Hands-on Learning
Since most students are excited about using technology, I try to incorporate the computer activities related to English Composition in my curriculum as much as possible. For Black History Month a couple of projects included writing a report with a PowerPoint outline for presentation on an African American chef, inventor, or influential leader and submitting recipes to the classroom cookbook.

A dinner project is another way to use a variety of academics in one activity. Students select a well-balanced meal they want to prepare at home. They select the recipes; make a grocery list of items needed and items on hand; price and shop for the foods needed; cook the menu items; set the table; serve the foods to the family; and clean up the kitchen when they are finished. Upon completion they write a paragraph on the steps of preparation, timetable and any areas of difficulty they encountered. The final step involves a parent evaluation of the total dinner project.

CTE and Academics: A Good Partnership
Chadd and Drage (2006) identified that CTE will continue to decline unless we can clearly show our programs: a) contribute to academic success of students as measured by state academic tests and b) serve as a motivation for students to stay in school and help students perform better in academic courses. As a CTE teacher, integration of academics is necessary to promote education across the curriculum with practical applications of math, science, social studies and English. It also reinforces classroom learning so students make the connection through real-world experiences.

The second part of this project covers making a travel brochure in Publisher. Students make a brochure to entice visitors to the country. They include pictures, tourist attractions, climate and geographic information, and food selections native to the country. After the students have researched their country, they select a recipe and prepare the food for the class to taste.

Spotlight CTE in Washington
ACTE needs the support of every CTE professional, such as you, to enlighten a new congress and a new administration by showcasing the success of career and technical education in our nation’s schools.

Join ACTE in its “Spotlight CTE in Washington” membership campaign by joining or renewing your ACTE membership and by referring a colleague.

Don’t wait. Shine your light today!
visit www.acteonline.org or call 800-826-9972 for more information.

References
three-wheel electric bicycles to a one-man tank. We were lost on what an all-terrain wheelchair looked like. Not really knowing what exactly we had to build, the class voted on the best design based on several categories that included weight, visibility, turning radius and practicality.

The class was a unique experience because we got to design our own project, and also because we applied what we learned in our other classes to our creation. When members of the power team wired up their schematics, they had to employ the properties of electricity and evaluate the differences between wiring in series and wiring in parallel. Those were concepts that they had learned in physics at their high school. In addition, trigonometry, algebra and geometry were crucial to the frame. Richard Mejia described the control arms coming off the rack and pinions, so we had to cut down the control arms to maximize the turning radius. What he was describing is welding a pivot pinion, so we had to cut down the control arms for the design and manufacturing of its division.

Learning from our mistakes early on was a plus. Every team ran into problems, ranging from blowing a fuse to a warped frame. Richard Mejia described the control team experience, "We welded the Acker man Angle, and we wanted to adjust the control arms coming off the rack and pinions, so we had to cut down the control arms to maximize the turning radius."

In their senior mentorship and company placement next year. We will each be placed with an engineering firm, and will work with professionals in research, testing, drafting or CAD. You can’t beat the early start in our profession. Because you get hands-on experience in building an actual product, and Mr. Ensor is hooking us up with a mentorship, which could lead to a possible job."

Many of us look forward to our senior mentorship and company placement next year. We will each be placed with an engineering firm, and will work with professionals in research, testing, drafting, or CAD. You can’t beat the early start in our field of choice. The experience under our belts will prepare us for whatever engineering tasks we’ll meet in the future. We all declared the project and class a success, not only because we completed the vehicle, but because we look forward to going to our first two periods of the class.

Mastercam is the software Bruce’s students need to succeed in the classroom and at the competition. Mastercam expertise is also key to their success in the job market. With industry-proven technology and unparalleled customer support, it is clear why Mastercam is the most widely-used CAD/CAM software in both industry and education for well over a decade.

Bruce Freeman and his Mastercam class were featured on the cover of Tech Directions, January 2008. To read about their accomplishments, visit www.mastercam.com/edarticles or contact our Educational Division toll free at (800) ASK-MCAM.