

## Bluewater District School Board - Innovation Funds Report

### Who participated?

Three academic superintendents participated as part of multiple school board group of approximately 30 educators from Ontario and Saskatchewan who travelled to San Diego, California to visit the [High Tech High](#) (HTH) schools.

#### **Background on High Tech High Schools:**

*High Tech High began in 2000 as a single charter high school launched by a coalition of San Diego business leaders and educators. It has evolved into an integrated network of 13 schools spanning grades K-12, housing a comprehensive teacher certification program and a new, innovative Graduate School of Education.*

#### **HTH Mission:**

*High Tech High's mission is to develop and support innovative public schools where all students develop the academic, workplace, and citizenship skills for postsecondary success.*

#### **HTH Goals:**

**At each HTH school, their goals include:**

- *Serve a student body that mirrors the ethnic and socioeconomic diversity of the local community.*
- *Integrate technical and academic education to prepare students for post-secondary education in both high tech and liberal arts fields.*
- *Increase the number of educationally disadvantaged students in math and engineering who succeed in high school and post-secondary education.*
- *Graduate students who will be thoughtful, engaged citizens.*

Source: <http://www.hightechhigh.org>

### What was learned?

HTH schools focus on building positive school cultures and respectful relationships between staff and students by utilizing problem based learning (PBL). Students exhibit their learning by applying their knowledge and learning skills in real world, community based contexts. Technology is seamlessly integrated into the learning environment and plays a subordinate role in the students' learning. Students present their learning by completing *presentations of learning* (POL's) and creating project exhibits to share with family. Student voice plays a significant role in the planning and instruction in the classroom and in operations of the schools.

### Application in Bluewater District School Board?

The academic superintendents will share their experiences with the senior team and discuss the connections to the board's improvement plan for student achievement and next steps with their System Leadership Team.