

**Regional Career & Tech Center welcomes guests** —

# Open house a chance for Coventry CTC to show what it has to offer

Tonight's event could help school attract students from new areas thanks to rules changes in busing

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COVENTRY — An open house will be held tonight for The Regional Career and Technical Center at Coventry High School and because of new regulations, classes are now open to students from numerous cities and towns.

Director of the center, Lori Ferguson explained that students from grades eight through 10 can attend the open house to learn about the following careers: automotives/marine/diesel technology, carpentry/construction, computer information technology/video game design, cosmetology/barber/nail technician, culinary arts/food service/baking, early childhood education, graphics communication/printing and health careers/CNA.

While juniors can also attend, she said that many of the classes offered for

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# Coventry CTC able to open its doors to more

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these programs require pre-requisites. If a student begins at the junior level, they will not have the remaining three years to finish the program.

"If you come in as a junior you may be able to enroll in health career, carpentry, early childhood education or graphics," she said. "Those are by approval of the instructor and they do an interview with the juniors to see if they have background knowledge and if they are really interested in the program."

Ferguson explained that previously, the career center offered classes to students from other cities and towns such as Exeter, West Greenwich and North Kingstown.

Because of the newly revised Regulations of the Board of Regents Governing Career and Technical Education in Rhode Island, passed on July 1, many more students now have the opportunity to enroll in these programs at Coventry High School.

Prior to the new regulations, she explained that the regions were split up based on how the money was allocated through Perkins grant funding; by demographics and population.

Next school year however, the regions will return to the original transportation regions.

Ferguson explained that the transportation regions were created in the 1970s to ensure that all students attending private school were provided busing too and from their institution.

With state-wide busing students can attend career centers in different towns and cities, giving them more of an opportunity to learn.

The flip side however is if a student lives outside the region of the career center, they must provide their own transportation to the center of their choosing.

She explained that students who live within the new region, including: Coventry, Scituate, Foster/Glocester, Warwick, East Greenwich and West Warwick will have transportation provided by buses.

She said that because some students from Exeter, West Greenwich and North Kingstown were previously enrolled in the center before the regulations were changed, these students will be grandfathered in and will receive transportation until they graduate in 2016.

The open house will be held tonight from 6-8 p.m. at the high school. Anybody interested or with any questions can contact Lori Ferguson at 822-9499 ext. 283 or at [ferguson-lori@coventryschools.net](mailto:ferguson-lori@coventryschools.net).