



# INNOVATIVE IDEAS

**Motivate students to do their best!!!**

***“I SURVIVED THE NOCTI” T-SHIRT – Western Area Career and Technology Center***

We give T-shirts to students who score advanced or competent on the NOCTI test. Printed on the front is “I SURVIVED THE NOCTI” and the back reads “AND I’M PROUD OF IT – WESTERN AREA CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER.” These unique shirts create a positive “buzz” among students.

This year, each program will design its own shirt.

***FROZEN T-SHIRT CONTEST – Erie County Technical School***

We use a PowerPoint presentation followed by a frozen T-shirt contest. For each program – use an extra large size T-shirt and tie it in knots and rubber band it until it’s about the size of a cantaloupe. Soak the shirts in a sink of water until saturated. Place shirts in the freezer and let them freeze solid. On contest day, get the shirts out ½ hour before the competition begins. The object is for each team to thaw their T-shirt out 100% and put it on a person. Since we have mixed genders, we gave the students large pieces of cardboard which were made into silhouette heads. They were to decorate the head for their program and tape it onto a chair and then place the T-shirt over it. The winning program wins! It was a hoot. We did it as a team building activity after the rally and the kids roared.

***BREAKFAST AND PIZZA PARTY – Admiral Peary AVTS***

We serve the students breakfast before testing. Students that score at the advanced level have a pizza party and watch a movie. They are also given 10 “NOCTI dollars” to spend in our school store.

***NOCTI KING AND QUEEN CONTEST – Steel Center AVTS***

We crown a King and Queen for the male and female student in both the AM and PM sessions with the highest combined performance and written scores. The students will have a bulletin board dedicated in their honor and will also be awarded a cash prize, gift certificate or a special meal fit for a King and Queen. Their achievement will also be announced in the school newsletter.

***PEP RALLY AND AWARDS – Delaware County Technical School - Folcroft***

We have a pep rally to psych our students up and give away NOCTI T-shirts. After testing, we have another rally for NOCTI participants only and give away prizes in different categories; such as most improved. Prizes, such as iPods, GPS units and TVs are given. The school plays "Minute To Win It" games and Dance Revolution. We have done this for two years and the students are already talking about who is going to win next spring.

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**Submit your INNOVATIVE IDEA...**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

My Innovative Idea:

### **EAT-N-PARK GIFT CARDS – Pittsburgh School District**

We award a \$10 restaurant gift card to those students who show the most growth from the pre-test to the post test. It's a nice little perk for the students and Eat-n-Park is kind enough to donate the cards! It provides a bit more of an incentive for the students to focus more seriously on the posttest.

### **QUESTION OF THE DAY – Greater Johnstown CTC**

Just like schools can use a "SAT Question of the Day", our teachers create a "NOCTI Question of the Day" for their students.

### **AWARDS CEREMONY – Greene County CTC**

Green County CTC recognizes student achievement at the end of the year with a Recognition Ceremony.

### **PAIRED LEARNING – Eastern Center for Arts and Technology**

Our teachers each have their own method for preparing their students. One teacher does paired learning exercises when they review before the test. Another teacher gives a big pep talk before the test.

### **WEBSITE POST – Western Montgomery CTC**

We post information on our school website and also conduct a student assembly to show a PowerPoint which explains the NOCTI testing process.

### **DATA/INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES – Connellsville Area Career and Technical Center**

We reviewed the student scores for the past 5 years and did an analysis of each of the duty areas for the written and performance sections. The teachers looked at the percentages for each duty area and compared it with the Pennsylvania cut scores. This helped determine areas that need more attention and helps the teacher hone in on a root cause (if possible). With our schoolwide literacy initiative, we decided to purchase at least single copies of each of the resources listed in the back of the NOCTI study guide. We are doing a schoolwide training to have students use the Cornell note-taking strategy to create their own expanded study guide from related chapters and other resources that focus on the duty areas. Using this type of note taking and researching topics found on the NOCTI – whether it be through books, computer searches, or articles, we hope that students will also carry over this learning strategy to other subjects to help them become more responsible for their learning. As the students share resources and discuss the various notes that they have acquired, it will give them additional exposure to each topic – reinforcing what they have learned and in the end providing a study guide. Students can compare what they discover and share the information and add to their notes when necessary. For the underclassmen, the materials accumulated will become their review material in preparing for their end of program assessment.

### **FOOD IS GOOD FOR THE BRAIN – Upper Bucks County Technical School**

We obtained a grant from a local business that provides lunch for all students on our NOCTI performance testing day, monetary awards for the students with the highest online score in each program area (this is announced at our awards ceremony) and top students who take the NIMS test. We also provide breakfast for all students on NOCTI performance testing day and Pennsylvania Skills Certificates are announced at Senior Certificate Evening. In addition, teachers also provide their own incentive systems for their students.

### **UNDERCLASSMAN ENCOURAGEMENT – Chester County Technical College High School**

Underclassman stand on the sidewalk cheering and encouraging the seniors when they get off the bus. The principals from the sending high schools are also there to encourage the students.