

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

FACULTY PRESENTATION AT IOWA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF:
“WHAT DRIVES AN ELECTRIC CAR? – ENTHUSIASM!”

Action Requested: Receive the presentation.

Executive Summary: The unique Omaha Public Power District Power Drive Program allows students to design and construct an electric car. ISD’s Power Drive class focuses on topics that car manufacturers deal with when making new vehicle models. In the class, students conduct research to incorporate aerodynamic concepts, while fabricating the electric race car. Critical vehicle systems like steering, braking, wiring, and frame construction are critical to the students’ success. Championships are won with good communication and teamwork when students work together to address a common goal. Many students who have participated in the past have used the skills and concepts to find their future career paths, such as electrician, welder, engineer, and other trades. ISD students learn problem-solving skills which will make them valuable assets to future employers.

Mr. Scott Versch is in his second year as a careers teacher as the Metals and Electric Car instructor at ISD. His first teaching assignment was at Johnson-Brock Public School in Johnson, NE. While at Johnson-Brock, he led four groups of students in designing and constructing electric cars for the Omaha Public Power District Power-Drive competition. Mr. Versch began teaching at ISD in January 2013; at that time, he started ISD’s electric car program which is gathering support among students and staff. He recently earned his Master of Science degree in Education-Curriculum and Instruction from Peru State College in Peru, Nebraska. He will begin his Deaf Education Endorsement program in Summer 2014.