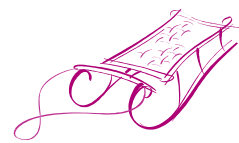


The

PERFECT

Perspective



Newsletter
Vol. 19, No. 2
February 2008

Peoria Educational Region For Employment and Career Training



*“Act as if what you do makes a difference.....It does.”
William James*

From the Director...

February has been named **CTE Month** by the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE). This is a great time to showcase CTE classes and activities and promote your school.

Listed below are some suggested grade-level career development activities:

Grades K-5

- Bag of Careers – Fill a bag with tools or clothing worn or used “on the job” and have students guess the career area, or as a class, discuss the career area.
- Have students draw pictures of jobs around town.

Grades 6-8

- Use the comics to identify 10 different career areas.
- Conduct a “What do you wear to work?” activity to explore the clothes, uniforms and equipment required for different careers.

Grades 9-12

- Pick a broad topic area such as “water” and identify careers related to the product (plumber, ship captain, water treatment plant worker, designer of jet skis, swimming teacher, etc.)
- Have students write a description of their ideal job and share with the class.

These are just a few of the many career development activities that can be used in classrooms to help students learn about careers that are available to them. We encourage you to try a few activities in your classroom as you work through the second semester of the school year. Please send us any activity that you have tried to share with other schools in the region.

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Carol

February-CTE Month
“CTE: Discovering Skills for a Competitive Workforce”...



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☆ *The PERFECT Perspective* ☆
☆ *is published as a service* ☆
☆ *to teachers and business professionals* ☆
☆ *committed to* ☆
☆ *Career and Technical Education.* ☆

☆ *Region School Districts include:* ☆
☆ *Brimfield, Dunlap, Elmwood,* ☆
☆ *Farmington, Illinois Valley Central,* ☆
☆ *Peoria District 150,* ☆
☆ *Peoria Heights, and Princeville.* ☆

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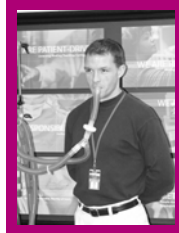
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2007
Health Care
CAREER ENCOUNTER

This year's first **Health Care Career Encounter** (sponsored by **Methodist Medical Center** and **P.E.R.F.E.C.T.**) was held on December 3, 2007, at **Methodist**. Fifty-six high school students from **Peoria District 150** were introduced to some of the many career opportunities available in the health care industry. Students participated in activities provided by representatives from the **College of Nursing, Medical Imaging, and Respiratory Care**, as well as, presentations by representatives from **Surgery, Pharmacy, Lab/Pathology, Information Technology, and Dietary/Food Service**. We want to thank everyone at Methodist for providing such a rewarding experience for our students!



"This was a great program."



"I loved all the presentations."

"It was very educational and helpful."



"I had a great time and it really made me think about becoming a nurse."



"Everything was great. I loved it."



"It was beneficial for me, and it gave me a lot of things to think about."

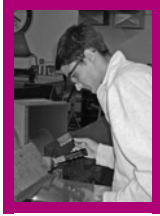


"I thought that some of the x-rays were very surprising."

"I am so glad I came! It has really helped me decide what I want to do with my life."



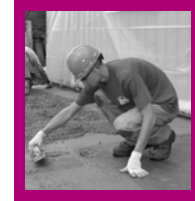
In the Spotlight... PAHS senior applauds new Construction Industry Work-Based Learning Program!...



Jesse Brubaker, a senior at **Peoria Alternative High School**, first learned and became interested in the new **Construction Industry Work-Based Learning Program** during a presentation at his school. His father works in the trades and has always encouraged his three sons to get involved. It was this program that sparked Jesse's attention!

The **Construction Industry Work-Based Learning Program** helps high school juniors and seniors explore various career opportunities in the construction industry through a competency-based learning model. This innovative one-year program features a combination of classroom instruction, specialized hands-on training, and internships at various locations, including apprenticeship schools and various job sites. During the first semester, students explore all aspects of the construction industry in order to identify their interests and talents. Instruction takes place both in the classroom and in simulated settings where students gain real skills through hands-on training. Students then apply their newly learned skills in non-paid internships with area union construction contractors during the second semester.

Deb Johnigk, instructor of the program said, "Jesse showed a lot of interest from the very beginning. He took his hands-on projects very seriously and appreciates this opportunity." Jesse likes everything about the program! He has especially enjoyed learning to operate heavy equipment. Jesse begins his internship at **Central Illinois Electrical Services, (CIES)** this semester. He is, "One hundred percent happy that he is participating in this program and highly encourages other students to consider work-based learning programs. They are really great and worthwhile!" **Best of luck, Jesse!!**



Mrs. Grant, Mr. Love, and Mr. Kratzer

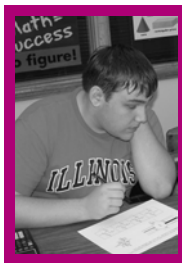


"A Field Trip in the Classroom, ENGINEERS TEACHING ALGEBRA" at Princeville High School...

On November 15, Mr. Mark Love, an engineer from New Hampshire, came to **Princeville High School** and did two hands-on algebra workshops with students. Mr. Love has a civil engineering degree and works as a traffic engineer on the East coast. The workshops were full of activities that were challenging, fun, and relevant. Students spent the time analyzing traffic flow optimization problems.



Mr. Kratzer helping Rachel Streitmatter on a traffic flow problem.



Dalton Carlson working on a traffic flow problem.

Along with providing students a practical application of the math they learn in high school, Mr. Love also spent time encouraging students to take as much math as they can in high school. He expressed the need for engineers to be very proficient with math. According to Mr. Love, "Your futures are in data and technology."

Mrs. Monica Grant and **Mr. Jeff Kratzer** organized the "field trip in the classroom" for students in Algebra I Double Block, Advanced Math, Calculus, and Project Lead The Way classes. The trip was sponsored by **P.E.R.F.E.C.T.** "I wanted my students to be able to see how math will be used in careers rather than trying to convince them without any hard evidence," said Mrs. Grant.



Mr. Love helping a student.

The students enjoyed the 80 minutes that they spent with Mr. Love. "It was great to apply the math that I have learned to the topics that we talk about in our engineering classes," said one PLTW student.

“She always considers what is best for the student.”...

In the Spotlight...



Sue Himes has been an extremely effective educator for almost **30** years. Most of her career has been devotedly spent as a special education teacher, but she is currently working as a **Work Coordinator** at **Peoria Alternative High School**. Her job involves guiding students to find employment and assisting them in keeping their jobs. All of this entails endless problem-solving and the ability to match students with potential jobs that meet their current needs. Sue is a master at accomplishing both! She always considers what is best for the student. Sue is particularly skilled at working with first semester students; teaching them the basics for job-hunting; and predominantly emphasizing the importance of thoroughly and accurately completed applications. She conducts mock interviews before each student goes to an interview and diligently follows up on a student’s progress on the job. Many times she has arranged for guest speakers to come to a cooperative work training class, to speak on a variety of job-related topics. Her efforts are limitless. Sue’s greatest strength is her ability to communicate expectations positively to her students; helping them to identify their own responsibility in situations where they initially put blame elsewhere. She listens with awareness as students express their concerns and problems with their jobs and helps them work through all possible solutions and choices, to ultimately make the best possible decisions.



“I first worked with Sue in a special education keyboarding class at Woodruff,” shared Jean Freeburn. “Her kindness and countless efforts to make at least **some** success possible for **every** student were exemplary!” She is actively involved in P.E.R.F.E.C.T.’s Student Services Committee and works hard to enroll PAHS students in regional work-based learning programs. Sue assists them in the application process and conducts practice interviews. Through her efforts, there have been more students from Peoria Alternative enrolled in these programs than in years past.

Giving back to the community is a priority for Sue. She is currently serving her second term on the Board of Directors for **PARC**. She is Board vice-chair and is chair of the Program and Advocacy group. Sue epitomizes what a board member should be. She is well versed in the services that PARC provides; the individuals served; and its mission. She gives generously of her time, talent and knowledge to PARC. Board President, Jeannine McAllister, feels blessed to work with Sue. Jeannine goes on to say, “Sue is committed to her profession, PARC, and friendships, and because of her commitment and generosity, many have benefited.”

Sue heads towards retirement at the end of this school year, but she still continues to work as hard as always. Daily, she performs her job with compassion, respect and humor! Sue truly deserves to be “in the spotlight.” **Thank you for everything, Sue!**

(Submitted with admiration and respect by Kathy Chambers, co-worker)



“Each time a man stands up for an ideal or acts to improve the lot of others or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

Robert F. Kennedy



A dozen ways to keep your job



- ◆ Learn what is most important to your boss and tailor your performance accordingly.
- ◆ Make friends at work. People who are well-liked are more likely to be retained.
- ◆ Ask your supervisors for suggestions about your work and adjust accordingly.
- ◆ Without overdoing it, make sure your supervisors are aware of your accomplishments.
- ◆ If you have enemies, try to find areas in which you can agree and come to terms.
- ◆ Develop a reputation for hard work; don't cut your hours short.
- ◆ Take advantage of training opportunities to update and expand your skills.
- ◆ Keep up with the latest technology in your field.
- ◆ If you inadvertently annoy someone, apologize as soon as possible.
- ◆ Volunteer for extra assignments-they may lead to new job options.
- ◆ Know your organization's goals and direct your work toward them.
- ◆ Join professional associations and make useful contacts.

Adapted from *Career Opportunity News* May/June 2007

Did you know?

In Illinois, the average age of an **agriculture** teacher is **39**. Age statistics are: 30 and under-33%, 31-40-20%, 41-50-26%, 51-60-17%, over 60-4%. The average number of years taught per teacher is **12**. Thirty-five percent of Illinois' agriculture teachers have less than 5 years of experience. Professional development and mentoring continue to be major objectives to ensure quality instruction for inexperienced teachers.

(Adapted from *Building Bridges* - 2007 Illinois Agricultural Education Report)






"If two people agree on everything, then we don't need two people."
Todd Whitaker

According to *Business Week*, nearly **40 percent** of newly hired CEO's fail on their job. Their problems have created a solution for this aspect of the business world known as "**onboarding**." It may be defined as, "assistance from an outside consultant before and during the executive's first months on the job." Specialists in "onboarding" may give advise to CEO's on activities before they officially report to work, such as how to meet with important customers or clients. They may also advise on how to develop easy-to-reach goals and serve as "eyes and ears" to identify hidden problems or pockets of bad morale that need to be addressed.

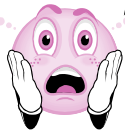
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P.E.R.F.E.C.T.
“Points in Time”



<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
February 12, 2008		Lincoln’s Birthday- office closed	
March 3, 2008		 Casimir Pulaski Day- office closed	
March 5-6, 2008		Connections Conference	Pheasant Run, St. Charles
March 6, 2008	1:30	P.E.R.F.E.C.T. Board of Control	P.E.R.F.E.C.T.
March 21-30, 2008		Spring break- office closed	
April 3, 2008	1:30	P.E.R.F.E.C.T. Board of Control	P.E.R.F.E.C.T.
April 11, 2008		Workplace Skills Expo	Embassy Suites, E. Peoria
May 1, 2008	1:30	 P.E.R.F.E.C.T. Board of Control	P.E.R.F.E.C.T.
May 26, 2008		Memorial Day- office closed	
June 17-19, 2008		 IACTE Conference/Annual Meeting	Hilton Hotel, Springfield

OOPS!



We truly regret that we failed to include **Greater Peoria Contractors & Suppliers Association, Inc.**, in our last newsletter, for helping to make the **tenth** annual **Construction Industry Career Expo** such a huge success. Your work was certainly a vital part of this event, too.
 Thank you!

Make a success of a job fair visit...

Job fairs offer the opportunity to learn about employing organizations, and to make a good personal impression on an employer’s representative.

Employers are just as concerned with screening out candidates as focusing on the few in whom they are very interested. A successful contact with a recruiter begins with announcing your name clearly, with a smile, a solid handshake, and looking the recruiter in the eye. (One trick to making good eye contact is to determine in those first few seconds the color of the recruiter’s eyes.) If you know someone who works for the employer, dropping the name of an employee, particularly if that person is doing well, can both break the ice and imply that you are of the same high caliber, and is another way of separating you from the other candidates. Always ask for a business card so you are able to cite that person’s name in later contacts with the employer, and a follow-up phone call or two to that person might help advance your candidacy.

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*“Live as if you were to die tomorrow.
 Learn as if you were to live forever.”
 Gandhi*





*“Vitality shows in not only the ability to persist, but the ability to start over.”
F. Scott Fitzgerald*



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