

The

PERFECT



Perspective

Newsletter
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Peoria Educational Region For Employment and Career Training



“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

—John F. Kennedy

New CTEC System...

As this new school year has started, we have worked in the P.E.R.F.E.C.T. office to begin implementation of the new Career and Technical Education Course System (CTEC). This new CTEC System is designed to create a standardized Career and Technical Education (CTE) course system that will serve as a vehicle to collect CTE information electronically, so that student data can be linked to CTE courses. CTE funding will also be based upon these state CTE courses.

One of the first things that we have done is to crosswalk all individual school CTE courses with the new state courses. All schools have received a copy of this initial crosswalk. As we work to implement this new system, we encourage all schools to review current curriculum and use this as an opportunity for innovation and modification. As always, things continue to change, and we need to be ready for the challenge!!

Carol



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.

Staff

*Interim System Director
Carol Leach*

*Penny DuBois
Special Populations Coordinator*

*Jean Freeburn
Special Populations Coordinator
(Editor)*

*Susan Sherwood
Special Projects Coordinator*

*Jennifer Bertschi
Administrative Staff*

*Andrea Zarvell
Administrative Staff*

www.perfectpeoria.com

CTE Curriculum Revitalization Initiative continues to provide some great CTE resources for the State of Illinois. Please visit their web site at: www.ilcte.org to access their updated “Lesson Library” and other helpful web links.

Your opinion counts!

In these changing economic times, we are considering the possibility of an electronic submission of **The PERFECT Perspective**.

We would welcome your input with an email to: jkfperfect@yahoo.com.

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Methodist Healthcare Career Encounters...



“Everyone said schooling was worth it.”

“I learned a lot of new things.”

Healthcare Career Encounters (sponsored by **Methodist Medical Center, P.E.R.F.E.C.T.**, and **Tazewell County EFE**) were held on September 16, 24, and October 14. A total of **163** 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 terrific opportunity for our students, including a special thank you to **Tammie Speck**, Volunteer Resource Services Coordinator, for making it all happen!



“There was a lot more to some of the jobs than I originally thought.”

“This was very helpful and was a lot of good information. Thanks for everything!”



“Personal success stories are always great help to understand it is doable with support.”





Early Childhood Education Work-Based Learning

Holly Kahn has rejoined the staff of P.E.R.F.E.C.T. as the instructor for the **Early Childhood Education** Work-Based Learning Program. Holly is currently a Family and Consumer Science instructor at **Peoria Heights High School** where she has taught for several years. Prior to teaching at Peoria Heights, Holly was a small business owner where she owned and managed a “Stitch in Time” for ten years.

Holly is currently working with ten students in the ECE Program at **Valeska Hinton Early Childhood Education Center** where the students are splitting their time between classroom instruction and observation in the various classrooms at Valeska. All of the participants are looking forward to spending more time applying their knowledge in a classroom setting.

Many thanks to the staff at Valeska for working with our students and allowing them to enjoy this opportunity at your award-winning school!



Construction Industry Work-Based Learning *“Learn Today, Build Tomorrow”*



Twelve students representing **seven** schools are currently participating in the **Construction Industry Work-Based Learning Program**. Activities this semester started with team building exercises provided by the **University of Illinois Extension** and safety training. Congratulations to all of the students for successfully completing the OSHA ten-hour Occupational Safety and Health Training Course.

The students have also visited several apprenticeship schools this semester including: the **Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons Local 18**, **Laborers Local 165**, **Mid-Central Illinois Regional Council of Carpenters Joint Apprenticeship Training Center**, **Operating Engineers Local 649**, and **Bricklayers Local 6**. Program participants were able to see all of these trades at work during a job-site tour of the North Branch of the Peoria Public Library provided by **River City Construction**.

Many thanks to those who have hosted and/or provided instructors for our students so far this year. Also, thank you to the **Tri-County Construction Labor-Management Council** for continuing to support the Construction Industry Work-Based Learning Program and Career and Technical Education in Central Illinois.



School Districts compelled to teach "Dollars and Sense"...



School districts across the country have been taking a harder look at what they're teaching students about financial literacy in light of the financial crisis of the past few years, caused in part by excessive credit card and mortgage debt. While economics courses have been common for many years, districts want to take the concepts to a more personal level. **Chad Foster**, author of *Financial Literacy for Teens*, attempts to make topics like taxes and budgeting relevant and engaging for high school and college students. People are realizing that students aren't well-educated on credit card usage, and what debt looks like, and how to calculate a mortgage. A 2009 survey from the Council for Economic Education showed that 15 states require that a course in financial literacy be offered. 'There's no question that it's become a hot topic across the country,' says Foster. 'What if we had been teaching all this stuff 20 years ago?'

(Adapted from *District Administration*/September 2010)

Parent Smarts: Credit Information Series for Parents



Many students come to college with an academic plan in mind. However, few come with a financial plan. One of the most important and practical discussions parents can have with their students is about how to manage money and use credit wisely.

Parent Smarts is a set of fact sheets designed to help parents start their student on the road to financial independence. The series provides parents with educational information, financial tips, activities and additional resources on how to help their students become responsible credit consumers. Six fact sheets and a student spending plan are included in *Parent Smarts: Credit Information Series for Parents*.

Parent Smarts contains:

- *Parent Smarts* Cover Sheet
- Fact Sheet 1: The Road to Financial Independence
- Fact Sheet 2: Setting the Stage for Financial Success
- Fact Sheet 3: Talking with Your Student About Credit
- Fact Sheet 4: What Everyone Student Should Know About Credit Cards
- Fact Sheet 5: Beware -- It Could Happen to Your Student
- Fact Sheet 6: Helping Your Student Get out of Credit Card Debt
- Student Spending Plan
- Program Evaluation Form
- *Parent Smarts* PowerPoint Presentation (437K) or PDF file (917K)

For more information about the program, please visit:

www.ace.illinois.edu/cfe/credit/index.html - Consumer and Family Economics, University of Illinois Extension web site.

(The *Parent Smarts* cover sheet, fact sheets, student spending plan, and program evaluation form are available in PDF format which requires the Adobe Reader for viewing and printing. You can download the latest version of the FREE Reader directly from Adobe's website.)





Family and Consumer Science Marketing Ideas... Start the year off right...

January

1. Send a department newsletter to all staff in your building detailing department events and accomplishments and plans for the rest of the year.
2. Plan a "New Year's Resolution" display highlighting how students can assist at home to improve family life, diet, health, finances, relationships, and recreation.
3. January is Family Fit Lifestyle and Quality of Life Month and National High Tech Month.

February

1. Use radio/television PSA's (Public Service Announcements) before student registration for next year. Highlight student and department accomplishments. Focus on FCCLA.
2. Speak to local groups about the value of family and consumer sciences in addressing contemporary issues while teaching life skills.
3. Send letters to prospective students showcasing program offerings and detailing reasons to enroll next year.
4. February includes Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America Week and **Career and Technical Education Month**. It is also American Heart Month, National African America Heritage Month, and National Children's Dental Health Month.



In the SPOTLIGHT...

Looking for new recipes, healthy family activities and tips, then visit the **University of Illinois Extension Healthy Lifestyles: Less Is More website** <<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/regionwc/lessismore/>>. The website is updated monthly, so check back often for more healthy tips and recipes.



March

1. Collect information about Family and Consumer Sciences careers and share with the guidance counselors.
2. Give tours of the department for prospective students and provide information about the department.
3. March is National Women's History Month and National Frozen Food Month.

April

1. Students could design a newsletter detailing special projects of the year and send it to school alums and former students.
2. Students could offer to speak at an assembly or to a community group focusing on National Child Abuse Prevention Month.
3. April is Alcohol Awareness Month, National Child Abuse Prevention Month and National Humor Month.

May

1. Hold a graduation party for your senior students. Invite parents and friends and ask students to talk about what they have learned in FACS Education.
2. Write personal notes to parents about growth and learning you have observed in their sons/daughters.
3. May is Get Caught Reading Month, National Barbecue Month, National Egg Month, National Salad Month, and Older Americans Month.

(Adapted from the National Coalition for Family and Consumer Sciences Education)



Many of these ideas could be adapted for all CTE areas!

CTE Month—February 2011

CTE: Learning Today, Earning Tomorrow

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.



Top 10 Search Engines...



- **Eyeplorer:** A unique search engine designed according to a wheel format that lets a user take notes by means of an online widget.
- **Oamos:** A wonderful visual experience unlike anything else around.
- **Quintura:** A fun “tag cloud”-style site that lets user embed word chains into a site.
- **BevyFind:** An engine that speeds up the searching process by combining different elements in one page.
- **Kngine:** An excellent Web 3.0 search engine built on semantics.
- **Spezify:** Get visual results with a sticky-type interface that incorporates all sorts of media content.
- **Scoppler:** One of the best real-time search engines has a built-in button for sharing results across many social networks.
- **Webkruz:** Get search results in visual thumbnails with blurbs of text underneath.
- **Sputtik:** A great way to search the Web for results; it covers a variety of content in different visual ways.
- **Feedmil:** A nice way to search in which users can adjust their results by means of a sliding panel that controls the searching criteria.

(Adapted from David Kapuler, *Tech&Learning*, October 2010.)

Educational diagnosticians...

are education professionals who may be called a learning disabilities teacher, consultant, or a learning consultant. Regardless of the title, they share an ability to **assess and diagnose the learning problems of students**. They are usually part of a multidisciplinary team who utilize their particular skills and expertise to make the best decisions for placing students with learning problems. All students have different learning styles and strengths. For those who struggle in a traditional classroom environment, an educational diagnostician can help. For more information, please visit the **Council for Exceptional Children's** web site at: www.cec.sped.org.



A great teacher—

- ≈ Has the ability to be flexible, optimistic, self-reflective, progressive, and innovative
- ≈ Must possess the ability to build relationships with students and teachers and have a passion for teaching
- ≈ Excites a passion for learning in his or her students through skillful facilitation, using 21st-century tools
- ≈ Goes beyond the classroom as a collaborator with colleagues
- ≈ Wants to improve himself or herself by learning good instructional skills
- ≈ Is someone who knows the curriculum and works well as part of a team
- ≈ Builds relationships and facilitates lifelong learning
- ≈ Collaborates with families, peers, and the community
- ≈ Shows appreciation and enthusiasm for cultural differences
- ≈ Inspires others to achieve their potential
- ≈ Understands the complexity of the teaching and learning environment
- ≈ Has consistently high expectations for all students
- ≈ Recognizes and adapts when he or she isn't getting through to students
- ≈ Addresses the needs of the whole child
- ≈ Uses assessment to inform instructional decision-making
- ≈ Gives back through mentoring

(Adapted from participants at the 2008 Phi Delta Kappan Summit)



The P.E.R.F.E.C.T. Calendar 2010-2011



November 24-28	Thanksgiving break- office closed		
December 2-4	ACTE Annual Convention	Las Vegas, NV	
December 9	1:30	P.E.R.F.E.C.T. Board of Control	P.E.R.F.E.C.T.
December 10	11:30	Student Services Committee Networking Lunch/Tour	Logan's/Caterpillar SS Bldg., East Peoria
December 22 -January 2, 2011	Christmas break- office closed		
January 17	Martin Luther King Day- office closed		
January 24-26	Careers Conference	Madison, WI	
February	Career and Technical Education Month		
February 3	1:30	P.E.R.F.E.C.T. Board of Control	P.E.R.F.E.C.T.
February 17-18	IACTE Conference/Annual Meeting	Marriott, Normal, IL	
February 21	President's Day- office closed		
March 1	Regional Work-Based Learning Program Applications due		
March 3	1:30	P.E.R.F.E.C.T. Board of Control	P.E.R.F.E.C.T.
March 8	County Healthcare Career Encounter	Methodist Medical Center	
March 9	District 150 Workplace Skills Expo	Cater Inn, Peoria	
March 16	County Middle School Career Day	Willow Knolls Theatres	
March 16-17	Connections Conference	St. Charles, IL	
April 7	1:30	P.E.R.F.E.C.T. Board of Control	P.E.R.F.E.C.T.
April 18-22	Spring break- office closed		
May 5	1:30	P.E.R.F.E.C.T. Board of Control	P.E.R.F.E.C.T.
May 30	Memorial Day- office closed		





“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.”

—Melody Beattie



Happy Thanksgiving!



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The Illinois State Board of Education and Peoria Educational Region for Employment and Career Training insure equal employment/education opportunities/affirmative action regardless of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, age or disability.



Peoria Educational Region For Employment and Career Training
2000 Pioneer Parkway, Suite 19C
Peoria, Illinois 61615

Phone: (309) 693-7373
Fax: (309) 693-7375
www.perfectpeoria.com

