Information

The P-16 mathematics alignment team called on mathematics teachers at all levels to teach mathematics using a variety of techniques to reach students with different learning styles. They recommended that students should develop a deep level of understanding by using real problems highlighting the relevance of mathematics. The "Glide Rail," used in Jessamine County to teach engineering and mathematics concepts to students at West Jessamine High School, uses real problems to improve understanding of mathematics. Built and operated by the students themselves, the machine is designed to teach various principles of physics, including linear motion, energy, and momentum transfer, and the harnessing of power by simple machines. Students learn to apply physics and mathematics to solve engineering problems.

The "Glide Rail's" inventor, William Cloyd, is the founder of Newton's Attic, Inc., a non-profit corporation composed of professional engineers, teachers, business people, and artists dedicated to changing the way technical subjects are taught. Newton's Attic, Inc., provides customized professional development and technical support for teachers to promote engineering and the application of scientific knowledge.

In July 2001, the Council on Postsecondary Education approved a strategy for statewide engineering to train more engineers to support a knowledge-based economy in Kentucky. Engineering education that begins in the P-12 schools encourages students to pursue careers in engineering and other mathematics-related fields and advances the economic agenda of the state.

Newton's Attic also teaches entrepreneurship by showing students how to take an idea from the conceptual stage to "market."

William Cloyd and Dr. Linda France, Superintendent of Jessamine County Schools, will be joined by their students to present the project.

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