THE second quarter has flown by for CTE TEACH in a flurry of activity. CTE TEACH hosted a training session in October at the Colton-Redlands-Yucaipa ROP to train teachers from schools across the state on the Career Technical Educators using Data Driven Instruction (CTEDDI) program. All CTEDDI sites were also visited. In addition mentor teacher trainings and webinars were hosted for both CTE TEACH and CTEDDI participating sites.

**CTE TEACH Spotlight**

**DANIEL BINSFIELD, Kern High ROC**

Daniel earned his Bachelor’s in Technology Education from the University of Wisconsin. He spent 15 years teaching mathematics, drafting, computer aided drafting, and architectural design at a comprehensive high school before working for Kern as a Graphic Design Instructor. He spent the last 15 years working with the district’s BTSA program where he instructs beginning teachers on integrating technology based lessons in the classroom. He holds a Master’s Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from CSU - Bakersfield. One of the most effective things he has done as a CTE Teach mentor is to pair new teachers with veteran teachers that teach the same subject. “I find veteran teachers are excited to work and share everything they know with the new teachers and new teacher’s passion motivates the veteran teachers. Many of our new hires are also directly out of industry or University and are able to assist some of the veteran teachers with technology. Watching these relationships blossom is very rewarding.”
Happy 2013! It’s hard to believe that we are already midway through the school year with so much accomplished but still so much to do. 

I have learned during my years as an educator that a teacher’s job is never done. Even during holiday breaks teachers are always thinking about their next lesson, what needs to get done to be prepared, and what they can do differently to impact student learning. With that said I hope you all enjoyed some rest, relaxation, and quality time with your loved ones during the holidays.

During 2nd quarter I had the privilege of attending the Vision 2012 conference in Atlanta. Vision 2012 is a national conference sponsored by the ACTE. This was my first national conference and I was overwhelmed with the amount of passion and dedication I observed from educators across the nation. Although the conference covered many CTE topics, I couldn’t help but notice a few common themes that were spotlighted such as: elevating the voice of CTE, using data to drive instruction, and how to motivate and engage all students in learning.

As we all know, shouting the importance of CTE courses is critical to CTE’s survival; especially in California as CTE battles its newest challenge – The proposed weighted student formula. According to CAROCP President Valerie Vuicich, if the weighted student formula passes, financially it can have “a dramatic effect on CTE.” Now more than ever, it is important to highlight the work you and your students are doing by showcasing your programs to everyone-- parents, elected officials, business partners and district administrators. According to Vuicich, “We have to be bold and tell our stories to ensure that decision-makers can’t ignore our contributions to Career and College Ready Students”.

Using data to drive instruction was another hot topic presented at the conference. CTE TEACH is piloting the CTEDDI (Career and Technical Educators Using Data Driven Improvement Models) program. 30 of our teachers pre-tested students in their chosen subjects during October. Upon receiving the results, each teacher analyzed the data and triangulated that data with other student data such as STAR and CAHSEE testing results, and other available individual student data. Combining all of the data, teachers wrote an action plan to design instructional strategies around what the data was telling them. Each teacher will post-test students in May to measure student growth from the pre-test. We are excited about this project and it was nice to see the validation of the data message at the conference.

How many times have you heard this: “I just don’t know what to do about (insert student name), I just can’t seem to motivate them to do their work!” We all know that students learn differently and are motivated in different ways. I attended several workshops that addressed this subject and was blown away by the ideas presented. We plan to present these ideas during future CTE TEACH webinars so please be sure to log in to the spring webinars to learn some new motivational strategies. The next webinar is scheduled for January 23rd; we look forward to your participation!

The fall of 2012 was very productive for CTE TEACH. Under new leadership we launched the CTEDDI program, visited all CTEDDI sites, held two webinars and conducted two mentor trainings. It has been both enlightening and exciting to see how our sites implement CTE TEACH and CTEDDI.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming CTE TEACH Mentor and CTEDDI Mentor webinars on January 23, 2013. The CTE TEACH Mentor webinar topic is “How to Assess Teacher’s Strengths and Weaknesses” at 3 p.m. and the CTEDDI workshop will begin at 4 p.m. Information will be sent to all mentors on how to access these required webinars.

On November 6, 2012 “Mentoring for the 21st Century” workshop was held at the Sutter County Office of Education. This was possible due to the efforts of our good friend and CTE TEACH administrator Eric Pomeroy. We had 20 mentors from the Northern California area attend. The workshop was an opportunity for mentors to
meet one another and form a professional learning community.

On February 6, 2013 “Mentoring for the 21st Century” workshop will be held again for our Southern California mentors at the North Orange County ROP. Please be sure to register for this event no later than January 31, 2013. All mentors will receive the “Mentoring for the 21st Century Handbook” by Paula Rutherford.

Our second round of visits to all of our sites for both CTE TEACH and CTEDDI are now being arranged. During these visits we will be focusing on advanced training for our mentors and we will actually be observing teachers and conducting follow-up conferences together with our mentors. We are eager about participating in this guided practice training activity.

It is so important for mentors to make regular and frequent contact with their teachers. Mentors should make some type of contact with their teachers once a week. This can be through a phone call, email, walk through or observation. CTE TEACH requires mentors to conduct a minimum of two observations per teacher, per semester. Many teachers will not reach out for the help they need, so it our duty to take the initiative and reach out to them. The only way mentors can establish a trusting and warm rapport with teachers is to be available to them. Let’s make a resolution for 2013 to be there for our teachers. Happy New Year to all!

By Stephen Stalker, Technology Support Specialist

Anyone who has watched television lately has probably seen the commercials for Windows 8 and the Microsoft Surface tablet. I have been asked by many people about what makes these things different from Windows 7 and the other tablets that are out there.

Windows 8 has a few fundamental changes to the Windows experience; an app screen, the removal of the Start screen button at the bottom left of the desktop (the Windows icon), and touch screen compatibility. These changes essentially make a user re-learn how to use their PC all over again, creating a steep learning curve. The best way to think of things is that Windows 8 is similar to a smartphone/tablet operating system on a PC, complete with hidden menus and new ways to do everything.

The app screen is the full replacement of the old Start menu. The start screen contains very brightly colored tiles replacing the menu items and icons from every other version of Windows. The upside is that it is extremely easy to organize the tiles by a simple drag and drop interface and the tiles can easily be grouped into columns, but there is no way to create folders. There is a distinct lack of customization beyond dragging around the tiles inherent to the operating system. The background can be changed to a few built-in images and color themes, but you cannot replace it with an image of your own. Also, you are unable to customize an apps’ tile color either. There are apps that let the user create custom tiles for web links but that is something the user must download on their own.

The biggest learning curve that users must face is the lack of the Start menu on the Desktop and its hidden menus. For over 15 years users have learned to simply go to the bottom left of the screen for their program menu. Going to the bottom left of the screen will show a pop-up of the Start screen that the user can click on to switch over to the Start screen. Another way to access programs is to hover over the very top right or bottom right of the screen to show a menu of general shortcuts called “charms.” From there you can do a search of the desired program.

A very nice change that Microsoft implemented is the touch screen compatibility. It’s nice to be able to flick my finger across a screen to access everything. Microsoft has done a big push to integrate the PC and tablet worlds to
provide a single service across platforms. It does feel, however, that the mobile experience has been brought to the PC at the expense of the normal PC experience.

Going solely on the mobile experience Microsoft has tablets with two different systems on it; one with their Windows 8 operating system and one with Windows RT. The two fundamental differences are the capabilities and price. Windows RT does not contain a Desktop at all and costs $500. The one with the full Windows 8 system costs $900. The $900 version will allow the user to install any program they wish like they would on a PC. A caveat to this is that for only $100-200 more someone can get a touchscreen laptop nicknamed an “ultrabook” that can fold back into a tablet.

It seems that although Windows 8 and its tablets have some great ideas in them, the execution of those ideas hasn’t hit the mark yet. It will be very interesting seeing how the first Service Pack for Windows 8 may address these issues to make the experience more fluid for users. My advice regarding Windows 8 is to wait until the Service Pack comes out before considering a purchase or upgrade.

Windows Surface tablet with keyboard

Asus Ultrabook