting it is to do research, but a lot of students don’t know that so they don’t know to aim for it,” Bangera said. When performing the research, students will enter their findings in the GenBank Database, and their data will be available for scientists worldwide who are working on finding solutions to protect crops susceptible to the disease. The class is still in

development, but Bangera hopes it will be a six-credit science course that will either start in winter or spring 2008.

<http://seattletimes.nwsources.com>

Companies are Finding Savings in the U.S. They Used to Seek Overseas

—*Dallas Morning News*, October 28, 2007

IT companies like Northrop Grumman are putting a twist to offshoring by keeping computer work in small-town America; this is being dubbed onshoring. Residents in Corsicana, Texas, are enjoying the opportunity to work for Northrop developing software and troubleshooting technical problems for clients; it is one of six small city locations the company has set up.

Although a few years ago companies were offshoring, many are pulling back from India to set up shop in rural areas where there is high-speed broadband connections, lower real estate prices, and wages are attractive to the locals. By having an office in Corsicana, it saves Northrop about 40 percent, which is similar to the savings the company would be making if it sent jobs overseas. In Corsicana the community welcomes the possibility of having a new pool of homebuyers, and developers are planning to build 200 new homes. According to Lee McLeary, town economic development director, Northrop’s presence

is prompting other high-tech companies to consider opening offices in town.

www.dallasnews.com

Hip-hop Show Has Teaching Physics Down to a Science

—*Toledo Blade (OH)*, October 20, 2007

Instead of sitting in a classroom learning science, imagine middle school students seeing young performers sing and dance to hip-hop tunes about inertia and motion, or watching two teachers dressed in fat suits trying to knock each other over with padded bellies to teach students about mass and acceleration? Middle school students from Fostoria, St. Wendelin and New Riegel schools in Ohio watched FMA Live!, which is a science/hip-hop concert tour sponsored by NASA and the Honeywell Corporation.

The show was developed to inspire students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math. Students and staff took part in the show which begins with a young man Velcroed to a big yellow wall to demonstrate inertia. The show also illustrated Newton’s law that force equals mass times acceleration by having a student kick various sizes of a soccer ball. Will Tijerina is one of the performers. He says it’s great to see students’ faces as the show unfolds. “If we had something like this when I was growing up, I’d probably be a scientist,” he said. ■