



TONY V. MARTIN | THE TIMES "If you're not getting dirty, you're not having fun" is the rule of Modern Machining Technology instructor Greg Carmack, center, as he talks Tuesday about one of his shop's CNC milling machines that was rebuilt from scrap by his students in the class at the Porter County Career and Technical Education Center.

Take your pick

Students attend vocational ed open house, mull over options for next year

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This story ran on nwitimes.com on Wednesday, February 1, 2006 12:20 AM CST

VALPARAISO | Valparaiso High School sophomores Chance Travick and Nick Weaver roamed the hallways of the Porter County Career and Technical Center Tuesday evening, cracking jokes about the benefits of spending half of the school day away from school.

But when asked about what programs they were considering, the two 16-year-olds said the center's course offerings encouraged them.

"It's something new, it's a hands-on experience," Travick said.

[EXTRAS]

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Career and Technical Education Program Open House
 What: Career and Technical Education Program Open House schedule for student and parent visitations
 Where: Classroom sites located throughout Porter County and Hobart
 When: 8 to 9 a.m. Feb. 8, 8 to 9 a.m. Feb. 23
 More information is available by calling Jon Groth or Cheryl Leach at (219) 531-3170.

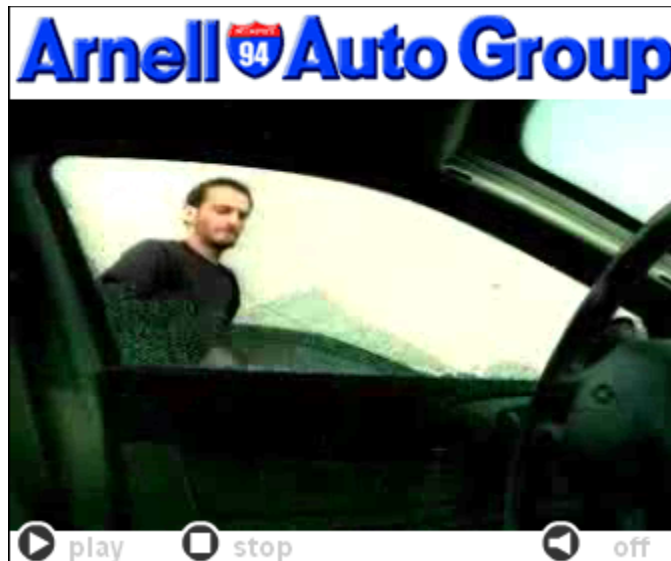
The Career and Technical Education programs are open to all Porter County juniors and seniors, plus Hobart High School students. The open house format allows students and their parents to visit with the instructor and to view the learning environment before enrollment.

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"It's something you can be good at," Weaver added, "and get credit for."

The boys attended the first of three open houses hosted by the center before enrollment for the 2006-07 school year. Instructors and current students offered demonstrations and answered questions, along with making a pitch for their particular class.

Bill Guinee, the computer-assisted design instructor, let his audience know he lets the students listen to their iPods while working and eat during class -- oh, and you can get college credit for it.



"You're sitting in this class and it's like you're sitting in an Ivy Tech class," he said -- a huge selling point for lots of students.

There will be two other open houses, on Feb. 8 and Feb. 23, for any Hobart or Porter County sophomore or junior interested in classes next year. Anyone with any questions about the offerings can visit their school guidance department, call (219) 531-3170 or visit www.porterco.org/pcve/.

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