

The

PERFECT

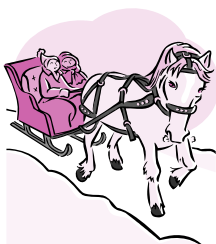
Perspective

Newsletter
Vol. 21, No. 2
February 2010



Peoria Educational Region For Employment and Career Training

Winter



“Our attitude toward life determines life’s attitude toward us.”

—Earl Nightingale

From the Director...

Greetings! We have passed the half-way point and I hope that you are enjoying a great school year. As you can see from the activities highlighted in this issue, it has been an eventful year for us. We greatly appreciate the assistance we receive from area businesses and our counterparts at the Tazewell County EFE. Without their assistance, much of what we do would not be possible.

We all know it is a challenging time to be in education for any number of reasons. While this cannot be denied, I encourage you to take time to reflect on some of the great things going on in your schools. During this time of year with the short daylight and the seeming unwillingness of the calendar pages to turn, I have found celebrating individual student successes to be valuable in re-energizing for the second semester.

In writing this, I am reminded of the “Women in Construction” day where I saw 26 young ladies enthusiastically “dive in” to work with concrete. This diverse group represented a number of schools in the Tri-County area (more details inside.) In spite of their many differences, all wore a smile. It was a great tribute to the power of authentic learning.

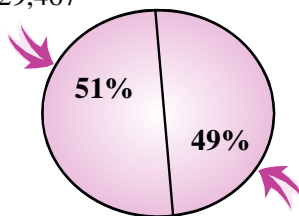
Thank you for your efforts on behalf of students and best wishes for the spring semester!

Brian

CTE Serves the Majority of High School Students in Illinois...

CTE

Enrollments
329,467



Non-CTE
Enrollments
310,429

CTE Month
February 2010
“CTE: Invest in Your Future.”

Inside this issue:

Healthcare Career Encounters	Page 2
“Women in Construction”	Page 3
“In the Spotlight” - IVC	Page 4
“In the Spotlight” - Peoria Heights	Page 5
What’s new with Career Cruising?	Page 6
The P.E.R.F.E.C.T. Calendar	Page 7

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

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www.perfectpeoria.com

Healthcare Career Encounters

(sponsored by **Methodist Medical Center, P.E.R.F.E.C.T., and Tazewell County EFE**) were held on October 8, 19, and 23. A total of **164** high school students from Peoria and Tazewell counties and District 150 were introduced to some of the many opportunities available in the healthcare industry.

Students participated in activities provided by representatives from **Pharmacy, Lab/Pathology, Information Technology and Dietary/Food Service**, as well as, presentations by representatives from the **College of Nursing, Medical Imaging, Respiratory Care, and Surgery**. We want to thank everyone at Methodist for providing this great experience for our students, including a special thank you to **Tammie Speck**, Volunteer Resource Services Coordinator, for making it all happen!

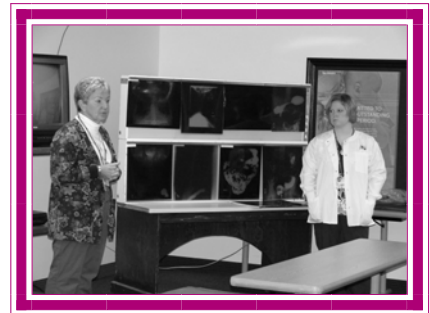


“Thank you for the opportunity to visit your facility.”



“I like the fact that you give new students the chance to enroll in internships, which give the students more time to get ready and feel comfortable beginning their careers.”

“It was a great experience. I enjoyed myself and the information that was given to me.”



“I really think the information was beneficial and was a great contribution.”

“The overall program was great and I hope it will continue.”



“I liked the fact that students from the college courses came and shared their experience.”





Women in Construction “Cement Mason’s Spotlight”

Twenty-six students from **six** area high schools participated in the **Cement Mason’s Spotlight** on November 20, 2009, at the Local 18 Cement Mason Training Center in Morton. The students were introduced to the many career and training opportunities available in the union construction industry through the Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons International Association (OPCMIA).

The event began with an introduction to the industry by Apprenticeship Coordinator Kevin Elliot and 10-year OPCMIA member Donna Nelson. Hands-on activities included pouring and finishing a sidewalk, as well as, a decorative concrete project that each student designed, ground, and stained.

This event was made possible as a result of the continued partnership between education and the Union Construction Industry in Central Illinois. Many thanks to **Kevin Elliot**, **Donna Nelson**, and the members of **Local 18** for hosting this event and providing instructors and supplies for the hands-on activities. Also, a big Thank You to **TRICON**, the **Tazewell County Area Education For Employment Office**, and our area schools for making this event a great success.

FY11 Regional Work-Based Learning Program applications are due by

March 1, 2010

The Common Application is available online at

www.perfectpeoria.com

In the Spotlight.., **Drafting** class prepares **IVC** senior for community project...



Matthew Niles is a seventeen year-old senior at **Illinois Valley Central High School**. He is enrolled in **3D Architectural Drafting II**, taught by Karen Roth, and he took some time out of his busy schedule to share some thoughts with us.....

Why did you decide to take this class?

I took this class because it is a start towards a career in architecture. Even though I have recently changed my career path to automotive mechanics, this class is still a great help in the mechanical field.

What do you like/dislike the most about this class?

I enjoy planning and drawing out house plans and building plans. I like to see what work actually goes into building something before it can be built. The only thing I dislike about the class is being behind a computer because I enjoy being active and moving around.

How does it compare to your required academic classes?

Technology classes use a great amount of math and figuring. An example would be the current project I'm working on with **Three Sisters Park**. I dealt with an extreme amount of trigonometry in order to find heights of an already existing building that I have built to scale.

Would you recommend this class to another student? If so, why?

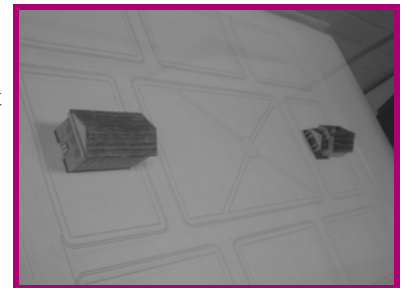
I would definitely recommend this class to any student interested in the field of mechanical or architectural drawing. It will give them a great amount of knowledge in the field as well as hands-on work and being able to work with well-known people already in the field.

Why do you think CTE classes such as this are important?

Career and Tech Education classes are responsible for training students going into that field. If nobody had these classes then they would have no clue how to work in this career. These classes are responsible for the proper training to enter this field of work.

Tell us about your project. How are you graded? Did you choose this particular project? What has been the benefit of doing it?

The current project I'm working on is a community development project for Three Sisters Park in Chillicothe. Their goal is to build a 1916 village at the Park, and they came to IVC to acquire the students they needed to design it. I was lucky enough to be the one who worked on this project the most and got to be completely involved. So far in this project, I have finished a model of their existing church and a model of a town hall. I am currently working on scale buildings for the rest of the town to go into a scale replica of the town. They want a town model of their ideas in order to show the public and collect donations for the building of it. I'm graded on my work effort and time that I've put into this project. The benefit has been being able to work with the community and a lot of people on this project. Mrs. Roth added that, "Matthew has done an excellent job. He does all the research; makes all of the decisions; and provides a quality product to the Board of Three Sisters Park,..." which certainly puts him in our "spotlight." **Good luck with your future plans, Matthew!**



*(Respectfully submitted by Anita Bausman,
P.E.R.F.E.C.T. Teacher Aide, IVC High School)*

*"A resolute determination is
the truest wisdom."*

Napoleon I





Graphic Design project presents excellent opportunity for teamwork at Peoria Heights...

In the Spotlight...



Thanks to a great silk screening system, John Smith's **Graphic Design** students at **Peoria Heights High School** cannot only picture their designs; they can actually wear them, too! Late last school year, P.E.R.F.E.C.T. purchased a silk screening system for the Industrial Technology Department. As the coordinator of the department, Mr. Smith knows the importance of hands-on experience when it comes to learning how to work with any tool, whether that tool is a band saw, a computer or a silk screening station. The two-station, four-color silk screen machine provides the Graphic Design students the opportunity to see an entire project through, from an idea to a finished product.

The first project idea was to simply create a personalized t-shirt for some of the players on the football team. Students researched different designs and then experimented with colors on their computers using Photoshop software. When the design was agreed upon, they began their silk screening training. To prepare for printing, the class used two full class periods (about 90 minutes) to prep each station's screen and to get the colors ready on the transparencies. They had to work together and follow every step correctly in order for their product to be quality work. Even though this part of the process is time-consuming, it is critical that everything is done as the manual directs. The design's integrity depends on the screens being properly prepared.

The first color is applied at Station 1. After this color is properly applied and allowed time to set up, the t-shirt is taken to Station 2 for the second color. The number of colors used determines how many steps and/or stations that will be in use. After the initial prep work is done, a number of t-shirts can be processed in just one class period. The productivity will certainly improve with every project. Each step, as in any job, is a learning experience. There is a certain amount of time, planning, and following through that must take place for a successful outcome.

Mr. Smith was quite pleased with the first few t-shirts that the class created, and his goal is to involve more students in new silk screening projects for school events, including other sports teams who want their own personalized team shirts. While the players provided the t-shirts and the Graphics Design class provided the artwork and the tool, it was definitely real teamwork that took that first design project off the ground.

*(Respectfully submitted by Laura Fehl,
P.E.R.F.E.C.T. Teacher Aide, Peoria Heights High School)*



Fashion buyers are an important part of the merchandising industry. They work 10-hour days, sometimes more, and travel extensively in an attempt to predict what clothing and accessories people are going to want to buy next year. Junior buyers may start at \$35,000 while experienced and successful buyers earn \$60,000 to \$80,000. Neiman Marcus offers an executive development program to help prepare 90 to 100 entry-level buyers each year.

(Career Opportunities News-November/December 2008)

"The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra."

Jimmy Johnson

What's new ...with Career Cruising for the 2009/2010 School Year?

Career Cruising, is always improving its program to help make students' career and education planning as engaging and as simple as possible. Its developers and writers have been busy over the past year, adding new features and content to the site. A few of the most significant additions and changes include:

Cluster Profiles & Programs of Study Integration

We have introduced profiles for each of the States' Career Cluster Initiative's National 16 clusters and 79 pathways. Each cluster profile includes a brief description, information on pursuing an education in the field, employment outlook information, and links to the profiles of the specific pathways related to that cluster. We have also integrated Programs of Study throughout Career Cruising for schools using the National 16 Career Cluster system. Programs of Study are four-year course plans designed to help students prepare for post-secondary education in the cluster or pathway of their choice. Programs of Study are included in all of the cluster and pathway profiles

New Military Occupations Section

Students can now access profiles for 141 Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard occupations. The military occupation profiles can be accessed by clicking on the Military Careers button on the Explore Careers page. Students have the option of searching and sorting by occupation name (alphabetical or keyword), by job family (similar to clusters), or by service branch.

Changes to Career Matchmaker

We have recently introduced several improvements to the Career Matchmaker interface. The most noticeable change is a significant revision of the Career Suggestions page. The new layout has a few key advantages over the old one:

- a progress bar is now provided for the Matchmaker and My Skills questions to make it clear to students where they are in the process
- the level of education used to determine the career suggestions is visible
- the career clusters recommendations have been given a more prominent location

My Journal

My Journal, the newest addition to Career Cruising's portfolio development system, gives students the ability to maintain an ongoing log of their reflections as they build their portfolios. My Journal entries are free-form and offer a whole new way for students and teachers to track the career planning process.

Advisement Logs

We have made a number of changes to the Advisement Log features in CAMS. A new *Manage Advisement Logs* section makes it easier to find and add to students' logs. Counselors and teachers can also now add to multiple students' advisement logs at using, using the *Manage Group Entries* feature.

Compare Schools

Students consider a number of different factors (programs offered, entrance requirements, student life, etc.) when weighing their post-secondary education options. Our new Compare Schools tool helps with the post-secondary school selection process by making it easy to compare the details of any two schools

Compliance with Accessibility Standards

Making career exploration an easy and enjoyable experience for all students is always our goal, so ensuring that our site meets accessibility standards is an important concern for us. Career Cruising is now fully compliant with Section 508 of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA 508).

District Student Data Upload

This new utility allows you to add new students, deactivate student accounts, transfer students between schools in your district, and promote students as they complete grades; all by sending us a single file. This add-on service allows entire districts to ensure that their student data is well-managed, which is essential for the successful implementation of portfolios and accurate reporting in the Career Advisor Management System (CAMS).

They have also updated all of their support materials to reflect these new features and changes.

For more information on any of these new features, contact James Bowler at jamesb@careercruising.com or Penny DuBois at P.E.R.F.E.C.T., 693.7373.



The P.E.R.F.E.C.T. Calendar

2009-2010



<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
February 2010		Career and Technical Education Month	
February 4 2010	1:30	P.E.R.F.E.C.T. Board of Control	P.E.R.F.E.C.T.
February 15, 2010		President's Day- office closed	
March 1, 2010		Regional Work-Based Learning Program Applications due	
March 1, 2010		Casimir Pulaski Day- office closed	
March 4, 2010	1:30	P.E.R.F.E.C.T. Board of Control	P.E.R.F.E.C.T.
March 8-10, 2010		ACTE National Policy Seminar	Arlington, VA
March 10-11, 2010		Connections Conference	St. Charles, IL
April 2-11, 2010		Spring break- office closed	
April 15, 2010	1:30	P.E.R.F.E.C.T. Board of Control	P.E.R.F.E.C.T.
May 6, 2010	1:30	P.E.R.F.E.C.T. Board of Control	P.E.R.F.E.C.T.
May 31, 2010		Memorial Day- office closed	
June 15-17, 2010		IACTE Conference/Annual Meeting	Springfield, IL

21st Century Jobs Require Lifelong Learning	
Educational Requirements for Jobs in 2014	
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	26%
Some College/Technical Training	28%
On-the-Job Training	46%

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics-Occupational Projection and Training Data 2006-2007



101 Best Cover Letters

This book (ISBN 0-07-134257-5), by **Jay A. Block** and **Michael Betrus** is not new (1999), but it covers an important and often neglected topic so well that it merits some attention. It contains a collection of top letters submitted by 16 people who make their living advising clients on resumes, letters, and other job search tools.

For many job-seekers and even career experts, the letter that accompanies the resume is considered unimportant. To these authors, a strong **letter of application** should accompany the resume. The combination helps put your best foot forward.



“Discovery consists of looking at the same thing as everyone else and thinking something different.”



Roger von Oech



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