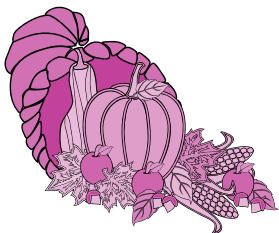


The PERFECT Perspective

Newsletter
Vol. 21, No. 1
November 2009

Peoria Educational Region For Employment and Career Training



"Don't count the days...Make the days count."

Anonymous

From the Director...

Greetings! For those of you reading this involved in education, I hope your school year is off to a great start. I am excited to be the new System Director with P.E.R.F.E.C.T. and look forward to working with schools and industry to provide opportunities for students. I am very fortunate to be joining a team of dedicated professionals with an excellent reputation and track record. I am also thankful for the help and support I have received from Francine Ghitalla and her team at Tazewell EFE. Additionally, I am grateful for the assistance from Carol Leach, my predecessor. I join you in wishing Carol the best in her retirement.

Education is feeling pressure from many directions. We are facing the challenges of increased mandates, lower funding, societal issues, and expectations from higher education and the business and industry community. We strive to be a resource for you in helping to address these challenges. Everybody wins when we are successful in providing our students with "Education for Employment." I look forward to working with you to help address these challenges.

Brian

Please welcome...

Brent Jones, our new CTE Teacher Aide at **Woodruff High School**. Brent started in mid-September and is working full-time to assist targeted special populations students in Career and Technical Education classes.

Welcome, Brent!



*"Before everything else,
getting ready is
the secret of success."*

Henry Ford



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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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Administrative Staff*

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Web site!*

Workplace Skills Expo— Soft skills can make the difference!

The fourth **Workplace Skills Expo** was held at the **Pekin Country Club** on April 30. It was a collaborative effort between P.E.R.F.E.C.T., and Tazewell County EFE. **Seventy-seven** students from **seven** area high schools, including those from **Brimfield, Deer Creek-Mackinaw, Delavan, Dunlap, Illini Bluffs, Midwest Central, and Princeville,** attended the event.

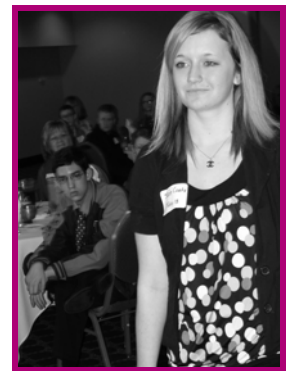
Shaleese Pie, Peoria Park District, opened the day with a presentation on “**Job Search Success,**” which included topics on job application and interviewing tips. The day continued with a formal dining **Etiquette Luncheon** and a “**Dress for Success**” presentation by **Jennifer Hunt, University of Illinois Extension.** “Increased global competition and the changing nature of most technical jobs have made soft skills more than simply “nice to have.” These skills are a “**MUST HAVE.**” (*Techniques-May 2007*) What a great way to introduce and reinforce basic workplace skills to area high school students!



Shaleese Pie
Peoria Park District



Jennifer Hunt
University of Illinois Extension





Construction Industry Educator Job Shadow

Twenty-two local educators participated in the **Construction Industry Educator Job Shadow** on June 15-19, 2009. Participants enjoyed informational sessions and hands-on activities provided by many local apprenticeship schools and Union construction business partners. Training sites and providers included:



- Allen Durr, Williams Brothers Construction*
- Bricklayers Local 6*
- Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)*
- Greater Peoria Contractors and Suppliers Association (GPCSA)*
- IBEW/NECA Quality Connection*
- Illinois Laborers' Training*
- Mid-Central Illinois District Council of Carpenters (MCIDCC)*
- Operating Engineers Local 649*
- Peoria Area Labor-Management Council (PALM)*
- Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 18*
- Plumbers Local 63*
- River City Construction*
- Sheet Metal Workers Local 1*
- Steamfitters Local 353*
- Tri-County Construction Labor-Management Council (TRICON)*
- West Central Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council*

A special thank you goes out to those who helped provide this experience for Central Illinois educators! We want to also thank the **educators** who made it their desire to learn more about the construction industry and provide our youth with valuable career information and skills needed to become successful adults.



In the Spotlight...

**P.E.R.F.E.C.T. welcomes,
Brian Gordon...**



Brian Gordon is the new **System Director** at **P.E.R.F.E.C.T.** He recently served four years as an Assistant Principal at Morton High School. Prior to coming to central Illinois, Brian taught Business classes at Morris Community High School. He was also the school's head cross country and track coach. Brian has consulted in the radiology industry and owned a glass and lock business. He has also served as a Technology Coordinator in a K-8 school district.

Brian received his Associate's Degree from Joliet Junior College in 1985, Bachelor's Degree from Eastern Illinois University in 1988, and Masters Degree from Aurora University in 2003. Brian has been married for eighteen years, and he and his wife Erika have two daughters, Erika Sue and Aspen. **Please join us in wishing him a very rewarding year!**



Four Ways to Engage Today's Generation of Students...

➤ **Bring cool careers and majors to life**

The more we can illustrate classroom relevance to their world the better we can engage students and keep their interest.

➤ **Find clever opportunities to integrate TV/movies/pop culture**

Looking for opportunities to supplement historical principles with books, movies or music of today can help bring the learning process to life. Cite a paragraph or quote by someone 30 years old or under on the topic, and you'll be amazed with the results.

➤ **Use the internet and technology in ways that speak their language**

The words "check out this web site" will elicit a more positive response than the infamous "take one and pass it down."

➤ **Use humor and have fun in the classroom**

The job of an educator isn't to entertain, but students need to feel as if you can relate to them and even make them laugh.

(Adapted from *Techniques* March 2009)



Motivating the Millennial Generation...

The **Millennial Generation** is a term used to refer to the generation born from 1980 onward. It's a generation brought up using digital technology and mass media; the children of **Baby Boomers**; a generation also called **Generation Y**.

This generation has received plenty of attention and support throughout their lives. Ron Alsop, author of *The Trophy Kids Grow Up* offers some advice. "Rather than adjusting to the workforce, the Millennials are more interested in preserving their lifestyles. They want work to adjust to their lifestyles rather than have their lifestyles adjust to work. They'd like higher responsibilities and higher pay, flexible work schedules and more time for vacations, and a promotion within the first year. They would like to end up as CEO, but not at the cost of time with their family." One of the most important points is that employers need to explain to Millennials how their work fits into the overall objectives of the organization.

(Adapted from *Career Opportunities News*-May/June 2009)

“Map Quest for Student Success” - Regional Counselor Retreat, sponsored by P.E.R.F.E.C.T. and Tazewell County EFE, was held on August 7, 2009, at Wildlife Prairie Park.



Katie Jones
Mental Health Association
of Illinois Valley, Inc.

“The sessions were all very good and applicable.”



“Good job as always.”



David Taylor
CareerLink



Donna McCaw
Western Illinois University



“Excellent day! Thanks!”

“The day was very informative and beneficial.”

“Great job and I appreciate a get-together before school starts.”

WHAT IS...

Career Cruising



Overview of Career Cruising

Career Cruising is a web-based career exploration and planning tool, that P.E.R.F.E.C.T. provides to schools in our region, for students to explore career and college options and create a comprehensive career portfolio. Features of the program include:

- **Interest and Skills Assessments** – Career Matchmaker is based on one of the most well-respected assessment tools in the world
- **Detailed Career Profiles** – direct links between careers and high school subjects, as well as links between careers and college programs
- **Multimedia Interviews** – interviews with real people in each occupation add depth and realism to career profiles
- **College and Financial Aid Information** – updated yearly from the Peterson’s database, with different search tools to help students find the right college and the right scholarships
- **Electronic Career Portfolio** – available online, for students to record key information that automatically transfers to a professional resume
- **Resume Builder** – integrated with the portfolio to help students format and print out professional-looking resumes quickly and easily

For further details about the program, please contact Penny at P.E.R.F.E.C.T., (309.693.7373).



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

How will you celebrate **CTE Month** in your school? Be creative and plan a wide range of activities that connect students to **Career** and **Technical Education** and their future!

Visit www.acteonline.org (ACTE) for some great ideas.

“The premise of **Perkins IV** is that high schools, industry, and higher education institutions need to work together to provide our workforce with the skills they need in order to achieve and compete in the 21st century. This bill works to ensure that American students are not just getting a world class education, but **the best education in the world.**”

—Senator Christopher J. Dodd,
Connecticut



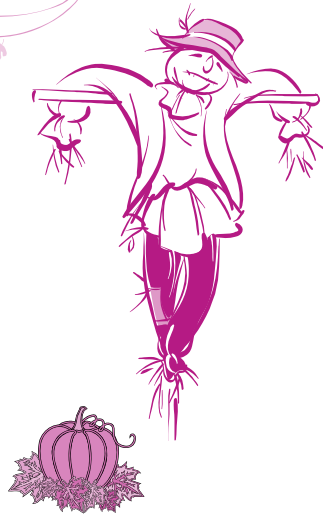


The P.E.R.F.E.C.T. Calendar 2009-2010



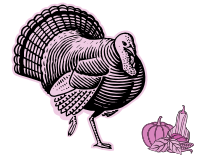
<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
November 11		Veteran's Day- office closed	
November 13-14		TEAI Annual Conference	Holiday Inn City Centre, Peoria
November 19-21		ACTE Annual Convention	Nashville, TN
November 25-29		Thanksgiving break- office closed	
December 3	1:30	P.E.R.F.E.C.T. Board of Control	TBA
December 23-January 1, 2010		Christmas break- office closed	
January 18, 2010		Martin Luther King Day- office closed	
January 25-27, 2010		Careers Conference "Turning Challenges Into Opportunities"	Madison, WI
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	

Fall



*“To give without any reward, or any notice,
has a special quality of its own.”
Anne Morrow Lindbergh*

Happy Thanksgiving!



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