

OTEI**CASTLEMONT HIGH SCHOOL****New Classes**

The OTEI program at Castlemont High School under principal Matin Abdel-Qawi offers two courses: Agricultural Chemistry and Plant Biology. These six classes have more than 120 students enrolled for the 2005-2006 school year. Courses were approved by the University of California, Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), and the State of California last year, and is being offered for the second year. Many thanks to Peter Crabtree, Gary Ingram, and Katie Koelle for developing and obtaining approval for these agricultural science courses.

Teaching Assistant

In an effort to support instructor Eric Edgerly and the increased class sizes, Peralta College has again funded a part-time staff person for 8-16 hours per week. This person will assist in coordinating laboratory portions of the curriculum, lesson plans, and other activities of the Oakland Chapter of the Future Farmers of America.

Future Farmers of America (FFA)

All classes are affiliated with the Future Farmers of America which contributed in curriculum development. OTEI received a grant of \$10,625 from the FFA. The grant application was prepared by Gary Ingram, Peter Crabtree, and Kelli Anderson. The funds are used for classroom supplies, materials, textbooks and to assist students

in attending the annual FFA leadership conference in Fresno, Calif. in June.

Guest Speakers

Speakers from the industry will address classes frequently on Wednesdays through the end of the school-year. Speakers have included a golf course general manager, soil science industry expert, golf course superintendent, and a fertilizer expert. Future speakers and topics include:

- Brad Snavelly Fertilizers
- Ken Mauser Water
- Dave Piper Fertilizer production & distribution
- Don Naumann Agricultural Business
- Dave Davies Soils
- Mike Ginelli Irrigation and Equipment
- Mike Vickers Construction

EPA Weather Station

Castlemont now has a complete weather station on campus provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It is in the process of being connected to the California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS). CIMIS is a network of weather stations used by agriculture throughout the state to measure irrigation demand to optimize water use. Teacher training for the station and the CIMIS system is under development and will be provided to the following teachers: Josh Alexander, Charlie Brown, Phil Coffy, Eric Edgerly, Zack Yeskel.

MERRITT HIGH SCHOOL**New Relationship**

Through the efforts of Gary Ingram, CGCS, superintendent at Metropolitan Golf Links, students at Merritt High School are participating in OTEI activities. More than 20

students are attending the OTEI Turf Seminar offered through Merritt College. Gary is scheduling speakers as well as setting up internship opportunities for these students.

**OTEI —
Applies for
status as a
not for profit
corporation**

Sequoyah Country Club**Avaun Price, Intern**

PERALTA COLLEGE DISTRICT

Turf Seminar – Merritt College

This year the seminar will be in April and early May. The seminar is 18 hours of study on three Saturdays. The first two Saturday events will take place at Merritt College and Metropolitan Golf Links, where basic turfgrass management principles will be taught by Gary Carls, CGCS, a Director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, and Ray Davies, CGCS, CourseCo, Inc. The final day is scheduled for the Oakland Coliseum, where the students will tour the facilities to reinforce the use of the principles they have learned.

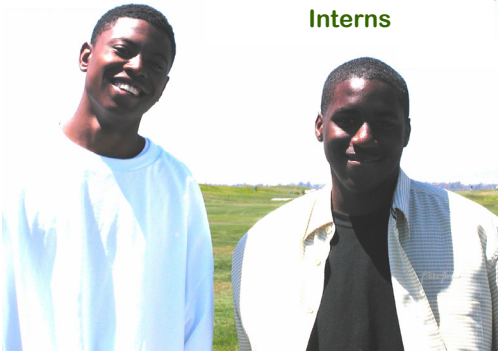
Middle School Involvement

Elmhurst Middle School and Madison Middle School are involved in after-school golf at Metropolitan Golf Links. Gary Ingram has visited both middle schools and discussed the OTEI program available at Castlemont H.S. and Merritt H.S. as well as the Turf Seminar at Merritt College.

Summer Internships

A total of five internships were provided at three area golf courses during the summer of 2005. Metropolitan Golf Links hosted three interns: Mario Turner, Richard Davis, and Javarie Rice. Lake Chabot hosted intern Michael Whitfield, and Sequoyah Country Club hosted Avaun Price. The goal for the summer of 2006 is to have six interns working in the green industry.

Metropolitan Golf Links Interns



Mario Turner

Javarie Rice



Michael Whitfield

NOT FOR PROFIT STATUS

OTEI will soon be a formal not for profit corporation. The application process is under way and we expect to have incorporated by the end of the school year. This status will help address important funding issues that are important to the success of our efforts on behalf of Oakland area students. The Board of Directors will be announced in the next OTEI Update.

The OTEI program introduces inner-city youth to potential career paths in golf and sports turf management and the entire green industry.

*OTEI is a cooperative project of:
CourseCo, Inc
Castlemont High School
The City of Oakland
Peralta Community College District
Lake Chabot Golf Course
Metropolitan Golf Links
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Future Farmers of America
The Green Industry*

For more information on OTEI, contact Kelli Anderson, at CourseCo, Inc. (707) 763-0335

IMPORTANT DATES

National FFA Week	March 20-26, 2006	Indianapolis, Indiana
California Leadership FFA Convention	April 22-25, 2006	Fresno, California

Summary

We appreciate the support we receive in our efforts to show high school students the value of higher education, and the opportunities available for management positions in California's green industry. Thank you.