

**Fall Meeting Mahtomdei MS/HS
Area Affiliate Report 11-18-03**

The fall meeting of the St. Croix affiliate was held on Monday November 17th, 2003. Mahtomedi hosted the meeting, starting with an open house of their facilities. Mahtomedi has been fortunate to be expanding their Tech. Ed. facilities as others seem to be shrinking. A new 2000 sq. ft. shop has been added to the middle school as well as the acquisition of another classroom. The decision to build a traditional shop vs. a modular lab came about as the result of a parent survey that showed a desire for more hands-on learning. This is not to say that new technology is not taught, as many different activities from robotics to lasers also take place in the shop. The High School program has expanded as well and seems to cross the same lines between cutting edge and traditional hand skills. Both schools expressed how important the positive support from their district administration has been to the success of their programs.

After the open house, we moved to Century College for the dinner and business meeting. Before our dinner meeting, we had a round table discussion about our current concerns in Technology Education. Over fifty educators from twenty school districts were present (the Mahtomedi staff made personal phone calls to all 148 members and backed that up with emails and flyers to produce the large turnout). Also on hand were a dozen post-secondary educators from Century and St. Paul Colleges, as well as six local business leaders. The discussions were lively and the format allowed all to have input. Some of the compiled results are attached with more information coming in future emails.

We finished the evening with dinner and a business meeting. Many of the discussion topics in the agenda were centered on promotions for Tech. Ed. Programs such as High Mileage, Solar Challenge, and the State Fair competition were mentioned as a great way to promote your program. In an effort to make better use of these programs, we discussed ways to better communicate with our colleagues the details (time, place, etc.) of these endeavors. To that end, Mark LeFeber from Mahtomedi has generated an email list of all St. Croix members. He has sent this list to all members so that 147 other Tech Ed instructors can be accessed from your keyboard. This should be a tremendous asset. Many thanks to all the Mahtomedi staff for their work on the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
William Gangl