

# The PERFECT Perspective

Newsletter  
Vol. 21, No. 3  
May 2010



Peoria Educational Region For Employment and Career Training

*“Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other.” —Abraham Lincoln*



## From the Director...

As the school year winds down, so does my first year as the System Director for P.E.R.F.E.C.T. It has been, and continues to be, a challenging year for several reasons. With that being said, it has been a fun and rewarding year for me to see and become aware of some of the programs offered in our schools, as well as those provided for the region by my staff.

We at P.E.R.F.E.C.T. greatly appreciate your efforts on behalf of the students in our region. One of the reasons we enjoy coming to visit your schools is the fact we are always made to feel welcome and appreciated. It is also great to see your students in classrooms engaged in the learning process.

The challenges facing education are significant. We will continue to work diligently to assist you in facing these challenges and work to promote the importance of CTE to a well-rounded education. We appreciate your support and encouragement.

This issue highlights several of the great opportunities made available recently to students in our region. Please remember we are a resource for you in helping with unique projects and activities in your schools. Recently, I participated in mock job interviews with Princeville High School seniors. Not only was it a valuable experience for the students, it was a fun experience for me. A number of community volunteers came together to make the day possible. We are happy to assist with these types of endeavors.

Enjoy your spring and best wishes for a successful end to your school year!

*Brian*

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

May 31 - Memorial Day—  
P.E.R.F.E.C.T. office closed

June 15-17 - IACTE Conference—  
Springfield, IL

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# "Nurse for the Day"

## March 5, 2010

**T**hirty students, from six schools, participated in the **OSF Saint Francis College of Nursing**, "Nurse for the Day" event on March 5th. The event was sponsored by **OSF Saint Francis College of Nursing**, **The Workforce Network** and **P.E.R.F.E.C.T.**

This event provided the students with a unique opportunity to participate in activities in a "hands-on" simulation lab, a tour of the College of Nursing and OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, and a presentation by current nursing students. The simulation lab was a huge hit with the students. They had an opportunity to simulate infant care, wound care, breathing examinations, and a "live" birth. Some students revealed that the day's experience had helped to seal their decisions in moving forward with their interests in the nursing industry. At the end of the day, the high school students left with a new understanding and knowledge of the nursing field.

**Patti Stockert, RN, PhD, Professor, Dean Undergraduate Program** Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing said, "The College of Nursing is committed to advancing the nursing profession. Having programs like "Nurse for the Day" gives the College an opportunity to show high school students what nursing is about. It helps to develop the students' interest in nursing as well as providing them information on how to go about becoming a nurse. This day accomplished both those goals as well as letting the students have some fun while learning."

Many thanks to everyone at Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing for making this wonderful career exploration event possible!





## Construction WBL Student Promotes CTE to Legislators

**Johnny Mathis**, a senior at **Brimfield High School**, attended the **Career and Technical Education Legislative Day** on March 23rd, in Springfield. Johnny presented a speech to legislators in the Capitol Rotunda, regarding the importance of CTE.



During his speech, he commented, “Working with **Ruyle Mechanical** has improved my work ethic, made me a knowledgeable worker, increased my communication skills, and broadened my knowledge of what they do. I had no idea what I wanted to do for my future until I started participating in the program. It is hard work, but I’m thankful I joined the program, as it has opened my eyes to career possibilities I never knew existed. It is a great opportunity for students to get educated about the skilled trade unions.”

In addition to presenting his speech, Johnny was able to meet all of our area legislators. He was accompanied by **Debra Johnigk**, **Brian Gordon**, and **Susan Sherwood** from the P.E.R.F.E.C.T. office. Thank you to Johnny for a job well done and best of luck with your future goals!



## 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 jobsite or business.

In addition to their internship responsibilities, the students also attended the Downstate Illinois Occupational Safety and Health Day on March 3, 2010 at the Peoria Civic Center where they attended safety seminars as well as a health fair and safety exhibits.

In March, the students also 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 actual equipment, including excavators and cranes.

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

Tyler Barnett	Peoria High School	Mid-Illinois Companies
Rashard Booker	Dee-Mack High School	Otto Baum Construction
Cameron Bridges	Richwoods High School	Zobrist Construction
Nicholas Connolly	Princeville High School	Meister Electric, Inc.
Colton Godfrey	Princeville High School	CORE Construction
Patrick Huffcutt	Elmwood High School	Hein Construction
Corbin Luttrell	Dee-Mack High School	Kaiser Electric
Johnny Mathis	Brimfield High School	Ruyle Mechanical Services
Andrew Schroderus	Richwoods High School	Oberlander Electric
Semaj Treadwell	Woodruff High School	J.J. Braker & Sons
Jordan Wagner	Elmwood High School	River City Construction
Dayton Winborn	East Peoria High School	PIPCO Companies

Thank you to **TRICON**, **Operating Engineers Local 649**, and our local **union construction contractors** for arranging these wonderful experiences for the students!

# Workplace Skills Expo 2010

The fifth annual **Workplace Skills Expo** was held at **Barracks Cater Inn**, in Peoria, on March 23. It was a collaborative effort between Peoria District 150 and P.E.R.F.E.C.T. **Fifty-two** students participating in the STEP program from Manual, Peoria High, Richwoods, and Woodruff High Schools attended the event. STEP (Secondary Transitional Experience Program) is the product of a grant between the State of Illinois (DHS/DRS) and Peoria Public School District 150.

Once again, a “**Job Search Success**” presentation was hosted by **Shalesse Pie** from the **Peoria Park District**, which included topics on job application and interviewing tips. A dining etiquette luncheon followed with a “**Dress for Success**” presentation by **Roger Larson** and **Margaret Cover**, from the **University of Illinois Extension**. **Sara Vogler** and **Amanda Dunn** from **Dress for Success** had a booth set up; introduced the services it offers, and provided clothes for a student “**Dress for Success**” style show presented by students from **Peoria High School**.

The Expo provided a hands-on dining experience to students while teaching them about etiquette; how to dress for an interview; make polite conversation; and learn proper table manners. What a great way to reinforce soft skills that are necessary components of life in the job market during and after high school!



Dress for Success





“Money is time  
and time is money”...

In the Spotlight...



Angelina Alvarez

**Angelina Alvarez** and **Trey Douglas-Grant** are both seniors at **Woodruff High School**, enrolled in an introductory **Accounting** class, taught by Marilyn Woods. They were chosen by Ms. Woods to be “spotlighted” because of their outstanding work ethic. Each student is currently working on a manual simulation kit with narrative transactions. They are pretending to work for a company and applying the accounting process they have acquired in the previous 16 chapters of the course. Both students are working independently, managing their time well, and staying very focused to the details of completing the simulation packet. As they have learned in accounting, “Money is time and time is money.”

**Angelina and Trey** shared some thoughts on their class:

**Angelina—**

**Why did you decide to take this class?**

I’m the oldest of five children in my family. Since I collect receipts and do bills, I decided to take Accounting, because I wanted to learn more about keeping all of my transactions organized.

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

Yes, I would recommend it. This class and any related classes are important, because the information helps to prepare me for the future. I feel like I’m getting a head start on knowing how to get organized and keep records to pay my own bills.

**Tell us about your project.**

The project I am doing is a packet of many transactions an accountant would encounter. It involves journals, filing and posting within the packet, as well as, checks, sales invoices, and memorandums. This is a course requirement for my class, but I like working on it.

**Trey—**

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

I like how the class displays a lot of practicality with demonstrating everyday use of accounting principles.

**How does it compare to your required academic classes?**

I can definitely see a lot more practical use than in my usual classes.

**Why do you think classes such as these (CTE) are important?**

They’re important because they educate high school students about workplace experience and relate normal school activity to careers.

**Does this class relate to your future plans?**

Yes, I plan on majoring in foreign business or economics and learning about basic accounting principles reinforces my basic business knowledge.

**Do you like to work independently or on a group project? If independently, what is the benefit?**

I prefer working independently because you rely more on your own work and can control everything.



Trey Douglas-Grant

Best of luck to both of you!



*“It is the mark of an educated mind  
to be able to entertain a thought  
without accepting it.”*

—Aristotle

## Highest-Paying Jobs Requiring Associate's Degree...

**Computer specialists** top the list of the **25** highest-paying occupations requiring post-secondary training or an associate's degree, while technicians of various kinds dominate the list, according to a report by the *Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections at the Bureau of Labor Statistics*.

**Twelve** of the 25 highest-paying occupations have "technicians" or "technologists," in their titles, with nuclear technicians (3rd on the list) the highest paid among these. In fact, most of the occupations on the list require technical skills related to engineering, electronics, mathematics, mechanics, or science.

The balance of the list--with a few notable exceptions--consists of occupations in the health care and medical industries, such as dental hygienists (4th on the list), registered nurses (9), diagnostic medical sonographers (10), and respiratory therapists (18).

The few highest-paying occupations that don't fall into the above categories include fashion designers (5), funeral directors (15), and court reporters (24).

The chart below reflects the median hourly and annual wages in **2006** for the highest-paid occupations requiring **post-secondary training** or an **associate's degree**.

### Median Wages — 2006

#	Occupation	Hourly	Annual
1.	Computer Specialists, All Other .....	\$32.97	\$68,600
2.	Radiation Therapists .....	\$31.81	\$66,200
3.	Nuclear Technicians.....	\$31.49	\$65,500
4.	Dental Hygienists.....	\$30.19	\$62,800
5.	Fashion Designers.....	\$30.10	\$62,600
6.	Nuclear Medicine Technologists.....	\$29.95	\$62,300
7.	Commercial Pilots .....	N/A	\$57,500
8.	Electrical and Electronics Repairers, Powerhouse, Substation, and Relay.....	\$27.60	\$57,400
9.	Registered Nurses .....	\$27.54	\$57,300
10.	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers .....	\$27.48	\$57,200
11.	Ship Engineers.....	\$26.36	\$54,800
12.	Engineering Technicians, Except Drafters, All Other.....	\$26.08	\$54,200
13.	Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technicians.....	\$25.62	\$53,300
14.	Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technicians.....	\$24.35	\$50,600
15.	Funeral Directors.....	\$23.86	\$49,600
16.	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians.....	\$23.16	\$48,200
17.	Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians.....	\$22.95	\$47,700
18.	Respiratory Therapists.....	\$22.80	\$47,400
19.	Avionics Technicians.....	\$22.57	\$46,900
20.	Electrical and Electronic Drafters.....	\$22.51	\$46,800
21.	Industrial Engineering Technicians.....	\$22.51	\$46,800
22.	Geological and Petroleum Technicians.....	\$22.19	\$46,200
23.	Mechanical Engineering Technicians.....	\$22.04	\$45,800
24.	Court Reporters.....	\$21.93	\$45,600
25.	Forensic Science Technicians.....	\$21.79	\$45,300



# Summer classes offered...



**P.E.R.F.E.C.T.** is sponsoring **seven** summer classes this year. Participants will receive **three** semester hours of graduate credit for each class. For more details please visit our web site, [www.perfectpeoria.com](http://www.perfectpeoria.com).

## ON-LINE CLASSES

**Cooperative Vocational Education**

June 14-18, 2010-BTE 380, Section 091  
**Coordination and Administration of Vocational Cooperative Education**

June 21-25, 2010-BTE 382, Section 091  
**Coordination Techniques of Cooperative Vocational Education**

Instructor: Kathy Mountjoy

Fee-**\$852.90** per class

**Cooperative Vocational Education**

July 12-16, 2010-BTE 380, Section 092  
**Coordination and Administration of Vocational Cooperative Education**

July 19-23, 2010-BTE 382, Section 092  
**Coordination Techniques of Cooperative Vocational Education**

Instructor: Edward Fletcher

Fee-**\$852.90** per class

**Teaching to Diverse Learners**  
**BTE 429.04, Section 091**

June 28-July 2, 2010  
 Instructor: Kathy Mountjoy

Fee-**\$852.90**

*“Far more crucial than what we know or do not know is what we do not want to know.”*  
 Eric Hoffer



**Teaching Strategies for the Interactive Classroom**  
**MSE 5 CI 186**

June 14-18, 2010  
 Instructor: **Susan Goodale**

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
**Dunlap High School**

Fee-**\$320.00** **FILLED!**

**For RTI and AYP: Gender Matters**  
**MSE 5 CI 180**

July 12-16, 2010  
 Instructor: **Susan Goodale**

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
**Dunlap High School**

Fee-**\$320.00**



*“A will finds a way.”*

*—Orison Swett Marden*



*Enjoy your summer!*

This publication was prepared pursuant to a grant with the Illinois State Board of Education, Standards Aligned Learning Department Career Development Division, and funded 100% through the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.

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