



**CUYAHOGA VALLEY  
CAREER CENTER**

Career Development Department

Volume 4, Issue 1  
September-December, 2010

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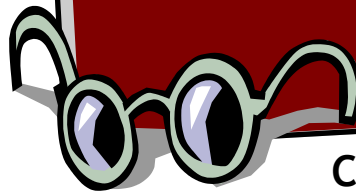
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# SNEAK A PEEK

## Career Development Events in Your Schools

Brecksville-Broadview Heights City School District

### **SIGN LANGUAGE CAME ALIVE FOR SECOND AND THIRD GRADERS**

Karen Schiller, a sign language interpreter, visited with 2nd and 3rd grade Challenge students in Mrs. Julie Lant's and Mrs. Jane Jagielo's classes at Highland Drive school on September 29th.

She talked about her background and demonstrated signing. She also taught the students some basic signs. Each child asked her how to sign something about which they were curious. Since the visit was close to Halloween, Mrs. Schiller was asked to do signs for "ghost" and "monster," as well as the names of many animals.

She was so well liked, she was invited to return when students will read the book, "*Koko's Kitten*," the true story about a famous signing gorilla and her friendship with a kitten.

Mrs. Schiller said, "I had so much fun! Mrs. Jagielo had to stop us because of time, but I could have stayed for hours answering all their questions!"



Karen Schiller showed children signs for basic words and answered their questions.

Articles Continued on Page 2

## EARLY DAYS OF BRECKSVILLE SHARED BY VOLUNTEERS FROM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



(L-R) Cathie Clager, Sylvia Fowler and Carol Host showed students photos of early buildings in Brecksville.

Highland Drive School 3rd graders in the classes of Mrs. Jagielo, Mrs. Kucharski, Mrs. Squirek and Mr. Wasil learned about early buildings in Brecksville. Students had fun trying to identify the old buildings, many of which are still standing today.

Brecksville Historical Association volunteers, Sylvia Fowler, Carol Host and Cathie Clager, visited the classes on October 20th. Their presentation helped to bring history to life for the students and add realism to their social studies

## STUDENTS LEARNED THAT CAREERS CAN FOLLOW INTEREST IN A SUBJECT

Mr. Jeff Marlow, 4th grade teacher at Central School, requested a speaker who had a weather-related career. Michael Allen, a Ph.D. student in the Geography Department at Kent State University, was a perfect candidate.

Mr. Allen showed the students a Power Point presentation that demonstrated weather basics and also included photos of his experience as a storm chaser – making the connection between an avocation and a career for 4th graders.

Mr. Allen was impressed with the knowledge of weather that the 4th grade students shared with him. He said he was glad to “practice teaching,” as he was scheduled to teach his first graduate class at KSU during the winter semester.



Michael Allen's Power Point demonstrated some weather basics as well as his experiences as a storm chaser. He visited with 4th graders on December 12th.

## ENTHUSIASTIC AUTHOR SHARED HER WRITING PASSION

Erin O'Brien, a freelance writer, abandoned her career as an electrical engineer in 1995 to write. Her enthusiasm for writing was apparent in her presentation to 7th graders when she visited with them on October 19th.

Ms. O'Brien told students that they are all writers, using social networking applications as an example of how they share their thoughts in writing. She told them to choose their words carefully and to use them for positive things.



Erin O'Brien, parent of BBHMS student Jessica Nowjack, explained how skills learned in school will be used throughout life.



Counselor Bryan Bedford pointed out scholarship features in OCIS.

## COUNSELORS HELPED SENIORS EXPLORE COLLEGE INFO ONLINE

In anticipation of the October College Visitation Day, guidance counselors, teachers and the career specialist visited the computer lab with seniors to explore college information.

OCIS (Ohio Career Information System) is a wonderful, online resource that the state provides to assist students with career exploration and planning. One module is particularly good at helping students find and examine college information.

After the introduction, students were encouraged to continue their research.

### CAREER SPECIALISTS AT WORK IN YOUR SCHOOLS



Gretchen Weber



Karen Moseley

**Gretchen Weber** works with elementary school teachers to include career professional speakers in the classroom who enhance students' lesson plans with real-world experience.

**Gretchen Weber** also works with middle school students to prepare them for a future in the working world.

**Karen Moseley** works with counselors to help students explore college and career information, utilizing online tools, career speakers and the Career Portfolio.

# HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES IN CVCC'S STEM-RELATED CLASSES INTRODUCED GIRLS TO IT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

On December 10th, Career Development sponsored its third annual "IT's for Girls" event. The event provides middle school girls with information and incentive to pursue their interest in STEM-related (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) subjects and discover how much fun IT (information technology) can be.

The participants took home free gifts provided by several of the IT professionals who joined the girls for lunch, as well as software that will reinforce their interest and help them define potential career pathways and curricular options as they prepare for high school.

CVCC students and several guests from industry assisted the middle school girls as they learned how technology is used in a variety of different professions. Greg Schalmo, Customer Solutions Engineer from Cisco Systems, partnered with Lorraine Pruitt, Computer Networking Academy instructor. Jennie Zamberlan, Avantia, Inc., teamed with Programming & Software Development instructor, Heidi Grivas.

The entire program was funded by private organizations and grants. Sponsors that provided funding, materials and instructors for the 2010 event were National Girls Collaborative Project, which is funded by the National Science Foundation; Children's Technology Workshop; NEOSA (Northeast Ohio Software Association); the COSE Technology Network and NEOSIM (Northeast Ohio Society for Information Management).



Industry professionals joined the girls for a Bingo game icebreaker that got everyone acquainted and chatting.



CVCC Computer Aided Design (CAD) students in Mr. Niinisto's class helped visitors design the 3D keys they had pre-produced for the girls.



The girls enjoyed sharing lunch, prepared by CVCC Culinary Arts students, with industry professionals to learn about their jobs and career paths.



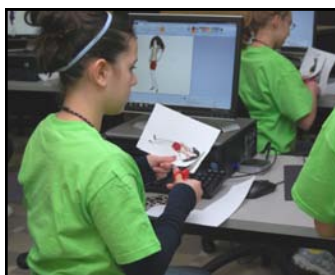
Learning computer binary codes using M&M candies proved to be easy and fun. The session was led by Ms. Nonno, CVCC Math instructor.



A student from Mrs. Grivas' Programming & Software Development class helped girls learn basic animation using Alice software.



The girls learned how to take their pictures with a flip camera and email video messages home to their parents in Ms. Pruitt's Computer Networking classroom.



Cheryl McConnell, Children's Technology Workshop, helped the girls create a variety of fashions from a single model using digital design software — a technique used in the fashion design industry.

Girls who participated from Brecksville-Broadview Heights are pictured on Page 7

# EVENTS AT CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

## College & Career Planning Seminar for Parents/Students

Even in the best of times, planning for life after high school is challenging. In these difficult economic times, it is all the more important to ensure that high school students and their parents have the tools and resources to make informed college and career decisions. When students graduate and parents transition from “guardian” to “guide,” many critical decisions that impact students’ career success will already have been made.



Darden Blake introduced her “Smart System” concept as a tried-and-true method of organizing the college search process and tracking progress. Elements of the Smart Box are shown on the right.

To help parents (and students) with these important decisions, CVCC sponsors an annual seminar, “College & Career Planning,” held in 2010 on November 10th. This event provided two panels of experts to answer questions and provide tips on how to navigate through the maze of college admissions, financial aid, and career choices. Nearly 200 parents attended the seminar, many of whom brought their sons and daughters with them. In fact, several seniors attended on their own this year!

Attendees were able to hear from a panel of experienced professionals representing an array of educational institutions from high school to two- and four-year colleges. Some of the topics discussed were: Developing a Self-Reliant Student, Creating a Solid Academic Portfolio, Earning College Credit in High School, What To Do in the Last Two Years of High School, Finding the Right-Fit College, and Scholarships and Financial Aid.

The feedback received from those in attendance was very positive and complimentary. In addition to the practical information received, attendees commented that they appreciated all the handouts and information sheets provided to help them in the college search process.

### EVENTS AT CVCC ARE GENERATED AND IMPLEMENTED BY CAREER DEVELOPMENT STAFF



**Thressa Brown**  
Trainer



**Patricia Coyne**  
Program Developer



**Nanci Coleman**  
Community Liaison  
North Royalton  
Revere

**Darden Blake**  
Community Liaison  
Brecksville-  
Broadview Hts.  
Independence



**Marie Elias**  
Community Liaison  
Nardon Hills  
Twinsburg



**Bridget Murphy**  
Community Liaison  
Cuyahoga Hts.  
Garfield Hts.



## “Soup with the Supe” Hosted Job Seekers December 3rd



Guest speaker Tina Romano-Allen shared information on penetrating the job market.

Adult job seekers in the process of career transition shared soup, salad and dessert in CVCC’s Valley Inn Restaurant on December 3rd.

Tina Romano-Allen, SPHR-certified human resources professional with experience in career transition and career path development, provided information on how to penetrate the job market. The luncheon also offered the opportunity to network with other job seekers, meet Roscoe Schlachter, CVCC Superintendent, and discover the wide range of continuing education programs and services available at CVCC.

Job Seekers were also invited to a “Soup with the Supe” luncheon on October 9th for networking and to learn about statewide workforce development plans.

Additional “Soup with the Supe” luncheons were held on November 5th for area realtors and on November 30th for members of the community and area businesses.

## Job Seekers Workshops Provided Information and Hands-On Experience to Adults in Career Transition

A panel of local recruiters met with the workshop attendees on September 25th to provide information on what they are looking for when they conduct initial phone interviews and first meet potential candidates.

They also discussed follow-up on networking referrals, how they review online applications and resumes, ask behavior-based interview questions, raise questions about previous jobs and receive an applicant’s follow-up call or email.

The September workshop was the first in the Saturday series, open to adults in career transition. Additional workshops on October 16th and November 13th offered open labs with CVCC Career Specialists on hand to help attendees with their resume development, career assessments, LinkedIn profiles and Internet career searches.

The 2010 series culminated with the “Lunch and Learn” luncheon on December 3rd.

## 2010 High School Teacher Externs Experienced a Variety of Real World Careers

(Back Row) Todd Goodman, Brecksville-Broadview Hts.; John O’Brien, Nardon Hills; Jennifer Mackey, Independence; Linda Weigand, Revere (Front Row) Cheryl Carano, Garfield Hts.; Donna Houston, Twinsburg; Linda New, Brecksville-Broadview Hts. (Not Pictured) Craig Taylor, Twinsburg



## EIGHT HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS SHARPENED THEIR SKILLS DURING SUMMER EXTERNSHIPS IN THE 'REAL WORLD'

The "Teachers in the Workplace," externship program offers high school or middle school teachers an opportunity during the summer break to spend 40 hours with business hosts related to the subject they teach. In addition to the current technology used by their host, teachers see how critical collaboration, flexibility, research and innovation skills are used in the workplace. They incorporate the development of these skills—all of which are included in Ohio's "Framework for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning"—in their subsequent teaching plans.

As a part of the program, teachers are required to create two career-based lesson plans to share

with their classes. In some instances, their hosts will visit students for class presentations and assist with implementation of the lesson plans.

Business hosts and district administrators attending the luncheon at CVCC in November were fascinated by the externs' presentations and amazed at the amount and variety of knowledge they will share with their students as a result of their experiences.

The Teachers in the Workplace program is a win-win situation for both teachers and business hosts, with students being the ultimate beneficiaries. It provides teachers with real-world answers to students' eternal question, "Why do I have to learn this?"

### GIRLS FROM BRECKSVILLE-BROADVIEW HTS. AT CVCC'S "IT'S FOR GIRLS"



### TEACHER EXTERNS EXPLORED REAL-WORLD VENUES

Todd Goodman teaches English and creative writing at Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School. Previous visits to the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage prompted his request to work with



them for his externship. His lesson plans inspired students' creative thinking as they researched and developed both essays and displays on the subject of "Stop the Cycle of Hate."



Linda New, also from Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School, works with special education students. Her objective



was to find ways to engage her students in community-based and environmentally responsible employment and to explore local environmental research and maintenance programs. She was able to meet both objectives during her externship with Cleveland Metroparks.

**Career Specialists in Your Schools**

**Elementary & Middle School**  
Gretchen Weber-gweber@cvccworks.com


**High School**  
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**Career Development Supervisor**  
Bill Novak-bnovak@cvccworks.com

*Need Skills? Ours Work !*

[www.cvccworks.com](http://www.cvccworks.com)

**Career Development Department**



**Our objective is to prepare all district students, kindergarten through adult, to make the best possible informed career choices and position them for future career success by providing impactful age-appropriate resources and relevant experiences**

**CVCC 2011 Coming Events**

**Job Seekers - Saturdays, 9:00-Noon**  
February 26 and March 19-Open Computer Lab: Resumes, Career Assessments; LinkedIn Profiles  
April 16-Job Fair Boot Camp-9:00-11:00 a.m.

**Parent Seminars**  
April 27, 7:00-9:00 p.m.-College Survival Skills 101

**Student Job Fair**  
March 10, 3:30-6:30 p.m.

**Health Career Expo**  
May 4-3:30-6:00: Career and educational opportunities

**Soup with the Supe - Fridays, Noon-1:00 p.m.**  
February 25-Middle School Parents  
March 18-Cuyahoga Hts./Independence Residents  
April 15-Brecksville/Broadview Hts. Residents  
May 6-Nordonia Hills Residents

**Summer Career Camps**  
June 13-17 and June 20-24; Register online beginning February 7

Semi-annual *Sneak-a-Peek* newsletters are published in September and February. Newsletters are edited and produced by Donna F. Hessel, Career Pathways Specialist.

**For more information on any of the coming events and to opt in for monthly email updates, please check the CVCC website: [www.cvccworks.com](http://www.cvccworks.com)**