

New Tech Continues Indiana Expansion

Already a relative hotbed for New Tech high schools, Indiana saw eight more open their doors at the start of the current school year – including locations in Huntington, LaGrange, Adams and Vanderburgh counties.

That brought New Tech’s total presence in Indiana to 16, easily more than any other state. Additionally, three more are likely to open in northern Indiana in 2011 (in Gary, South Bend and Columbia City).

New Tech originated in Napa, California, in 1996. The idea was initiated by businesspeople in the community who had visions of a workforce trained in the ways of the new economy – employees properly prepared for a world of advanced technology and the practicality of functioning in a business environment. New Tech utilizes project-based, group learning to generate discussion and problem-solving skills in the classroom, and the technology allows students to put their creations to the test.

New Tech Network President Lydia Dobyns observes there are several key reasons why Indiana has proven most conducive to this type of learning.

“The interest and support from the governor and state superintendent has been wonderful,” she says. “They realize the value of innovative reform and believed New Tech was worthy of statewide investment.”

She states that the University of Indianapolis’ Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL) has been critical as well.

“CELL has performed a magnificent role in outreach, as well as preparing schools for this,” Dobyns offers. “They build relationships as well as funding opportunities for implementation.”

On an individual school basis, Dobyns touts the investment of the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation, which launched a New Tech program that will eventually impact all grades at the Columbus Signature Academy.

“That was confirmation that this learning modality could

change the experience for teachers and students, as well as administrators and parents,” Dobyns asserts.

Dobyns has had the opportunity to attend New Tech planning meetings in Indiana. She remains surprised at how the program is used.

“One thing that strikes me is the diversity of implementation in Indiana,” she contends. “The way the model can be implemented varies, and I think it’s a reflection of communities, demographic composition and what type of curriculum directors are looking for.”

The New Tech curriculum can be put into practice several ways:

- Co-location within a larger school, as is the case with Arsenal Tech High School in Indianapolis among others

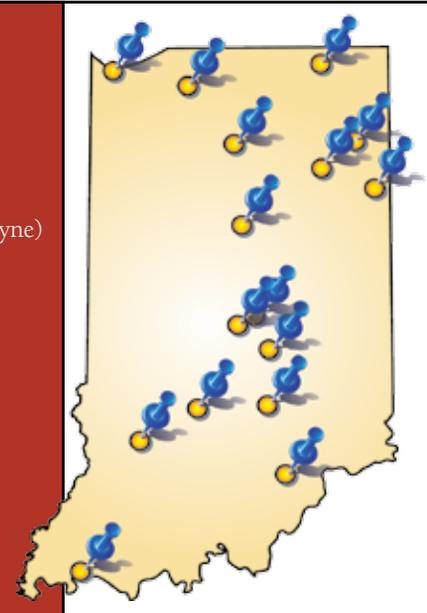


November/December 2007

Indiana’s New Tech Schools

- Adams Central Jet Tech (Monroe)
- Bloomington New Tech
- Calumet High School (Gary)
- Columbus Signature Academy New Tech
- Lakeland High School Leading EDGE (LaGrange)
- New Tech Academy @ Wayne High School (Fort Wayne)
- New Tech High @ Arsenal Tech (Indianapolis)
- New Tech Institute (Evansville)
- North Daviess 21st Century High School (Elnora)
- Oregon-Davis (Hamlet)
- School of IDEAS (Indianapolis)
- Scottsburg New Tech High School
- Tiger New Tech (Fairland)
- Titan New Tech High School (Kokomo)
- Viking High School (Huntington)
- Zebra New Tech High School (Rochester)

Source: New Tech Network



- Full conversion, the method utilized in Rochester, another of the initial New Tech schools in Indiana
- Stand-alone schools, specifically built to house the New Tech curriculum

Indiana’s New Tech schools are funded in part by a grant from KnowledgeWorks, a foundation dedicated to innovation in high school education.

To view the November/December 2007 BizVoice® story on New Tech schools, go to the archives section of www.bizvoicemagazine.com.

INFORMATION LINK

Resource: Lydia Dobyns, New Tech Network, at www.newtechnetwork.org

Story by Matt L. Ottinger

New Tech Schools and Students (*nationally*)

Schools

- 45% urban; 34% suburban; 21% rural
- 51% free or reduced lunch
- 50% shared campus; 37% stand alone; 13% full conversion

Students

- 58% male, 42% female
- 43% white; 29% Latino; 20% African-American