

Show me the Money

Linking Trades to Transformation – working group meeting

September 24, 2013

The following are my opinions on what is needed to grow ACE IT programs in school districts.

1. A person that understands how to set up, recruit and support ACE IT initiatives in a district. If the person is linked to Tech Ed teachers, that seems beneficial.
2. Money. A person that can use the existing system to focus existing funding to districts through ministry per block funding and ITA ACE IT funding. Both are required. It still costs districts to run ACE IT programs. There is not enough funding to reduce the class size, purchase up to date equipment, and materials, etc.
3. College partners willing to share their potential students.
4. Top Shop Teacher to teach program.
5. Recruiting students, is always an issue.
6. Offer trades program that students can move away with skills to get a job up north. There are very few apprenticeship opportunities in our area, Courtenay/Comox.

A new model that is showing great promise, is the VCC flexible learning program for Auto Collision Repair. It is the only program of its kind. The issue as to why it is not in every district is because we need a Career coordinator to be able to set it up in each district. Presently VCC tries to market it, but they need a high school person who knows how to set the program up, to partner with them. It would be great to have more programs like this for the non mainstream trades, or where college access is limited.