



**CUYAHOGA VALLEY
CAREER CENTER**

Career Development Department

Volume 4, Issue 1
September-December, 2010

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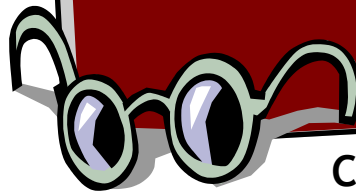
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SNEAK A PEEK

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Cuyahoga Heights Local School District

SENIORS LEARNED HOW TO COMPOSE OUTSTANDING COLLEGE ESSAYS

On September 29th, senior students in Mr. Kevin Barre's English IV class heard a wonderful presentation. Mrs. Patricia Skrha, Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Baldwin-Wallace College, talked about the differences between writing good versus outstanding college essays.

She discussed the importance of highlighting various types of life experience that had an impact on the student's life, goals and philosophy.

She included many examples of excellent versus mediocre essays, and discussed how humor can be incorporated. A major caution was to avoid clichés and tired, overused topics, which she listed for the students.

Mr. Barre gave an excellent review of the presentation and felt the students had received a competitive edge in writing these documents.

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

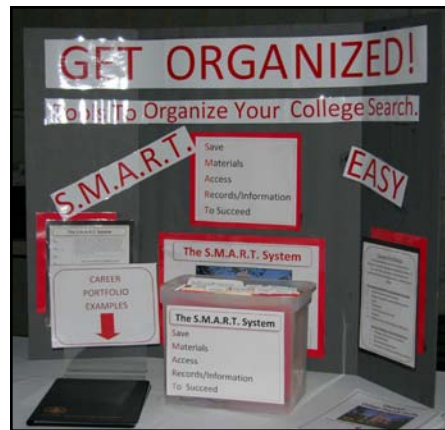
(Back Row) Todd Goodman, Brecksville-Broadview Hts.; John O'Brien, Nardon Hills; Jennifer Mackey, Independence; Linda Weigand, Revere (Front Row) Cheryl Carano, Garfield Hts.; Donna Houston, Twinsburg; Linda New, Brecksville-Broadview Hts. (Not Pictured) Craig Taylor, Twinsburg



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.

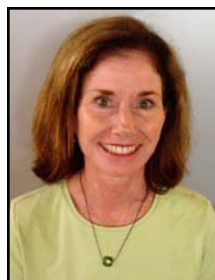
CAREER SPECIALISTS AT WORK IN YOUR SCHOOLS



Kathy Dombrowski



Kathy Richards



Pat Butler

Kathy Dombrowski works with elementary school teachers to include career professional speakers in the classroom who enhance students’ lesson plans with real-world experience.

Kathy Richards works with middle school students to prepare them for a future in the working world.

Pat Butler prepares high school students for post-secondary education and future careers with portfolio preparation and hands-on practice in job shadowing and interviewing.

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.

“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.

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.



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 21st 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?"

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

**Career Specialists in
Your Schools**

Elementary

Kathy Dombrowski-
kdombrowski@cvccworks.com

Middle School

Kathy Richards-krichards@cvccworks.com

High School

Pat Butler-pbutler@cvccworks.com

Career Development Supervisor

Bill Novak-bnovak@cvccworks.com

Need Skills? Ours Work !

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