



**CUYAHOGA VALLEY
CAREER CENTER**

Career Development Department

Volume 4, Issue 1
September-December, 2010

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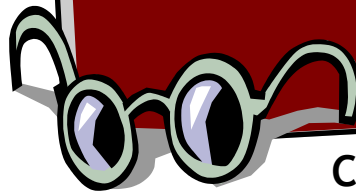
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SNEAK A PEEK

**Career Development
Events in Your Schools**

Independence Local School District

**SECOND GRADERS STUDIED
CHARACTER TRAITS WITH CVCC
STUDENTS' HELP**

As part of their Character Counts program, the 2nd grade class visited CVCC and learned the importance of character traits. Bill Delgado, instructor for Graphic Imaging Technology, and Josephine Everhart, Instructor for Teaching Professions, and students from both programs hosted the 78 students on Friday, December 10th.

Through presentations in both CVCC programs, students learned about the pillars of character – Caring, Citizenship, Fairness, Respect, Responsibility and Trustworthiness – as identified by the Character Counts program.

**BEN SHANK SPOKE TO FOURTH
GRADERS ABOUT GOOD CHARACTER**

Character Counts Week at Independence Primary School was held October 18th to 22nd. All students in grades kindergarten through fourth heard speakers. Each speaker focused on the six pillars of "Good Character" – Caring, Citizenship, Fairness, Respect, Responsibility and Trustworthiness.

Each speaker gave real world examples of how good character is important in their careers. Ben Shank, Youth Hockey Director for



the Lake Erie Monsters, visited 4th grade students. He spoke to them about respect, teamwork, being responsible and how it is important as a team, as well as when hiring staff and managers for the Lake Erie Monsters organization.

Articles Continued on Page 2

EIGHTH GRADE TECH ED STUDENTS LEARNED ABOUT THE MANY FACETS OF AN INTERIOR DESIGN CAREER

Donna Hessel, owner of a residential interior design firm, visited with Alicia Hannah's 8th grade students on November 17th.

She explained the differences between commercial and residential interior design, using presentation boards to illustrate how a commercial job might proceed. She discussed the education and experience required for this career, and also talked about the multitude of associated careers related to the industry, ranging from manufacturers' reps to showroom managers to installers to editors of shelter magazines.



More than 60 professionals participated in Mock Interview Day on November 17th

MOCK INTERVIEWS PREPARED STUDENTS FOR REAL WORLD

In the fall, all 12th grade students completed their Career Portfolio through English IV classes. Portfolios included a resume, references and career narrative.

On November 17th, the seniors participated in Mock Interview Day. Each student was assigned to a business professional for a 15-minute interview. Professionals received copies of students' resumes and rating sheets before the interviews.

Students were prepared for their interviews through lessons that focused on interview readiness, sample questions, professional attire and proper etiquette. After their interview, each student received an

evaluation form with feedback and comments from their interviewer. All students also sent a thank you letter to their interviewer.

CAREER SPECIALISTS AT WORK IN YOUR SCHOOLS



Amy Hanratty



Kathy Richards

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

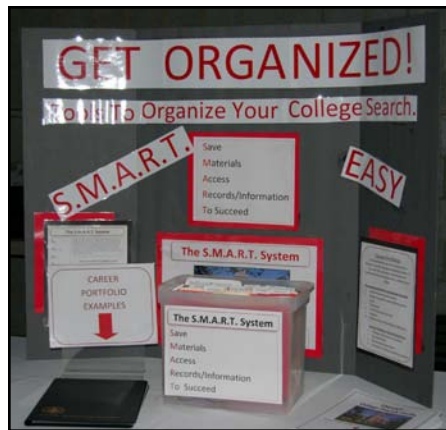
She also prepares high school students for post-secondary education and future careers with portfolio preparation and hands-on practice in job shadowing and interviewing.

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

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



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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.



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



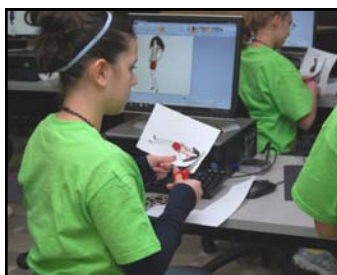
Learning computer binary codes using M&M candies proved to be easy and fun. The session was led by Ms. Nonno, CVCC Math instructor



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.

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

(Back Row) Todd Goodman, Brecksville-Broadview Hts.; John O’Brien, Nordonia 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



See article about “Teachers in the Workplace” Externs on Page 6.

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?”

Jennifer Mackey’s Hands-On Experience Will Benefit Her Students

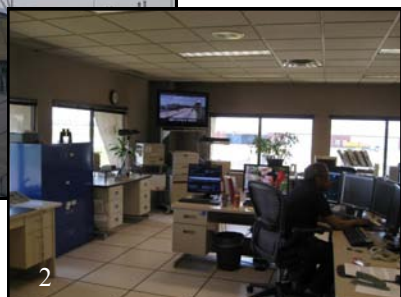


Jennifer Mackey teaches Astronomy, Meteorology and Physical Science at Independence High School. During her externship with the Museum of Natural History Shafran Planetarium, she got a behind-the-scenes look at the equipment and work that goes into the production of a show, as well as hands-on experience assisting with a major renovation taking place.

She also visited with meteorologists at the National Weather Service and Federal Aviation Administration Facility to learn about their day-to-day activities. She experienced a different aspect of meteorology during visits with the weathercasters at WEWS-Channel 5 and WKYC-Channel 3. Her students will explore related careers and weather interpretation as lesson plans.



1) National Weather Service (NWS) radar; 2) NWS Stations; 3) Channel 3 Betsy Kling preparing for broadcast; 4) Behind the scenes at Channel 3; 5) Shafran Planetarium astronomer station; 6) Seismometer at Museum of Natural History



Career Specialists in Your Schools

Elementary & High School
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Middle School
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Bill Novak-bnovak@cvccworks.com

Need Skills? Ours Work!



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