**History**

South Bend Career Academy (SBCA) opened in the Blackthorne area of South Bend Indiana in August of 2011 with 165 seventh, eighth and ninth grade students. In response to the closing of the local trade school by South Bend Public Schools, SBCA co-founders Larry Hartz and Steve Garatoni decided to combine their resources to establish a school that would provide local high school students with a viable education while providing local business owners with qualified workers. As the owner of a ____ Hartz(?) struggled with an aging workforce and an inability to find high school graduates with the required skill to fill those jobs.

The search for an adequate site for the new school began with an architectural program which indicated a need for 75,000 square feet and a building that offered a mere 65,000. Architect Phil Panzika responded by creating concept drawings and a site plan which led the team to consider its current location.

**Vision**

South Bend Career Academy's (SBCA) vision is “To help empower youth to make positive life choices that will enable them to maximize their potential.” (source?)

**Mission**

“To prepare our students to become productive and contributing members of society by combining core academic courses with vocationally oriented education.” (source?)

**Demographics/Enrollment**

Follow the same example as above if demographics is separated from enrollment.

**Curriculum**

The curriculum focuses on project based learning and vocational education with a great deal of sophisticated technology being integrated into the school day. The curriculum is designed to support the needs of the students who have been identified as visual, audio and kinesthetic learners. Very few text books are currently being used with the faculty. Traditional values are emphasized with students saying the pledge every morning. An important mission for the school is that the students graduate with a full understanding of and appreciation of what it means to be an American. Upon graduation students are encouraged to consider military careers as well as the Peace Corp and AmeriCorps. Those student who are college bound will have 1.5 years of dual credit upon graduating through Ivy Tech State College and Vincennes University. Students are expected to contribute 20 hours of community service. SBCA is implementing a Mentoring Program that will match each student with an adult who will cultivate a one-on-one relationship. Mentors will help empower youth to make positive life choices that will enable them to maximize their potential. All volunteers will be required to complete an application and agreed to have an expanded background check before they are matched up with a student.

Students of SBCA spend 8.5 hours a day on site with a ½ hour for lunch. The Life Planning program is part of the longer than typical day as well as participation in sports, clubs or for those who need it, homework help and remediation. Students participate in NWEA testing as well as ISTEP. All students are required to provide proof of being 100% productive when they graduate. That productivity can be joining the military, entering college, Peace Corps or AmeriCorps as well entering the work force.

**Class Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Period</td>
<td>8:30am-9:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Period</td>
<td>9:30am-11:10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>11:10am-11:50am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Period</td>
<td>11:50am-1:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Period</td>
<td>1:30pm-3:15pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 2.1.1:** Student receiving one on one attention from teacher.

**Figure 2.1.2:** Students walking down the hallway.

**Figure 2.1.3:** South Bend Career Academy main entrance.
SOUTH BEND CAREER ACADEMY

PARTNER PROFILE: SOUTH BEND, IN

Test Scores
Because SBCA has only been open for seven months, test scores are not yet available.

Community Enrichment
The SBCA Mentoring Program that will match each student with an adult from the community who will cultivate a one-on-one relationship. Mentors will help empower youth to make positive life choices that will enable them to maximize their potential. All students complete a minimum of 40 hours of community service before graduating.

Funding
Funding and financing of the South Bend Career Academy is obtained from the state Department of Education per pupil funding, a $1.5 million dollar allotment from airport TIF money as well as private donations. The school is working with leveraged capital of $3.6 million dollars and also plans many different fundraisers that the parents and children participate in for the advancement of the school.

Facility
South Bend Career Academy is an adaptive reuse facility housed in a precast concrete and steel framed facility. The Principal's office is located near the front door to maintain control over who is coming in and out of the school. The design objective for the facility was to avoid a cookie cutter approach, what the builder calls a traditional "cells and bells" plan. The architects were not school architects which helped them in the challenge of designing something different. The lighting designers were encouraged to avoid an even amount of foot candles throughout in order to create light and dark spots, and to use shadows to create interest. Inspired by the need to create open areas and project natural light into the center of the complex, glass overhead doors similar to those used in automobile dealerships were used in shop areas. The doors connect the project based or "flex spaces", and effectively allow teachers to combine subjects and teach in teams.

Major corridors end with full height glass to create an open environment which is further enhanced by the use of clerestory windows and wide circulation paths. The senior high and junior high are separated by the auditorium and nurse station. Security cameras are used throughout the facility to insure safety and enhance communication between the administration and the staff. The school boasts state of the art technology with three IT rooms utilizing smart boards, projectors, and VOIP phones and an auditorium which comfortably seats 175 people. The auditorium is equipped with screens and a surround sound system and allows students to perfect their presentation skills while also serving to forge relationships with the business community who is encouraged to rent out the space.

Lunch and afternoon snacks are provided to students in a sun drenched space where a private contractor prepares meals in an on-site kitchen. Students enjoy the chef-inspired combinations the school offers each day.

Outside the cafeteria area, several umbrella tables adorn a patio. Kids, who earn the privilege, the principal said, are allowed to eat lunch outside.

The school supports special education and has an office dedicated to the staff. A student resource room which is similar to a library utilizes subdued lighting and is used by students if they need extra help with studies or in prep for IPE as well as other functions. Wall space in circulation areas is utilized to hang up student work. "Studies show this motivates kids and makes them adopt the space, making it their own." (Yolanda Turner-Smith)