

Career Pathways in Action

The following descriptions are excerpted from articles recently published in NCPN Connections, the newsletter of the National Career Pathways Network. Links to the complete articles are provided at the end of each excerpt.

89.5 fm, Dayton's Home for JAZZ

The Dayton Public Schools' Ponitz Career Technology Center High School students in the Media Arts/Radio/Television cluster develop collaboration, problem-solving, and leadership skills via real-world programs that integrate learning and work. In this fast-paced professional building, students produce and host programming content for DPS TV such as board of education meetings, school spotlights, and special events coverage. They are also responsible for WDPS, Dayton's only jazz radio station.

Posted throughout the unit, you'll find evidence of banners scripting necessary character traits and behavioral requirements, all of which support the core of CTE. "These efforts showcase the *three R's* of career technical education—relevance, rigor, and relationships," exclaimed one student in the studio. With the *three R's* as a foundation, students develop competence and a strong work ethic, which in turn generate confidence and leadership. In addition to the character reminders, a proudly displayed trophy and awards case is chock-full of students' local and national awards. For example, in 2011 the Ponitz video production team won regional and state Business Professionals of America (BPA) competitions with a public service announcement warning of the dangers of texting while driving.

Although the program's string of successes is primarily due to the motivation of students, in the background is a core of dedicated staffers and educators.

Complete article at
http://www.cordonline.net/connections/25_1/25_1_mortenous_johnson.htm

CP Partnerships in Virginia

In spring 2008, Governor Tim Kaine issued an executive order establishing the Virginia Career Pathways Task Force. The group included representation from the eight state agencies that administer and oversee workforce development, as well as a representative from the commonwealth's economic development office.

In December 2008, the task force (later renamed "work group") issued *Bridging Business and Education for the 21st Century Workforce: A Strategic Plan for Virginia's Career Pathways System*, which outlined a vision for the system and specific goals and outcomes to be achieved across agencies and programs.

Much real progress has been made in integrating Career Pathways into Virginia's workforce development system. The results—which include collaborative interagency programming, tens of millions of dollars in collectively sought public and private grants, and legislation that has advanced recommendations that grew out of our work together—have exceeded expectations.

In one pilot the Peninsula Council for Workforce Development and Thomas Nelson Community College jointly developed a comprehensive set of workforce competencies needed to fill over 11,000 projected job openings in the area's 14 major manufacturing companies, as well as a website designed to guide residents to manufacturing jobs and regional education and training programs

Complete article at
http://www.cordonline.net/connections/25_1/25_1_virginia.htm

"Where Do I Sign Up?" Free College, Guaranteed Job

Students in an associate degree program at Oakland Community College go to school for free (and even receive a stipend), get a paid apprenticeship to hone their newly learned skills while in the program, and have a guaranteed position waiting for them at a local company when they graduate.

"It really is a great opportunity," says Janene Erne, who manages the Michigan Advanced Technician Training Program (MAT²) at OCC.

Two program options are available at OCC:

- Mechatronics technician, which combines mechanical, electrical, and electronics skills
- IT technician, which has several tracks that allow students to specialize in software development, infrastructure, or IT security

Initiated by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), MAT² receives the majority of its funding from local companies. Each company sponsors one or more students, paying for tuition and books, a \$200 stipend while the student is attending classes, and an hourly wage for on-the-job apprenticeships. Upon graduating, the student begins a two-year position as a full employee of the sponsoring company.

Each participating student spends three years alternating between eight-week periods in the classroom and lab at OCC, and eight-week periods in on-the-job apprenticeships.

Industry and the students are excited about it as are parents. Every parent who comes to an information session about the program says, "Where do I sign up?"

Complete article at
http://www.cordonline.net/connections/25_2/25_2_mat2.htm

Buffalo Area Students Choose High-Demand Pathways

The Buffalo City Schools' Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department was awarded one of the 24 U.S. Department of Labor Youth Career Connect grants. Competition was stiff, with over 300 applications, but in the end the Buffalo CTE department won by focusing on the health and life science field within the newly established Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus Corridor, which was created through New York State Governor Cuomo's Buffalo Billion Initiative. The medical career pathway holds 17 of the 26 fastest growing occupations through 2020.

With 28 area hospitals, there is significant need for highly qualified employees with multiple credentials, degrees, and skills. The hospitals not only need patient care personnel but also lab and facilities staff to ensure the stability and the growth of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus Corridor. The grant aims to fulfill the needs of multiple careers areas within the health career pathway and the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus (BNMC), a consortium of the region's premier health care, life sciences research, and medical education institutions, all co-located on 120 acres in downtown Buffalo, New York. The BNMC is dedicated to the cultivation of a world-class medical campus for clinical care, research, education, and entrepreneurship.

Students in grades 9–12 choose from three career options: Medical Assisting/Laboratory Technology, Health Information Technology, and Environmental Facility Management.

The program design integrates academic and CTE standards. Students have the opportunity to earn industry credentials each year along with college credit through Erie Community College.

Complete article at
http://www.cordonline.net/connections/25_2/25_2_buffalo.htm