

CAREERS IN ACTION

ADULT, CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY

Students:
Take it from "I can't"
to "I CAN!"

LEARN today, EARN tomorrow, SHAPE your future NOW

www.ManateeACT.com

From "I Can't" to "I CAN!"

Amer-I-Can is a national program, created by NFL great Jim Brown, to empower individuals to take charge of their lives and achieve their full potential. The program is based upon the belief that self-esteem is the key to improving one's decision-making process and achieving success through self-determination. The Amer-I-Can Life Skills Training program has been successfully implemented in prisons, jails, juvenile probation camps, middle schools, high schools, colleges, universities, businesses, and communities.

Skip Wilhoit, Manatee County School District Coordinator of Safe and Drug Free Schools, serves as a liaison for the Amer-I-Can Program. Skip's message is one of prevention and early intervention phrased with language that is familiar and comfortable to students. Whether he is in an elementary, middle, or high school, Skip's charismatic and enthusiastic personality engages students and transcends all boundaries. He challenges students to reconnect within the home, school, and community by increasing attendance and grade point averages and decreasing discipline referrals.

"This is my hometown," Skip said. "I care deeply about the people and the future of Manatee County. My career allows me to make a difference for kids of all ages and grade levels by helping them develop their own unique potential."

Xtavia Bailey, Amer-I-Can Florida Regional Director and Sugg Middle School Amer-I-Can facilitator, stated, "My students benefit from the Amer-I-Can Program. Together we break down preconceived notions and prejudice and create a protected, nonjudgmental environment where students can focus on building trust. Having a safe outlet where they can talk about what their reality is and how they can move past it is essential to the success of the program. Class starts with time for each student to share how they are feeling and what their experience has been."

"Emotional control, family relationships and effective communication are explored along with problem solving and decision making, goal setting, motivation, habits, attitude and conditioning, employment search and retention, and financial stability," Ms. Bailey continued. "Whether they are learning about balancing checkbooks or creating worthwhile and attainable goals, students welcome the chance to master the skills that will allow them to become successful."

Sugg Middle School eighth grader Jacqueline Ayala was recruited by a friend to join the program. "I liked talking about goal setting, how to be positive, and how to act and respond to different situations," Jacqueline said. "It's a very safe and trusting class to be in where you can share your life experiences and support your peers." Jacqueline's future plans now include a career in nursing.

Building successful relationships is an integral component to building a successful future. For middle school students who need a strong positive example and a safe place to express themselves, the Amer-I-Can Program is making all the difference. Congratulations to the 2010 Amer-I-Can summer graduates from Lincoln, Johnson, Harlee, and Sugg Middle Schools as they work hard at building a better future and taking on an "I CAN!" attitude.



Amer-I-Can Florida Regional Director and Sugg Middle School Amer-I-Can facilitator Ms. Xtavia Bailey with student and Amer-I-Can program graduate Jacqueline Ayala.



Manatee County School District Coordinator of Safe and Drug Free Schools, Mr. Skip Wilhoit.

JOBS



Vocational Counselors
Salary: \$33,100 – \$62,000
Workplace: high schools, colleges
Hours: office hours



Child and Family Social Worker
Salary: \$25,600 – \$43,400
Workplace: community
Hours: various shifts



Police Officers
Salary: \$40,100 – \$59,200
Workplace: community
Hours: various shifts



Amer-I-Can is a national program and movement, created by NFL great Jim Brown, to empower individuals to take charge of their lives and achieve their full potential.

PARENT CORNER

- ✓ Discussion starter: Parents, you can help set your child up to succeed by helping them to identify talents and acquire skills. It takes discipline and encouragement to acquire skills, but the payoff in confidence is worth the effort. Discuss specific talents and skills with your child. What can you help them achieve?
- ✓ Encourage your students to learn career-readiness and workforce skills by participating in a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) such as CECF, DECA, FBA, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, FPSA, TSA, and SkillsUSA.*
- ✓ "Prevention education and developing life, leadership, and job skills empowers students to reconnect within home, school, and community settings." Skip Wilhoit, Coordinator of Safe and Drug Free Schools. For further information contact Ms. Xtavia Bailey at 941-741-3157.

*Career Education Clubs of Florida (CECF), Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), Future Builders of America (FBA), Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), (formerly)Future Farmers of America (FFA), Florida Public Service Association (FPSA), Technology Students of America (TSA), and SkillsUSA.

FCAT reading comprehension QUESTION

★ From the Parent Corner section, what is a CTSO?

Answer: A Career and Technical Student Organization

What's on the WEB?

www.amer-i-can.org
www.charactercounts.org
www.manateeschools.net



EdVantage Strategic Objective #4: Actively engage in global outreach.



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