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P-TECH program preparing 34 Troy freshmen for high school and beyond

34 members of Troy High School’s incoming freshman class participating in state’s prestigious P-TECH program

By Danielle Sanzone, Troy/The Record

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troy >> A group of 34 incoming Troy High School freshmen are already working towards their associate degree, which they’ll eventually earn for free as part of the NYS Pathways in Technology Early College High School program, or P-TECH.

The students have spent the past three weeks of their summer visiting area businesses and working on a project to come up with the new logo and slogan for P-TECH in Troy. One of the groups decided to combine the mission statements of several business sponsors of the program. The student group’s slogan was: “Where education and unique qualities equals achievement at its finest.”

The group also showcased their digital-friendly logo, complete with the high school’s flying horse mascot.

“It was quite fun, but we also had our disagreements,” 14-year-old Tim Vull-Snyder said, noting that the font of the logo was debated until a compromise was finally made. “In the end, we all worked together well. And I like our final result.”

His teammates, all age 14, included Kyle Locklear, James Weaver, and Casey Episcopo. They were told that the project’s objectives were to help build team work skills and to get outside of their comfort zones.

The entire program, which will last over a six year period, includes students who were chosen by a committee to participate in the program, which received a $2.4 million grant. They will have the opportunity to take college courses in high school and they will all eventually earn a free associate degree from Hudson Valley Community College.

The summer aspect of the program has helped the students build learning skills, get ready for collaborations, and test the waters in real-world businesses, said Marc Mostransky, an English and humanities teacher with P-TECH. There are seven designated teachers and personnel for the program in each subject and a guidance counselor.

While there are other P-TECH programs in the state, he said, this is the first that is on the school campus and includes just one district. He explained that only Troy students qualify.
The logos were judged Tuesday by parents, teachers, and staff and a winner will be announced later this week. The logo will then be used for the six years, officials said.

“Over the past three weeks, the students and staff have continued to impress me with their hard work and teamwork. This is a great opportunity and I look forward to the program’s success,” said Troy City School District superintendent John Carmello.

Each year, additional students will be selected. Some years 30 students will join the program and other years 60 students will be selected by a committee.

Sponsors include HVCC, Hannaford, Questar III BOCES, the Center for Economic Growth, GE Healthcare, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, and Simmons Machine Tool Group.

Today, the P-TECH kids will be participating in a ropes course at HVCC.

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