

# KBOQ

\$3.00

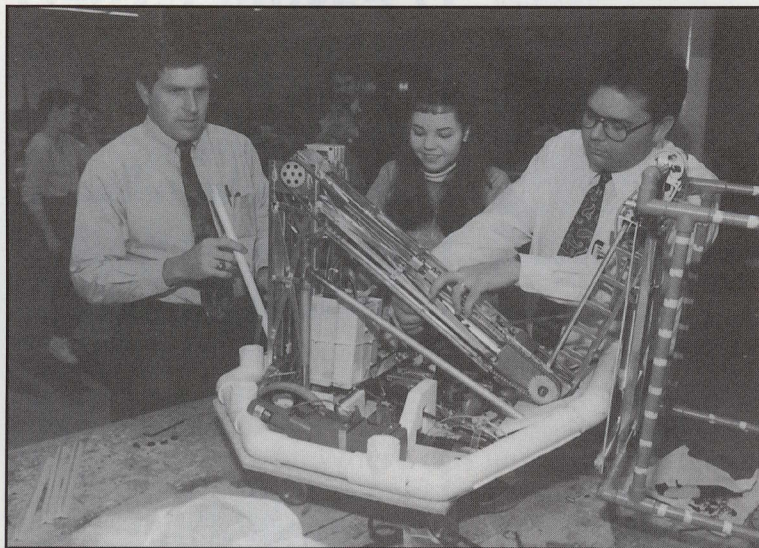
KOKOMO BUSINESS QUARTERLY

April 1995

## Business & Education

Area businesses are bringing  
valuable skills into the classroom.

# County businesses and schools join forces to improve education



Delco employees and KHS students work together to prepare for competition with their U.S. First prototype.

LAUSCH

By Annmarie Campbell

Some of the finest business-school partnerships in the state are located in Howard County, says David Barnes, school-community liaison for Kokomo-Center Schools. Local business leaders say that these successful partnerships are due in large part to the creation of the Howard County Partners in Education group in 1987.

The committee was organized by Jim Holtson, retired director of personnel for Delco Electronics. While part of a state committee to oversee other Partners in Education programs around the state, Holtson was inspired by what successful collaborations were accomplishing. He brought together area business leaders, school superintendents and representatives of higher education to discuss formally organizing similar partnerships here. With all in agreement, each of the five public school systems in the county were paired with one of the five major area businesses to form partnerships.

"We tried to incorporate what we saw other groups (around the state) doing and reach beyond," says Holtson, who continues to coordinate the meetings and helps form subcommittees for the Partners in Education committee.

**Delco Electronics and Kokomo Center Schools**—Delco, being the largest local company, was a natural fit to the county's largest school corporation, says Jim Holtson. "If there were one model partnership," Holtson says, "it would be DEKCS (Delco Electronics Kokomo-Center Schools). It's one really fabulous operation." In fact, Superintendent Dr. Roger Thornton and Glen Grundmann, manager of external education relations for Delco and a member of the DEKCS partnership, will present information about DEKCS in San Francisco at the National School Board Association's conference.

Grundmann credits the partnership's success on mutual responsibility. "This

program... is based upon a handshake and not a handout. Money is not its foundation," he explains. "Every goal has at least two champions. Key individuals involved in both organizations make it happen."

The local partnership has established:

**KHS FIRST Club**—

Delco engineers and KHS FIRST Club students work on various projects throughout the year to stimulate interest in the physical sciences and engineering through brainstorming

and problem-solving techniques, as well as the development of prototypes. The main event, for the fourth year, is designing and building a radio-controlled machine that performs a specific task, such as shooting a ball through a goal. The team will travel to Florida to compete with other US FIRST teams in a national contest this month.

**World In Motion**—This county-wide program, also in its fourth year, is a hands-on physics program that is used in as many as 83 fourth, fifth and sixth grade classrooms. Engineers from Delco and other businesses visit the classrooms to answer questions and help students form teams to design and build a project while learning about engineering.

**The JASON project**—Delco, in conjunction with Electronic Data Service, sponsors the JASON project to stimulate young students' interest in science. This year more than 2,000 area students traveled to Delco's auditorium to view a live

scientific study. The children saw scientists and students their own age conducting experiments on a Hawaiian volcano.

"Curriculum is provided that enables teachers to do pre-teaching before the program and then do some follow up teaching afterward," says Dr. Tom Little, director of elementary education for Kokomo-Center Schools. "There's also a focus on women as scientists in the program," he adds. "This gives our girls a goal to maybe consider a career in science."

**PUMMP**—The DEKCS partnership created PUMMP (Pursuing Upward Mobility of Minorities Program) to identify minority students at the seventh and eighth grade level who have a high aptitude for math and science. The program is designed to encourage these students to pursue non-traditional careers. Minority personnel in professional positions at Delco act as role models and mentors to the students.

PUMMP students, 16 years and older, also have the opportunity to work at Delco after school and during the summer—"...not in menial jobs but meaningful jobs," Grundmann says.

**VISION**—During the summer of 1994, DEKCS launched the pilot program of VISION (Vision of Industry and Schools in Ongoing Networks). This program enhances science and math teaching skills by helping teachers transform technology used in the business world into classroom experiences. By participating in the program, teachers can earn college graduate cred-

its and also a small stipend.

Du Pont, Chrysler, EDS, PSI Energy, Delco and St. Joseph Hospital opened their doors to nine science and math teachers to provide hands-on experience with state-of-the-art technology. Most teachers visited three or four of the businesses to experience what Grundmann compares to a smorgasbord. "Teachers come in and see what looks tasty to them. Everyone finds something a little different," he says.

The teachers then meet with a curriculum expert from IUK to help them convert their experiences into curriculum for their classrooms, while trying to mirror the processes that occurred in the industrial setting, says Dr. Bill Nunez, vice chancellor for curriculum at IUK.

"One of the best parts of the program is all the ideas the fellows came up with for the classroom activities," says Rick Parsons, a KHS biology teacher who participated in the program last summer. From one of his experiences, Parsons developed a unit on dietary fats. Students learn to analyze the content of fat in various foods; to monitor their own fat intake; and then to develop a healthy diet plan. He invited a cardiac nurse to speak to his classes about the dangers of high cho-

lesterol; take students' blood pressures; and help students determine their own long-term cardiac risks.

Another teacher participating in the VISION program thought of a creative way of teaching ratios to math students by bringing a bicycle into the classroom to explain gear ratios.

"This is one of the most exciting programs I've had the pleasure to work with in my 25 years of experience in higher education," says Nunez. "I've seen teachers come out of (this program) so empowered and so excited about going back to their classrooms."

This summer the VISION program will expand to include eighteen teachers. Organizers also are hoping to increase the number of businesses and industries involved.

Why does Delco put so much time, money and effort into their partnership with Kokomo-Center School? Grundmann says, "As a major employer in the county we have a deep-seated interest in the quality of education and we have a responsibility to help them in whatever way possible." **Haynes International and Northwestern School Corp.** —

Though the partnership between Haynes International and Northwestern School Corporation hasn't been

active recently, there have been some positive things that have taken place as a result of the alliance.

Dr. Patrick J. Mark, superintendent of Northwestern School Corporation, says that Haynes helped advise Northwestern employees when computers were selected for the schools and that Haynes also provided computer training for school personnel. The company also allows access to its professional library, provides guest speakers for classrooms and career-oriented symposiums, and offers a secretarial in-service. Haynes also produced a brochure for the school corporation.

Though Mark is pleased with the collaboration with Haynes International, he's hoping to form partnerships with other area businesses as well. He says the school corporation would like to form an alliance with a healthcare facility to provide additional support to a staff wellness program that has already been recognized at the state level. In addition, Northwestern students, who have been invited to observe Kokomo High School's U.S. First team, hope to start their own team.

continued on page 6

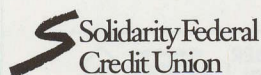
Some people  
know how  
to save big  
money with  
a credit union  
auto loan.



No one likes to be taken for a ride when they buy a car. That's why you should visit your credit union before you visit a car dealer. We can prequalify you for a loan, based on a realistic budget and monthly payment schedule. That way, you know what your spending limit is, and won't be

easily talked into any fancy deals you really can't afford.

An auto loan from your credit union can save you big money on interest, as well. Stop in or call today. We'll make it easy for you to drive a hard bargain and put your big savings to work on other things you need.



201 Southway Blvd. E. Kokomo, IN  
317-453-4020 1-800-999-5894

Members Make  
The Difference

# Shoffner

MASTERS OF KITCHEN AND BATH DESIGN

Residential & Commercial Designs

1316 E. Markland, Kokomo

317-452-7740

1-800-718-3851

Energy Efficient, Natural Gas Appliances Can  
Reduce your Home and Business Costs Every Day

Save even more money now —  
Shoffner will give up to a \$250 refund on a \$5,000  
Kitchen and Bath Remodeling  
or Cash & Carry



Homecrest  
PARAGON  
Cabinetry

Continued from page 5

### Western School Corp. —

Originally Western School Corporation was only paired with Chrysler Corporation, but thanks to the efforts of the late superintendent Dean Resler, two additional partners were added.

Western Elementary School's alliance with Howard Community Hospital is quite active, says Lori Boyland, principal at Western Intermediate. Last spring, students enjoyed a field trip to the hospital which included hands-on activities and a tour of an ambulance. The hospital also has conducted a self-esteem-building workshop for students, and is currently planning a career fair for fifth graders.

Western Middle School is enjoying a successful partnership with First National Bank for the third year. One of their activities, "WOW! The World of Work: A Classroom and Career Connection," won an award last year from the North Central Indiana Private Industry Council. The program teaches responsibility, accountability and goal setting through teacher-advisors. By modeling these behaviors, students can earn "BUCKS", which can be spent at a dance, auction or other activity. Students selected through an interview pro-

cess were treated to a limousine ride to a bank luncheon at the Country Club by Conrad Uitts, the bank's president.

Fifth and sixth grade students were introduced to real life work experiences in banking through a shadowing program where students followed bank employees and administrators during their work day. A video was produced to share their experiences with students who didn't participate in the program, explains Nancy Geiger, middle school counselor and co-facilitator for the partnership. "They've really done a lot to promote the thought that it takes a village to raise a child," Geiger adds.

### PSI Energy and Taylor Community School Corp. —

Taylor Schools has saved about \$70,000 a year in energy costs thanks to an energy management program engineered by its partner PSI Energy. "...They gave us some ideas to cut our energy costs through lighting retrofits and changing the methods that we used to monitor electrical usage," Superintendent Dr. Damon Peigh explains. The company also purchased business cards for teachers, developed a school corporation brochure, and included key members of the school administration and staff in a grant-

writing workshop.

Of the partnership, Rick Burger, economic development representative for PSI, says, "Team effort is the reason for our success. We've laid a foundation and now we're starting to build."

### Eastern Howard School Corp. —

During the 1993/94 school year, Eastern High School received a 1991 Saturn from Delco Electronics. The car is used by students studying auto mechanics.

Many schools and colleges in the area have received these newer model cars — previously used in research and development. More than 20 cars were provided to schools during 1994. The recipients of the cars must agree that it not be used as a road vehicle, but as a learning tool, Grundmann says.

"Delco Electronics has provided students at Eastern High School with a wonderful opportunity to work and learn about newer cars," says Dr. Lindan Hill, superintendent at Eastern Howard School Corp. "The generosity of Delco is greatly appreciated."

With the continued support of Kokomo's business leaders, educators will be better able to arm students with the skills necessary to meet the future needs of business and industry. ♦

# **Salin Bank** AND TRUST COMPANY

## 2 Convenient Locations to Serve You

### KROGER BANKING CENTER



Tina L. Mills

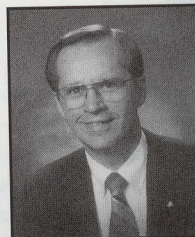
Here to serve YOU  
Mon.-Fri. 10am to 7pm  
Saturday 10am to 4pm

In the Kroger Sav-On  
537 South Reed Road  
(317) 452-7891

**YES! WE ARE A FULL-SERVICE BANK!**

**CUT YOUR CREDIT CARD RATE IN HALF**  
Ask about a Home Equity Loan

### DOWNTOWN LOCATION



Larry Smith

Call Larry Smith  
at (317) 452-1545

Or see him at  
223 N. Main  
Kokomo, Indiana

- Business Loans
- Home Loans
- Home Equity Loans
- Auto Loans
- Agricultural Loans



MEMBER  
FDIC

EQUAL HOUSING  
LENDER 