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WESTERN MONTGOMERY CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER STUDENTS SCORE AT HIGHEST LEVEL IN SCHOOL HISTORY ON NATIONAL EXAM ADMINISTERED IN TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

LIMERICK – Four years after starting a process to overhaul its curriculum, the Western Montgomery Career and Technology Center is finding that the initiative is producing positive results – 85 percent of the school’s seniors scored at competent or advanced on the 2011 National Occupational Competency Testing Institute exam.

The NOCTI exam is given annually to seniors in technical schools who have completed two-thirds of their training and is designed to test students’ technical knowledge through hands-on and written assessments. This year’s score of 85 percent is the highest in the school’s history. Scores were high across subject areas and subgroup categories as well, with 71 percent of students with an individualized education plan (IEP) scoring at competent or advanced levels, and 100 percent of students scoring at advanced or competent levels in the subjects of Auto Tech, Computer Information Systems, Health Sciences, Protective Services and Commercial Art.

“Four years ago, WMCTC began a curriculum improvement process that overhauled how and what we teach in our technical areas, and we believe that this has led to a positive increase in our students’ success,” said Joe Greb, Administrative Director.

In 2008, the school initiated an effort to improve its instruction by implementing a backward curriculum design model. Through this model, educators established a goal for each course and then worked backward from that goal to determine what students would need to learn or do in order to achieve that goal over three years. Clearly, the effort has had a significant impact on student learning, as evidenced by the rise in the percentage of students reaching competent or advanced levels on the NOCTI since 2008:

2008	35.3%
2009	56.1%
2010	63.30%
2011	85%

“We are very proud of all our students and their accomplishments, and look forward to continuing the upward trend in our NOCTI test scores in the years to come,” said Mr. Greb.

WMCTC serves students in grades 10-12 who reside in the Pottsgrove, Spring-Ford Area and Upper Perkiomen school districts. The school is located at 77 Graterford Road in Limerick. For more information, visit www.westerncenter.org, or call (610) 489-7272.