Cougar New Tech goes to New Orleans for national conference | Education | The Press & Standard

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Fresh off the conclusion of their first year at Colleton County High School, Cougar New Tech Entrepreneurial Academy staff joined educators from dozens of schools in the New Tech Network last week in New Orleans as part of the 2014 New Tech Annual Conference.

The week-long staff development event brought teachers and administrators from New Tech schools nationwide together to receive New Tech-specific training regarding classroom instruction and collaboration, and also to brainstorm effective strategies for improving, advancing and marketing New Tech in communities where schools are taking part in the innovative program.


Foster’s itinerary at the convention was considerably different than the teachers, according to Crosby, who said the new district head was on a track specifically set up for superintendents in districts with New Tech schools, learning skills and techniques that can be applied to both New Tech and the district as a whole. Crosby said it was first time Foster had been exposed on a large scale what New Tech is all about.
"He told us he felt like he knew after attending all the sessions that the program was well thought out and worthwhile for the district to pursue," Crosby said.

Josh Cable, the inaugural Cougar New Tech Teacher of the Year, was chosen to take part in "Train the Trainer," in which he gave a presentation on cooperative teaching to New Tech teachers from around the country.

Co-teaching, Crosby said, is a tactic used in New Tech where two teachers work together in the same classroom, combining their subjects as part of New Tech's project-based learning style.

Laura Clark went through New Tech Advocate training. The advocate is the person on each campus who serves as the ambassador for New Tech, telling interested visitors about the concept and linking them to information about how to bring New Tech to their communities.

Rookie New Tech teachers participated in a course called NTN 101, a crash-course providing training on how to manage a New Tech classroom, plus advice on how to plan and implement dual curriculum with their partner teachers.

Veteran teachers took part in the Agents for Impact course, which focuses on community outreach to involve New Tech schools in the happenings of their cities, towns and counties, whether through government, business or philanthropic engagement. A primary goal of the course was to devise strategies on how to coordinate with local business about how to shape the curriculum to suit local job market needs.

The major takeaway New Tech directors wanted for schools, Crosby said, was to realize their importance in their community as agents for change in the changing world of education. That went hand-in-hand with the goal of community outreach.

The Cougar New Tech team and other New Tech programs were required to set a goal for their schools as part of the conference, CCHS made its goal to increase literacy in students across multiple disciplines.

Crosby said she was also pleased with the chance for her staff to network with other New Tech schools in South Carolina and across the nation.