

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
Curriculum Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2006

Participants:

Heather Sondel, Assistant Principal
Jaewoo Lee
Dick Rumpf
Henry Warchall

Dick Rumpf reported that he had contacted the TJHSST Mentorship Coordinator, faculty member Matthew Pearce. Mr. Pearce and Mr. Joshua Strong, Science and Technology Division Manager, plan to attend the next meeting of the Curriculum Advisory Committee on December 6. Mr. Pearce will give the committee an overview of his efforts to develop new sources of mentorships for students and will discuss how the Enhancing Connections Subcommittee can coordinate its work with his.

Mrs. Sondel distributed to the committee a list of the current faculty course assignments. She pointed out those faculty members who serve as tech lab directors. Ms. Sondel also shared with the committee a draft of the results of the community on-line survey on desired skills and values of TJHSST graduates: prioritized lists of "Skills of Future TJHSST Students" and "Values of Future TJHSST Students."

The committee spent considerable time discussing potential sources of mentors for student projects.

- It was noted that sponsoring a student project confers a recruiting advantage for the mentor: The opportunity to get an advanced look at a future TJHSST graduate and potential eventual employee.
- It was suggested that members of the Curriculum Advisory Committee might circulate announcements within their workplaces about the need for mentors for TJHSST students.
- It was noted that TJHSST mentorship experiences and tech lab projects are very similar to the programs called "Research Experiences for Undergraduates" (REU) held at college campuses.
- Henry Warchall agreed to investigate sources of REU project lists and potential contacts who are knowledgeable about REU projects. He will bring any information on mathematics REU to the attention of the Mathematics Research Committee (Alton Brown, Patricia Montgomery, and Michael Stueben).
- It was noted that the TJHSST College and Career Center compiles a list of summer volunteer and internship experiences available to high school students; potentially these could be sources of TJHSST mentorships.

(continued)

The committee brainstormed potential sources of mentorships for students. A partial list:

- Naval Research Laboratory (NRL)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
- National Security Agency (NSA) (Programs for students?)
- Sandia National Laboratories
- Los Alamos National Laboratory
- The Smithsonian Institution
- U.S. Geological Survey
- World Bank (Programs for students?)
- Teaching hospitals:
 - George Washington Hospital
 - Georgetown Hospital
 - Children's Hospital (has a nearby satellite facility)
- Defense contractors
- Biotechnology firms
- Local universities (?)

The committee will have its next meeting on Wednesday, December 6, at 7:30 PM in the TJHSST Robotics Laboratory (Room 119).