

Satisfied Customer

Parent has sent four children to the TCTC-then her grandchildren attended



Elaine Mansfield is a strong believer in the educational mission of the Trumbull Career & Technical Center. She advocated a hands on learning environment for her children that could provide a bridge between their present and their future. Over a space of 25 years, years, it can be safely said, “Mother Knew Best.” Scott, Cindy, Melissa and Michelle are program completers in the building. Each of them has used their program skills to earn a living as adults. Additionally, two of their children have also attended the TCTC.

Mansfield who lives in Southington was an early supporter of Career/Tech Education. She stated, “I remember there was a debate in the late 1970’s about the topic. I felt strongly that all kids should have this option available to them. I was a single parent and I did not have the money to send my children to college. At the TCTC, each of them learned valuable skills that made them employable right after they graduated from high school.”

One of the features that Mansfield most appreciated about the school was the encouragement provided to the students. She stated, “There was a strong support system and I felt that the teachers and the staff cared about the kid’s success. My children took

advantage of the small group learning opportunities that were available. I could see a positive difference in them as a result of their experiences. They were always proud that they went to school there.”

Two of my Mansfield daughters, Cindy and Michelle were in the Computer Business Program. Cindi has an office position at Kraft Maid and Michelle who is now a college graduate works at the Trumbull County Law Library. Melissa was enrolled in Horticulture and has worked in several Floral Shops before taking time off to raise her children. Scott was in the Building Trades Program and has worked in the Construction field since graduation.

Mansfield works as a substitute in the TCTC cafeteria. She noted changes in the areas of academics. “They have a lot more advanced classes in math, science and English than when my children attended. “Today, you don’t have to choose between going to college and going to the TCTC. You can get the best of both worlds.”

They say that the more things change, the more they remain the same. Mansfield is still impressed with the care and concern demonstrated by staff members for students. She stated, “This is a very diverse school with kids from many different backgrounds and communities, but they get along very well. The teachers treat the kids with respect and I think makes a big difference.”

Working in the cafeteria, she sees most of the students in the school during one of the lunch periods. She has noticed that students with disabilities are readily accepted by everyone. She stated, “These youngsters deserve to be in a setting where they can shine. The focus is not on their limitations, but on what they can do. I think there is a greater need for schools like the TCTC today than at any time previously.”

The latest enrollment figures seem to indicate that Elaine Mansfield is not alone in her feelings about the school. The present student population is near 1,100 students which is a record high number. At the TCTC Board of Education meeting on Thursday, September 10, the Director, Dr. Karen Johnson, echoed many of the feelings expressed by Mansfield. She stated, “Our staff goes out of their way to make students feel accepted. You can’t walk down the hallway without people saying hello, how are you doing, can I help you?” She also discussed the Senior Exit Survey for the class of 2009. 98% of the responders reported that they had a positive experience at the TCTC. 94% of the students said they would recommend the TCTC to others.