From Idea to Implementation: IBCC in Lee's Summit, Missouri Schools

- **Diane Weeda** IBCC Coordinator/DP Coordinator Lee's Summit North High School

- **Elaine Metcalf**, Director Summit Technology Academy

Lee's Summit R–7 Schools Overview

- District is located in suburban Kansas City, Missouri, last suburb out on southeast side of metro area

- LS R-7 has won numerous awards and is considered a leader in education in Missouri

- District encompasses 117 square miles

- School District population about **100,000**

- Student Enrollment approximately **17,500** K-12, at one point district enrollment was increasing almost 600 students/year

- 3 high schools and Summit Technology Academy

Lee's Summit High School

- Oldest high school in the district
- Student enrollment approximately 1750
- IB World School since 1987

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Lee's Summit North High School

- 2nd high school in LS R-7 district

- Student enrollment approximately 1950

- IB World School since 1995 opening

Lee's Summit West High School

- 3rd high school in LS R-7 district
- Student enrollment approximately 1800 +
- IB World School since 2004 opening

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Summit Technology Academy is a pre-professional learning environment that prepares college bound students for a 21st century workforce.

STA Snap Shot

- 375 students

- 3.41 GPA

- 96% attendance

- 60% female 40% male

- 75% Caucasian, 15% African American, 5% Hispanic, 2% Asian, 3% Other/Multi

STA Program Offerings

- Project Lead the Way:
  - Digital Electronics
  - Computer Integrated Manufacturing
  - Engineering Design and Development
  - Medical Interventions/Biomedical Innovations
  - Computer Software Engineering (pilot)
- Information Technology/Network Essentials
- Pre-Professional Nursing
- Pre-Professional Educator Cadet
- Pre-allied Health Academy
- Digital Media Technology
- International Studies Academy
- IB Information Technology in a Global Society
- IB Approaches to Learning

IBCC: The Idea

- **Spring 2010** —LSN Principal Dr. David Ulrich asked DP Coordinator, Diane Weeda to investigate IBCC
  - Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis and North Community School in Minneapolis were contacted about their IBCC Pilot programmes.
  - Both schools felt IBCC was a great fit with Project Lead the Way and other Career Education Courses
  - Comment from Missouri Science & Technology University about IBCC being a good fit for LS R-7 high schools since we had established IB and PLTW programs

- **Spring 2011** --LSN submits Interest Form to IB

- **August 2011** —decision to have all 3 high schools apply for IBCC is made and application process begins.

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IBCC Application Process

- Application for Candidacy was due October 1, 2011
- Application for Authorization was due March 31, 2012
- Collaboration with Summit Technology Academy to work on IBCC Application
- Examined Summit Technology course of study to evaluate possible career pathways
- Reviewed IB course offerings
- Started planning for IBCC Core
- Asked current students about IBCC

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What were some challenges encountered during the application process?

Challenges at the high schools

- **Understanding that there is no ONE right way to offer IBCC.** Finding what works best for our situation—still a process
- **IBCC could be thought of as IB Diploma "lite"**
- **CTE courses not widely understood.** Teachers saw STA as totally separate school, "them".
- **Teacher Skepticism**
  - Increased work load for all teachers the previous year
  - Educating teachers about IBCC, why start "another program?"
- Scheduling courses with commute to STA
- Who will be responsible for IBCC Core?
- How will IBCC impact Diploma Programme?
- How to educate/recruit students and parents?
- Coordinating with guidance

Challenges at Summit Tech

- **Logistics of IBCC**
  - STA is physically separated from all 3 high schools. LSN is closest to STA at 2 miles, LSW at almost 5 miles away, transportation issues
  - Only capstone courses are taught at STA, foundation courses are taught at each high school

- Increasing communication and understanding between teachers at STA and each high school.

- Incorporating IB mission, philosophy, Learner Profile into STA courses.
  - No STA teachers had been to IB training.
  - Making connections between current practice and IB pedagogy.
  - Aligning STA course work with IB principles and practices.

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How did we address these challenges?

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COMMUNICATION

- Presentations about IBCC and application process to each high school staff, fall 2011
- Visits of PLTW teachers from each school to STA to see programs etc. Fall 2012
- Meetings with STA teachers and IBCC Coordinator designate 2011-12 school year
- Time for all 3 IBCC Coordinator designates to meet, email about application
- Shared server, easy to share information between schools
- Training for STA teachers, ATL and Reflective Project

Support from District Office

- Financial—application fees, curriculum time
- Time

IBCC Program Details

How is the IBCC being Implemented ?

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Typical IBCC Student

- No typical IBCC student exists at LS R-7 schools

- Class of 2014
  - 6 IBCC students at LSN, 4 PLTW Biomedical Innovations, 1 in Cisco Networking, 1 PLTW Engineering
  - 1 IBCC student at LSW, PLTW Biomedical Innovations
  - Each student's course of study is unique
  - Generally good students; average weighted GPA is 3.98 for LSN students
  - 3 LSN students switched from IB Diploma to IBCC
  - Students are **VERY** happy with IBCC's combination of rigorous academics and STA courses, also enjoy ATL course
  - Didn't have to choose between IB and STA

- Class of 2015—should be larger than 2014

Typical IB Courses for IBCC Students

- IBCC students may take any 2 IB courses offered
- Many take IB English HL due to graduation requirement of 4 years of English
- IB Biology HL often paired with PLTW Medical Interventions
- IB Math with PLTW Engineering
- Most IBCC Students are taking IB Spanish SL, IB German SL or IB French SL
- IB Psychology SL or HL

Information Technology

- Cisco Networking Academy curriculum
- Two-year courses; IT Essentials and Network Essentials

PLTW Medical Interventions

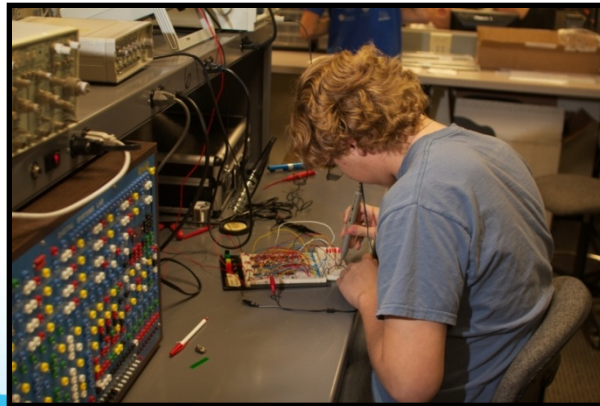- Two-year courses; Medical Interventions and Biomedical Innovation

PLTW Biomedical Innovation

- Second year course and the capstone course for biomedical science pathway

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PLTW Engineering

▸ Select a course from engineering electives, such as Digital Electronics, Computer Integrated Manufacturing, or Civil/Arch Engin   1th grade

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PLTW Engineering Design & Development

- Second year (12th grade) course and the capstone course for engineering pathway

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How we offer the IBCC Core

- **Approaches to Learning**

  originally we planned to teach this much like TOK, 0 hour , 2-3 days a week at Summit Technology Academy, spring junior year and fall of senior year

- problem because of start time—was going to start at 6:15 AM to allow commute time to high schools for students not at STA junior year

- **New Plan**

  1 hour/week in class during other schools collaboration time

  1+ hour/week on line via blackboard

Reflective Project

- Discussion begins during Approaches to Learning Ethics unit

- IBCC Coordinator meets with each student to discuss possible topics

- Reflective Project Supervisor will be one of STA teachers who have had IBCC Reflective Project training

- Timeline by IBCC Coordinator

Community & Service

- Begin brainstorming with IBCC Coordinator and STA teachers during junior year

- Plan developed by students, IBCC Coordinator and PLTW/Cisco teachers during junior year

- Community & Service completed during senior year

Language Development

- Language development will be over both years of IBCC

In conjunction with each high school's modern language department

- Majority of IBCC students will test in SL Group 2 language so extension of Group 2 course is necessary

- 4 LSN students in Spanish and Biomedical Innovations who are completing Medical Terminology in Spanish activities

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Future Plans for Expanding Career Options for IBCC

Offered at Summit Technology Academy

- Nursing

- Pre-professional Educator—expand current program

- PLTW Computer Software Engineering—new IB Courses, Design Technology?

Offered at other Vocational/Technical Facilities

- Firefighting

- EMT

QUESTIONS???