

## Hammond Area Career Center

**School type:** Public vocational/technical career center serving four high schools, part of the School City of Hammond district

### AES Curriculum:

- *ITcenter21*: Computer Applications
- *ITcenter21*: Introduction to Business

### Program Title using AES Curriculum:

- Entrepreneurship Academy

### Contact:

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## With *ITcenter21*, Indiana Instructor Finds More One-On-One Time with Students

*Since Hammond Area Career Center in Indiana implemented *ITcenter21* curriculum into their two-year Entrepreneurship Academy Program, instructor Tameka Singh is able to spend more time with her each of her students.*

“Because this program is so comprehensive for my students, I am spending less time going over instructions,” Singh says. “I am able to **spend more time with those students that may be struggling or having difficulties completing tasks.**”

The *ITcenter21* program was designed by Pennsylvania-based curriculum developer Applied Educational Systems, Inc. (AES) to align with business and computer applications courses taught at high schools, career centers, and community and technical colleges across the country.

*ITcenter21* includes a comprehensive Grade Book component that records and scores students responses to inline selected-response questions. “I am **spending less time on assessments and grading** because AES software provides those capabilities,” she says. The Grade Book has a tool that teachers can use to export grades.

“I am very fond of the AES curriculum,” says Singh. According to Singh, the *ITcenter21* program has “**improved my students’ reading, comprehension skills and grades.**” She also says that *ITcenter21* “builds students’ self-esteem and offers real-world hands-on business experiences.”



***ITcenter21 curriculum is available for:***

- ***Introduction to Computers and I.T.***
- ***Introduction to Business***
- ***Computer Applications***

Hammond Area Career Center uses two ITcenter21 curriculum packages: Computer Applications and Introduction to Business. "The curriculum is **differentiated to meet the different learning levels and styles of my students**," says Singh. ITcenter21 allows teachers to set up assessment and pacing profiles. They can define points for correct and incorrect questions, as well as set up requirements for completing units and curriculum pacing options. Teachers can then assign the edited assessment and pacing profiles to individual students or entire classes of students.

Students are engaged and motivated with ITcenter21. "They felt that the **hands-on activities** were very beneficial," says Singh. "And they were able to apply the skills acquired into the work etc. that they have to do at their home school other classes."

Students in the Entrepreneurship Academy start the first year of the program by completing the Computer Applications curriculum package, covering Microsoft Office application skills with Access, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher and Word, as well as overarching topics like ethics and web research. They also complete **projects integrating multiple applications**. "My students enjoyed the projects," says Singh.

Then students learn about business topics, such as marketing accounting, and international business with the Introduction to Business curriculum package. They finish the first year with focused entrepreneurship studies.

In the second year students complete a capstone project and workplace internships. By combining the Computer Applications and Introduction to Business programs, the ITcenter21 curriculum is able to "**provide students the necessary skills** that are needed to fulfill the requirements/capstone for the Entrepreneurship Academy Program," says Singh.

All standards-based ITcenter21 curriculum can be customized for a variety of class settings and includes a complete **lab management software** package called WebTRAC. WebTRAC is a server-based system that provides comprehensive tracking, reporting, assessment, and control of all aspects of the classroom, including **student data and student work**. This system allows curriculum to be delivered easily to any computer in the school.



**Applied Educational Systems, Inc.** is a nationally recognized leader in the development of computer-driven curriculum solutions for career and technical education. Based in Lititz, Pennsylvania, AES has delivered curriculum products to over 2,000 classrooms nationwide over the past 22 years. Applied Educational Systems was voted one of the 40 *Best Places to Work in Pennsylvania*® in 2008.

### Applied Educational Systems

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