

# The PERFECT Perspective



Newsletter  
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Peoria Educational Region For Employment and Career Training



*“When you do the common things in life in an uncommon way,  
you will command the attention of the world.”*  
—George Washington Carver

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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## From the Director...

It doesn't seem possible that another school year is rapidly coming to an end. I look forward to my retirement at the end of June with fond memories of all of the people that I have met and worked with—administrators, counselors, teachers, community and business leaders—that are working hard every day to help students make career decisions. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as director of the P.E.R.F.E.C.T. team during these years of incredible growth and change for career and technical education.

There will be challenges in the future as wikis, podcasting, Twitter, You Tube, Facebook, My Space, and who knows what other technologies emerge. I Skyped for the first time over spring break. Educators will have to decide how and/or if these should be integrated into the classroom. Thank you for your continued work in helping to train our future workforce.

I wish you all the best—

*Carol*



“Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation.”—John F. Kennedy



**P.E.R.F.E.C.T.**  
**“Points in Time”**



May 14 - Student Services Committee - Basta Mangiare, Peoria Heights

May 25 - Memorial Day observed - **office closed**

June 16-18 - IACTE Conference - Tinley Park, IL

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### Woodruff High School students promote CTE at Legislative Day...

## In the Spotlight...



Kendra, Senator Koehler, Ashley

Woodruff High School seniors, **Kendra Alexander** and **Ashley Wilson** were two of the student speakers who advocated for **C**areer and **T**echnical **E**ducation to state legislators in Springfield. "Growing up, I always thought I wanted to work with children," said **Kendra**. "Last year, I heard about a new CTE program, **E**arly **C**hildhood **E**ducation and **C**areer **E**xploration **W**ork-Based Learning Program.



Kendra



Ashley

I enjoyed it so much, that I decided to continue in the program for a second year. I was able to spend time both in the classroom learning about child development and time working directly with children. The ECECE Program has confirmed my interest in working with children." Kendra plans to attend nursing school in the fall, specializing in pediatrics.

Also speaking in the Rotunda that day was **Ashley Wilson**. Ashley has been taking technology classes at Woodruff all four years. Classes like Digital Electronics, Web Page Design and Computer Repair have helped her prepare for college coursework next year and a major in Computer Science.

Kendra and Ashley were accompanied by Carol Leach and Susan Sherwood from P.E.R.F.E.C.T. in speaking with Representatives Leitch, Gordon, Smith, and Senators Koehler and Risinger.



## Hospitality & Tourism Work-Based Learning

The students in the new **Hospitality & Tourism** Work-Based Learning Program have been very busy during this semester. The group has been hosted by a wide variety of training sites representing the **Heart of Illinois Hospitality Association**. Locations have included the Peoria Civic Center, Hotel Pere Marquette, Holiday Inn City Centre, Pepper's Café, Cyd's Gourmet Kitchen, SpringHill Suites by Marriott, The Courtyard by Marriott, Residence Inn by Marriott, Embassy Suites, Peoria Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, EastSide Center, and Country Inn & Suites. Many thanks to all of the hosts, speakers, and committee members who have made these opportunities possible!

\*\*\*\*\*



Applications for the 2009-2010 school year are still being accepted. Students interested in participating in the Hospitality & Tourism program should contact their high school guidance counselor and complete the WBL Common Application available at [www.perfectpeoria.com](http://www.perfectpeoria.com).

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## Construction Industry Work-Based Learning

*“Learn Today, Build Tomorrow”*

Students in the **Construction Industry Work-Based Learning Program** are currently serving as unpaid interns with local union construction industry business partners. Each intern spends a portion of the school day job-shadowing industry mentors at a job site or business.

In addition to their internship responsibilities, the students also attended the **Downstate Illinois Occupational Safety and Health Day** on March 4, 2009, at the Peoria Civic Center, where they attended safety seminars as well as a health fair and safety exhibits.



During the last two weeks of March, the students explored career opportunities at the **Operating Engineers Local 649** training site near Mapleton, Illinois. Program participants received information about the Operators’ apprenticeship program and had the opportunity to try their skills on equipment simulators as well as actual equipment including excavators, bulldozers, and cranes.

The second semester Construction Industry Work-Based Learning Program interns and hosts are:

Hayden Bailey	Midland High School	Ruyle Mechanical Services
Christopher Bohannan	Princeville High School	Otto Baum Construction
Carlos Brown	Woodruff High School	JJ Braker/Bricklayers Local 6
Zachary Call	East Peoria High School	Mid-Illinois Companies
Shawn Cochran	Peoria High School	Hein Construction
Nathan Cousineau	Delavan High School	River City Construction
Daniel Davis	IVC High School	Redbud Ridge
Bryce Downie	Princeville High School	P. J. Hoerr
Jacob Dye	Princeville High School	CORE Construction
Austin Gahl	Dunlap High School	Zobrist Construction
Robert Hoffman	Brimfield High School	PIPCO
Nycolas Hougham	Princeville High School	George Rothan Company
Ajeenah McShan	Peoria High School	Oberlander Electric
Dietrich Mehlhaf	Peoria Alternative High School	Meister Electric, Inc.
Darius Robinson	Peoria High School	JJ Braker/Bricklayers Local 6
Derek Ross	Delavan High School	River City Construction
Matthew Snyder	Princeville High School	Wright Way Interior Systems



Thank you to **TRICON, Operating Engineers Local 649**, and our **local union construction contractors** for arranging these wonderful experiences for the students! Also, thank you to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for providing P.E.R.F.E.C.T. with a grant through the Equal Opportunities Grant Program and making our continued partnership with TRICON available to even more students in Central Illinois.

# In the Spotlight...



## Princeville sophomores had a taste of the “Real World”



**Princeville High School** held its **ninth** annual **Real World** event for sophomores on March 6, 2009, in the PHS gym. This budgeting simulation gave students a chance to test their ability to “come out ahead” of their checkbooks as they made financial decisions and “paid bills” that are typical everyday expenses. Career and Technical Education team members **Susan Mercer, Diana Williams, Ellen Cluskey, Gayle Brackett,** and **Like Bonomo** planned the event. PHS faculty members **Joe House, Mike Isaacson, Peggy Shane, Barb Kratzer, Kelley Miller,** and **Sara Scott** escorted groups through the Real World.

The Real World is a structured event in which the sophomores assume the role of twenty-five year old college graduates who are about to begin their first jobs. Prior to the event, students select careers that are of interest. Career and Technical Education team members then prepare folders that contain the average monthly salary for these careers with taxes deducted. In the orientation room, students are given back this information and also instructed on writing checks and keeping a checkbook ledger.

After leaving the orientation session, they move to the gym where a variety of community business people discuss the realities of being financially independent and making sound financial decisions. The first stop is the bank and over the years, PHS has received



continued support from **Speer Bank** and the **Princeville State Bank**. Both banks have sent staff members who help students “open checking accounts” and review the procedures for writing checks. Students then move to the transportation table, which was staffed by a **Princeville State Bank** loan officer. At the transportation table they choose between several vehicles, writing a check for a monthly car payment and gas. They select housing with the help of **Betty Menold** from **Traders** and **Pat Stahl** from **ReMax**. Insurance costs are based on their transportation and housing decisions.

**Lauri House** and **Lynn Feucht** from **Tom Kelley Insurance** supported the insurance table. **Jean Freeburn** and **Penny DuBois** from **P.E.R.F.E.C.T.** manned the Utilities table. **Jeri R Emmert** from **Village Foods in Princeville** sat at the groceries table. She brought in an assortment of name-brand and store-brand foods and then gave the students the opportunity to taste and compare them. **Dressbarn** at Shoppes at Grand Prairie sent staff to sit at the clothing table. **Princeville School Board member, Bruce Stoller** helped students at the entertainment and chance tables. After all students completed the Real World, **Ms.**



**Diana Williams’ Family and Consumer Science** students served a catered lunch to the business partners.

**Fifty-seven sophomores** participated in the 2009 Real World event. After the event students commented that they would “probably need to get another job” or “explore career options and manage my money.” As students move around the gym, they are often surprised at the cost of living and what common expenses make up everyday life. Students consistently state that the Real World is an interesting and valuable program that will help them in the future.

*(Respectfully submitted by Princeville High School teachers, Susan Mercer and Ellen Cluskey)*

*“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”*

*—Theodore Roosevelt*



## Happy Retirement, Carol!



## In the Spotlight..

**Carol Leach** started working at P.E.R.F.E.C.T. in **September, 1992**. The majority of her tenure here has been held as System Director. She will retire in **late June**, and there is no better way to show appreciation than to share some thoughts from fellow colleagues...

“Carol - It's just *great* that you're retiring! I hope you work as hard at retirement as you did at your job.”

“No matter the time or day, Carol is always willing to discuss any concern, issue, or program. She is so knowledgeable on all topics relating to Career and Technical Education.”

“Carol has been more than accommodating. Whether she is in the office or out of the office, she has worked with my schedule to help me improve the **F**amily and **C**onsumer **S**cience department. I appreciated Carol's kindness and patience with me as a new FCS teacher. Carol, best of luck in the next chapter in your “book of life”... ENJ ☺ Y!!!”

“Although I have only known Carol for a short time, she really has had an impact on me and been a great boost to my confidence. At every meeting, her warm smile and the “understanding nod” that comes from an experienced educator has been encouraging and reassuring. So thank you, Carol, I'm privileged to know you. Have a very, happy and exciting retirement!”

“Carol-Congratulations on your retirement! P.E.R.F.E.C.T. is PERFECT because of you and all your hard work and dedication to the program! As you retire, know that you have made an impact in the success of many Peoria area high school students. Your influence and direction for the growth and detail of the P.E.R.F.E.C.T. program has been imprinted. Enjoy your retirement!” — Patty Brignadello

“I have only known Carol for about two years. After I retired from the Laborer's, Carol has helped me make the transition to become the instructor for the Construction WBL Program. She guided me through the process of obtaining my teaching certificate, as well as advising me on many other issues involving students, school protocols, my continuing education, and other aspects of this P.E.R.F.E.C.T. program. The P.E.R.F.E.C.T. office, under her direction, has been a constant positive source of support for me. All staff is knowledgeable, helpful, respectful of each other, and work as a team to fulfill their objectives. This is a compliment to Carol and her administrative skills. I'd like to thank Carol for her guidance and direction for the past two years. She definitely left her “mark” at P.E.R.F.E.C.T. and will be missed. I hope she will enjoy her retirement. It is well deserved.” —Deb Johnnigk

“What I will take away most from knowing Carol, because of her energy, is a value and love for what we do...especially at the high school level. Best wishes for a rich, full, and well-earned retirement!”

“I would like to say that Carol has done a wonderful job especially at helping the area schools. She has always been pleasant to work with and very upbeat. You will be sorely missed, but enjoy your retirement.”

“Carol Leach has been the “glue” to the Tech Prep program in the Peoria region. She has advocated for all schools to make the seemingly “impossible” possible. The Peoria Public schools owes Carol a deep appreciation for all the assistance she has offered in programs, personnel, reimbursement, and her own expertise in helping us get the most out of the available Tech Prep programs. What an accomplishment to work with such diversity in the entire region! Kuddos to Carol for a job well done.”

“I would just like to say how much I have enjoyed and appreciated how the P.E.R.F.E.C.T. organization treats all counselors and work coordinators. Carol and all of the staff make me feel valued and appreciated for what we do in the trenches. Carol always does a great job at our meetings being concise and to the point when presenting information, knowing all of our time is valuable.”

“Carol is genuinely one of the most patient, and kind people I have ever known. She really understands that high school students go through growing pains. We will miss working with her very much.”

“Carol has dramatically expanded the services and programs that P.E.R.F.E.C.T. offers during her tenure as director. She has expanded Work-Based Learning opportunities to students in the region, offered a variety of summer classes and professional development activities to teachers, and served on committees and joined organizations to benefit employers, schools, and students. Under her leadership, schools received guidance and advice about developing effective programs using vocational and Tech Prep funds as well as knowledge about legislative requirements. She has tirelessly worked to develop an effective relationship between P.E.R.F.E.C.T. and ICC to offer dual-credit classes that will enable students to get a head start completing programs. Carol has always managed to be approachable and receptive to ideas, questions, and concerns of the schools in the region. She has never been too busy to offer suggestions or answer questions. She certainly deserves to retire after her years of leadership and hard work to enjoy her family and grandchildren, but we will miss her.”

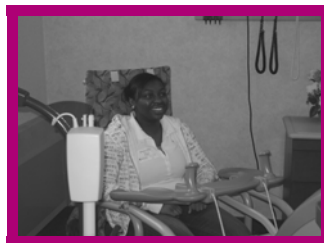


# "Nurse for the Day"

**"Nurse for the Day"** (sponsored by **Methodist Medical Center College of Nursing** and **P.E.R.F.E.C.T.**) was held at Methodist Medical Center on March 24. **Thirty-two** high school students from **Peoria District 150** had the opportunity to experience first-hand, some of the training resources available to student nurses. They toured the Methodist College of Nursing Learning Resource Center (LRC) which is equipped to provide students with opportunities to acquire and enhance nursing skills in a variety of clinical simulation settings. It is "acclaimed as one of the premiere learning resource centers in the nation." In addition to the LRC, students also toured the ER and OB departments.

Following the tour at the hospital, students were then taken to the **College of Nursing** campus where they toured the student housing facilities and had the chance to ask questions of current nursing students. The day was complete with a great lunch! Many thanks to everyone at Methodist for helping to make this such a rewarding day!

(Adapted from: [www.methodistcollegeofnursing.com](http://www.methodistcollegeofnursing.com))



"Methodist ROCKS!!"

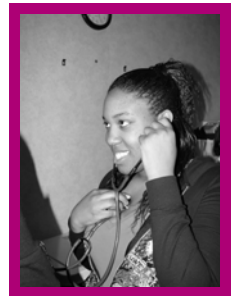


"The learning lab is wonderful!"

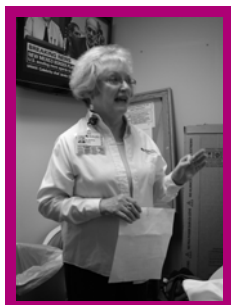
"Overall, the "Nurse for the Day" was exciting. I would like to participate again."



"I thought it was very beneficial."



"I like to do the hands-on work."



"It gave me a lot of information."



# Summer classes offered...

**P.E.R.F.E.C.T.** is sponsoring **six** summer classes this year. Participants will receive **three** semester hours of graduate credit (or **45 CPDU's**) for each class. For more details please visit our web site, [www.perfectpeoria.com](http://www.perfectpeoria.com).

**Using Professional Learning Communities to Raise Student Achievement**  
**CI 176**  
**June 15-19, 2009**  
**Instructor: Susan Goodale**  
 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
**Dunlap High School**  
**Fee-\$296.00** **FILLED!**

**Teaching Content Through Context**  
**CI 177**  
**July 13-17, 2009**  
**Instructor: Susan Goodale**  
 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
**Dunlap High School** **FILLED!**  
**Fee-\$296.00**



**ON-LINE CLASSES**



**Cooperative Vocational Education...**  
**June 15-19, 2009-BTE 380**  
**Organization and Administration of Cooperative Vocational Education**  
**June 22-26, 2009-BTE 382**  
**Coordination Techniques of Cooperative Vocational Education**  
**Instructor: Margaret Erthal**  
**Fee-\$793.20 per class**

**Cooperative Vocational Education...**  
**July 6-10, 2009-BTE 380**  
**Organization and Administration of Cooperative Vocational Education**  
**July 13-17, 2008-BTE 382**  
**Coordination Techniques of Cooperative Vocational Education**  
**Instructor: Margaret Erthal**  
**Fee-\$793.20 per class**

*"Quality is never an accident. It represents the wise choice of many alternatives."*  
*Willa Foster*





*“I am an idealist. I don’t know where I’m going  
but I’m on the way.”*

*—Carl Sandburg*

*Have a great summer!*



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