



**CUYAHOGA VALLEY
CAREER CENTER**

Career Development Department

Volume 4, Issue 1
September-December, 2010

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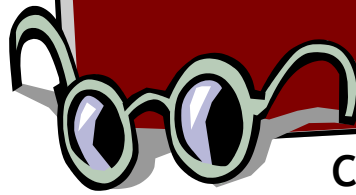
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SNEAK A PEEK

**Career Development
Events in Your Schools**

Twinsburg City School District

**"MAILING MAY" STORY
INTRODUCED THE IMPORTANCE
OF WRITING**

Second grade classes at Bissell Elementary School heard the story, "Mailing May" by Michael O. Tunnell. The story depicts an event that took place in 1914 in Idaho.

Five year old May wished to visit her grandmother who lived 75 miles away, but her family could not afford the train ticket for the visit. Her father came up with the idea of taking advantage of some new postal regulations and decided to "mail" his daughter as a package. With the help of Cousin Leonard, who ran the mail car on the train, May was sent as a "baby chicken."



Second graders practiced writing letters after hearing "Mailing May"



Second graders in Mrs. Jolly's class held the envelopes created to help them practice alphabetizing and sorting

The students wrote letters to sharpen their skills as a follow-up to the story. Emphasis was placed on the importance of writing and spelling, as well as the skills that are required to be a letter carrier.

“Mailing May” Continued



Second graders in Mrs. Conrad-Fleming's class displayed the envelopes they created that gave them practice in the skills a letter carrier would need in that career

WILCOX STUDENTS CELEBRATED VETERANS DAY

November 11, 2010, was the seventh annual Wilcox Primary School Veterans Day celebration. Approximately 140 veterans from all branches of the armed forces were treated to lunch and honored by the kindergarten and first grade students at the school.

The students prepared for the big day by decorating the entire school with flags and signs of appreciation. They also made cards stating appreciation for the veterans' service to their country.



The staff of Wilcox, the PTO and Twinsburg VFW Post 429 sponsored the event

Many veterans attending for the first time were amazed at the amount of preparation and time spent in making the day special for them. Upon departure, the expressions of gratitude from the veterans made the day well worthwhile.

Each veteran received an additional memento of the day – a picture of themselves with their child sponsor.



Spencer Biziorek saluted his grandfather in front of one of the displays created by the students

More photos of Veterans Day celebration on Page 3

Veterans Day Celebration Continued



Sophia Cunnar, a kindergarten student, welcomed her father and grandfather who are holding photos of her great grandparents who also served in the armed forces



Maddy Dolney, a first grade student, posed in front of the stars with her father and grandfather



Students dressed in red, white and blue and wore special hats they created as part of the celebration to honor the veterans. (L-R) Kelsey Kundla, Anjali Dhenekula, Erika Davis, Paige Hepke and Jenna Pollock served as guides as the veterans entered the school



Tommy Polen, a preschool student, holds one of the flowers created for the veterans

INSPIRATION AND ADVICE PROVIDED TO GIRLS IN THE GLASS CEILING ROUNDTABLE GROUP



Mayor Katherine Procop visited with the Glass Ceiling Roundtable on October 21st

The Glass Ceiling Roundtable group meets monthly at Twinsburg High School. The group includes junior and senior girls who have been recommended by their teachers as displaying strong leadership potential. In each meeting, members listen to successful women tell their stories. Speakers often provide an activity that reinforces their topic, and bring the students book recommendations.

Speakers in 2010 included Twinsburg Mayor Katherine Procop, who shared her career path and the importance of women supporting each other. She also suggested identifying a hero to model oneself after and reading about the success others have achieved.

Sherlyn Chapman Thomas, Kent State University Representative, offered helpful information about enrollment and attending college.

Lisa Ryan, Appreciation Strategist, discussed the power of gratitude in life and business. She encouraged the girls to begin a daily gratitude journal and demonstrated how having an attitude of appreciation creates positive changes at all levels.

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 8.



CAREER SPECIALISTS AT WORK IN YOUR SCHOOLS



Rich Masino



Michele West



Lisa Sommer

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

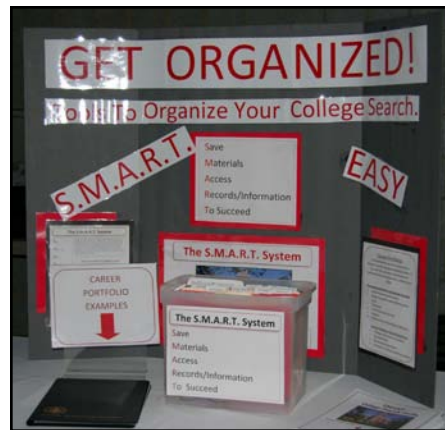
Michele West works with middle school students to prepare them for a future in the working world.

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

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 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.

TWINSBURG GIRLS AT IT'S FOR GIRLS AT CVCC



See article on activities in which girls participated at IT'S for Girls on Page 7

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



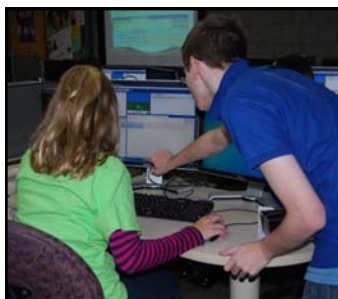
CVCC Computer Aided Design (CAD) students in Mr. Niinisto's class helped visitors design the 3D keys they had pre-produced for the girls



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



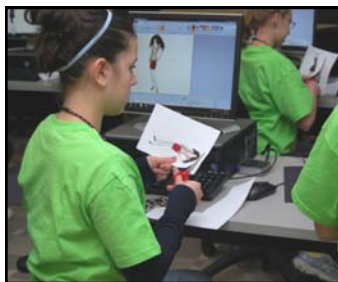
Learning computer binary codes using M&M candies proved to be easy and fun. The session was led by Ms. Nonno, CVCC Math instructor



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

Twinsburg girls who participated are pictured 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?"

EXTERNS DONNA HOUSTON AND CRAIG TAYLOR ACQUIRED KNOWLEDGE IN DIVERSE SUBJECTS

Two teachers from Twinsburg High School were summer externs. **Donna Houston** has initiated two new classes in the Business Department for 2010-11—Fashion Marketing and Travel & Tourism.

Her summer experiences with the Kent State University Fashion School; Sarah Crump, Cleveland Plain Dealer fashion reporter; and Positively Cleveland, as well as extensive Internet research and talks with merchandising directors at local high-end retailers, yielded both creative lesson plans and classroom speakers for her students and curricula directly related to the real world.



How does the U.S. Army work with soldiers and their families to both assure their readiness to be deployed overseas and their transition to a civilian lifestyle when returning from service?



Craig Taylor, teacher of Psychology and Social Studies, traveled to bases in Alabama and Indiana to visit with a military psychologist, recently returned troops and SFC George Martin, who recently returned from a 12-month deployment in Iraq, to find out.



He will translate his knowledge into related lesson plan for juniors and seniors in his Psychology classes.



Career Specialists in Your Schools

Elementary

Rich Masino-rmasino@cvccworks.com

Middle School

Michele West-mwest@cvccworks.com

High School

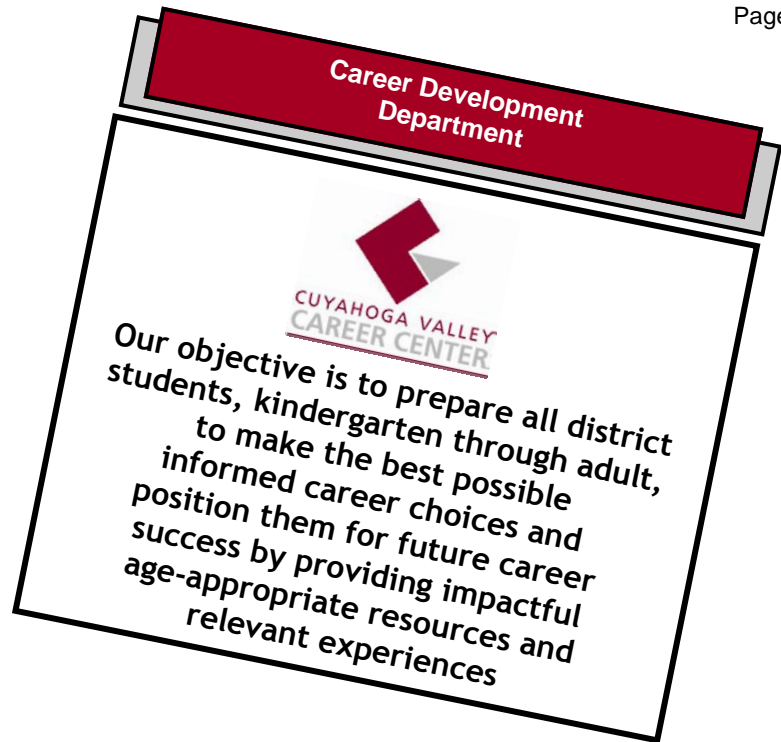
Lisa Sommer-lsommer@cvccworks.com

Career Development Supervisor

Bill Novak-bnovak@cvccworks.com

Need Skills? Ours Work!

www.cvccworks.com



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