



Kankakee Area Career Center
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KANKAKEE AREA CAREER CENTER **KACC**

Matthew Kelley, Director

Timothy Guerin, Principal

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The primary purpose of the Kankakee Area Career Center is to meet the advanced career and technical education needs of the regional high school students. The underlying function of the Career Center is to prepare students to select viable career paths and to obtain the training and skills essential for continuing education and/or the job market.

Our governing body, the Executive Committee is comprised of the Regional Superintendent of I-KAN and the Superintendents from our ten member districts. This Executive Committee meets here at the Career Center monthly at 8:30 a.m.

The financial support from the member schools comes in two ways, tuition and flat assessment. Tuition at KACC for member schools is \$1,200 per student. Considering the type of curriculum and specialized equipment needed, the cost of sending students to the career center is much more efficient than several area schools providing programs on an individual basis. Member schools also pay an annual flat assessment, which is derived for each school utilizing a formula utilizing the number of students from the previous fiscal year, and the school's assessed valuation number reported on your EAV reports. . Non-member school tuition is currently \$2250.

As the KACC program brochure indicates, we have 13 programs. Typically, our enrollment is between 750 and 800 students. We are planning for significant growth in the next few years and are currently working on plans which will be shared upon its completion.

Aside from the curriculum offered here at the Career Center, there are, of course, several ancillary activities which benefit your (our) students. They are:

Dual Credit – Twelve of our programs have dual credit with Kankakee Community College and Prairie State College.

Certification – Successful completion of several of our programs along with some industry-specific testing allows your (our) students the opportunity to earn important certifications in the occupational area they have studied.

Portfolio Program – Each and every senior student here at KACC will have a completed professional portfolio upon graduation. This portfolio typically contains their professional resume, letters of recommendation, high schools and college transcripts, certifications, artifacts/pictures from work completed while at KACC and their home school awards. We have several great examples for your review.

Business Partnerships – Several exist within the school. Each program is required to establish an advisory committee specifically for their continued curriculum development.

Internship Program – Our business relationships are further enhanced through our internship program. It is a fabulous opportunity for the students to take their curriculum and skills to the next level.

Student Advisory Council – Three students from each KACC program are recommended to serve on our Student Advisory Council. Those students meet with Principal Guerin to discuss a variety of issues and share their opinions. They also volunteer in a variety of ways for school activities and KACC's Annual Open House.

SkillsUSA: Beginning at the State Level, students compete in both in technical and professional development areas. Those who earn a first-place finish, which we have had every year for the past 8 years, are invited to attend a National Competition, held annually every June. A first place finish there must compete again to earn a place representing the USA in World Skills Competition. We have one student, Jen Miaczynski, who competed several years ago in Calgary, Canada in the Cosmetology competition for a World Title.

National Technical Honor Society (NTHS): NTHS honors the achievements of top CTE students, provides scholarships to encourage pursuit of higher education and has been the acknowledged leader in the recognition of outstanding student achievement in career and technical education. Students who qualify are honored at our annual KACC NTHS Induction Ceremony in February of each year.

Student Recognition Night/Scholarships: KACC and a variety of other community based awards add up to a whopping \$10,000 to \$40,000 in a variety of scholarships to your (our) students during this event. Some of these are directly sponsored by KACC, KCC and two memorial scholarships. The KACC Spaulding-Lawrence Memorial Scholarship is supported by proceeds of our annual golf outing.

Counselor's Day: The Career Center Principal invites all attending schools' counselors for a full day meeting here at KACC at which time, they are informed of any updates and changes to our programs. They are provided an opportunity for dialogue and shared information to enhance understanding of CTE, our curriculum and the benefits of KACC.

Principal/Counselor Round Table: This meeting provides a unique opportunity to link the relationships of KARVES, KACC and the 16 schools we serve. Attending Schools' Administrative and Counseling staff are given an opportunity to discuss trends in CTE, the need for adding, changing or removing programs and planning for the future.