



DISTRICTWIDE

NEWSBREAK

Teacher for teachers

C-M tech. ed. instructor recognized

Jon McCrory does more than teach students. He teaches teachers.

In addition to his students at Canon-McMillan High School, Mr. McCrory has mentored dozens of technology education student teachers from California University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. McCrory, technology education department chairman in Canon-McMillan School District and tech. ed. teacher at C-M High School, was honored Nov. 6 by the California University of Pennsylvania technology education faculty.

He received the "2008 Outstanding Service Award, Cooperating Teacher for Technology Education." The California University tech. ed. faculty unanimously chose Mr. McCrory for this award, which is unusual, according to Dr. Mark Nowak, a member of the awards committee and a California University professor in the Applied Engineering and Technology department.

He was presented the award at the California University Alumni Reception in conjunction with the Technology Education Association of Pennsylvania conference in Harrisburg.

McCrory has been at CMHS since January 1980, after 3-1/2 years of teach-

ing at Lemoyne (PA) Middle School in the West Shore School District. He holds a B.S. degree in education from what was California State College (now California University of Pennsylvania), where he majored in industrial arts, now known as technology education. He is a 1971 graduate of California High School.

Mr. McCrory estimates that he has had 45 or 50 Cal U. student teachers in his classroom at Canon-McMillan High School during his career. He is being recognized for "demonstrating a consistently high commitment as a cooperating teacher over the years," according to Dr. Nowak.

Now in his ninth year as an adjunct in the Applied Engineering and Technology department at the university, Mr. McCrory primarily has freshman students in his class on Engineering Materials and Product Design, in addition to his work with student teachers.

"He has done a great job working with student teachers," says Dr. Nowak. "This award recognizes his success with student teachers. He has become a friend to them even after they graduate. If they have a question years later on techniques of teaching or how to be a good teacher, they still call Jon."



“I’ve had at least half of (my student teachers) e-mail me asking for advice. Once you’re a teacher, you always continue to teach.”

It is the goal to have teaching graduates do more than be teachers of content, Dr. Nowak added. "They need to know how to be team members in a school district and in a community. Giving back is also important," says Dr. Nowak. "When student teachers see that Jon does things to help his school and always with a smile, that helps the program as well. He lives the concepts we advocate, he shows the greater aspects; giving life lessons to his student teachers."

Seven awards were presented at the Cal U. Alumni Reception and this is the second such award McCrory has received. In 2003, he was presented the Established Leader Award for a graduate more than 10 years out of school who has consistently done significant work and continues to show promise.

"Jon is one of the few people to ever receive more than one award from us," says Dr. Nowak. "We really like having Jon with us (at Cal U.). About half of our (university's technology education) faculty taught in the public schools. So it is nice to have Jon who can come in and talk on a practical level. ... It nicely blends with our teaching."

Mr. McCrory adds that he enjoys teaching technology. "For me it's a way to tie all the sciences and math together (STEM education combining science, technology, engineering and math) as integrated learning, where students can see how they fit together."

Technology education is booming today. "In tech. ed. at the high-school level, we are busting at the seams. Students over the past eight or nine



years have really taken an interest in tech. ed.," says Mr. McCrory. "Our administrators at the time our high school was being renovated and rebuilt were instrumental in adding state-of-the-art equipment which added interest and tools for real-world applications.

"Today, Superintendent Helen McCracken, Assistant to the Superintendent Greg Taranto, high school Principal Dave Helinski and Assistant Principal Marella Kazos have continued to encourage the technology education faculty to pursue better and more innovative courses," says Mr. McCrory.

"At Canon-McMillan, we are adding a course in robotics next year at the high school. This year, robotics began being taught in our middle school and students are very excited about it.

"These robotics courses are taught in conjunction with Carnegie Mellon

Jon McCrory supervises as Canon-McMillan High School senior Ben Ellis applies the finish to a podium he is making for Canonsburg Middle School.

University," he adds.

He also has seen an increase in the number of female tech. ed. students at both the high school and university levels, and Canon-McMillan has two female tech. ed. teachers on the faculty.

As for the student teachers who have passed through McCrory's high school classrooms, "I've had at least half of them e-mail me asking for advice," says McCrory. "Once you're a teacher, you always continue to teach." ■