

Salt Lake Community College

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Remarks about the state of affairs at SLTTI

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SALT LAKE TRADE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

A big businessman sought to inspire more effort among his employees by placing about his offices signs that read, "Do it Now."

Soon afterward, a friend asked how the campaign was working.

"It is working," said the businessman, "But not the way I expected. After I put up the signs, twenty employees asked for raises, three of my foremen got punched in the nose, and my cashier skipped the country with fifty thousand dollars."

Salt Lake Trade Technical Institute is a school that must work the way its owners expect it to.

That's because the State of Utah finances Trade Tech with tax dollars--your dollars. So it's your school.

You may have a few questions about your school, such as: What kind of students enroll at Salt Lake Trade Technical Institute? What is their educational background? What courses are taught at Trade Tech? What's in the future for the school? What does Trade Tech mean to me and to my community?

I'll try to answer all of those questions in the next few minutes.

First, let's consider the Trade Tech student.

A survey made last year shows that the average age is about 22.5 years. About half of the students enrolled have full or part-time jobs. Married students comprise 41 per cent of the student body. The ratio of male to female students is about two and one-half to one.

Most of the students at Trade Tech are high school graduates, and many have some college or post-high school background.

No student can enroll in the Day School at Trade Tech, unless he or she completes all high school requirements or passes the entrance exam.

The majority of Trade Tech students come from Salt Lake County, but virtually every other county in Utah is represented. Many come from nearby states, and a few came to Utah from other countries.

Often people ask what these students are taught at Trade Tech.

"I know they teach carpentry," say the people who have seen the new houses built on the Trade Tech parking lot each year.

But our school also teaches electricity to the students who install the wiring in those brand new houses. And Trade Tech also trains the architectural draftsmen who draw the plans.

In fact, wherever you go in Utah, you'll meet people who learned a trade or technical skill at our school.

The barber who snips your hair may well have received his training at Trade Tech. Or the beautician who does your wife's hair. Your own secretary may have gotten her training at a business class at Trade Tech. The welder whose kid plays on your son's Little League team . . . the mechanic who repairs your auto . . . the practical nurse who gave you the flu shot.

Noticed a show window lately? If a commercial artist didn't dress the window, he probably painted the show cards. Trade Tech has one of the few commercial art courses in this part of the West.

Did you know that you can fashion a piece of metal into almost any shape imaginable with the machine that we call a lathe? This gadget is only one of the tools that Trade Tech students learn to use in the machine shop class.

Ever wonder where this area gets diesel mechanics, printers, technical illustrators, and mechanical draftsmen when it needs them?

From Trade Tech, that's where!

All of the skills that I have referred to so far in this discussion are the day school courses--classes that prepare students for trade or technical jobs.

About 785 students take our day courses.

But there's evening school, too. Enrollment in these classes is more than 1,000.

These evening classes are not designed to PREPARE students for trade or technical jobs. Their purpose is to upgrade the skills of people who are already at work.

Take an apprentice plumber, for instance. He works eight hours a day on the job. He's working with the pipes and wrenches and fittings that he will use as a plumber, and this is good. But he attends night lectures at Trade Tech for some theory, too.

Another kind of evening course is the type that helps a person who feels he might move ahead in his company if he learned an additional skill.

For instance, a bookkeeper might be stymied in his present situation unless he can acquire more training in some sub-skill. So this bookkeeper goes to Trade Tech for an evening class in the operation of comptometers and other business machines.

Bingo--an advancement and a raise!

Trade Tech's list of evening classes is too long to cover here. And chances are, it could easily get longer!

That's because the school gears its training program to the needs of business and industry.

The state's businesses are continuously drawing on the available pool of skilled tradesmen and technicians.

This "pool," however, might well run dry if Trade Tech weren't around to replenish it.

Just recently, the rocket industry was born in Utah, and this question arose: Where would Utah get the skilled electronics technicians to work at Sperry, Hercules, Litton, Thiokol, and Marquardt?

Obviously, they weren't here.

The alternatives were to bring these technicians in from other states or train Utahns to do these jobs.

So Trade Tech set up "crash" programs in electronics and machine shop technology, and soon the missile industry was receiving a stream of technicians.

The administration at Trade Tech is almost constantly conferring with business and industrial leaders to make certain that the school's program is marching in step with the demand for craftsmen.

Ever hear of heliarc welding? Neither did anyone else until a few years ago. Soon after it became apparent that this would become a widely-used technique, Trade Tech added it to the curriculum.

Certainly you've heard about the shortage of nurses. Every year Trade Tech turns out a new class of practical nurses. They're good ones, too, and I believe I'm not overstating it to say that they're the BEST!

Want support for that statement?

Here it is: Shortly after they graduate, practical nurses take licensing examinations. These are standard throughout the entire United States. Scores on these tests show that for four of the past five years, Trade Tech has produced the best practical nursing classes in the whole country.

As I said earlier, many persons notice the new houses that our building technology classes put up every year on our parking lot. The older building in the background is our school facility. We've operated there for the past fifteen years.

If you're driving on Redwood Road at about 46th South, look to the west and you'll see some construction activity. That's where we'll be operating on a campus in the future--the near future, we hope.

The State Legislature and Governor Clyde recognized the need for a larger facility for our school, so we'll be moving to Redwood Road in the next few years.

This will allow us to expand our program, so that Utah businesses will not have to depend on other states to provide us with skilled tradesmen and technicians.

Trade Tech's faculty will see to that.

The men and women who teach the classes at our school are people who have been on the job themselves. That's a must. Each instructor has to have a minimum of six years of experience in the skill that he teaches.

Many of them hold advanced university degrees in addition to their on-the-job experience.

Trade Tech is accessible to almost any student who is able to learn a skill and who has the desire. The basic tuition rate is \$103 for a nine-month school year. Many scholarships which cover the cost of tuition are available.

Salt Lake Trade Technical Institute is this area's answer to a problem that educators, industrialists and politicians have been alarmed about for the past few years.

The problem arises from the fact that today's technology demands more and more skilled technicians, and the high school graduate or non-graduate who acquires no professional, technical or trade skill is almost certainly doomed to a lifetime of marginal income.

We are proud of the fact that many of our graduates organize their own businesses and industries. An impressive number of others have gone on to assume top managerial posts in already established firms.

The present outlook is that an even more significant role in this area's economic, industrial and educational communities will be played by Salt Lake Trade Technical Institute--your "College for Skilled Craftsmen."