

## YOUR FINAL PROOF

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THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY FEATURES A STUDENT AND A CAREER &amp; TECHNICAL EDUCATION TEACHER

Newspaper in  
 Education Presents  
**Inquizi**  
 Brought to you by  
 Adult, Career &  
 Technical Education

SCHOOL  
BizAdvising Students,  
Supporting Faculty

Braden River High School

(BRHS) Academic Advisor Kelli Kennedy knows how to help students connect to careers and college. After working in the business world as a Macy's sales manager and as an advertising and marketing director for a regional publication, she found her niche in education. A Manatee County native, she has taught business education, was the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) advisor, worked as a Tech Prep specialist, a smaller learning communities coordinator, and as a career connections coordinator. Each position she's held since joining the Manatee County School District 14 years ago has strengthened her ability to help students become successful after high school.

Together with Career Advisor Christie Gionfriddo, Kelli works closely with students, faculty, and parents to guide students along the pathway to college and career. She supports all of the BRHS career academies, visiting classrooms, educating students about scholastic tests and college entrance exams, and arranging visits from colleges and industry. She and Christie have promoted the Career Academic Center through video announcements, flyers, and simply being available whenever students need them.

KIDZ  
Biz  
& BuzzBridging the Gap  
Between  
School Years and the  
Working World

Braden River High School (BRHS) Career Advisor Christie Gionfriddo started her career in the business world with seven years of recruiting and human resources experience. She saw many resumes and job applications, and could quickly recognize who looked like a successful candidate. With an undergraduate degree in business education, she is now pursuing a masters' degree in educational leadership. Her employment background and experience as a teacher has uniquely equipped Christie to help students bridge the gap between the school years and the working world.

Together with Kelli Kennedy, Christie works hard to help students succeed as they progress beyond high school. She and Kelli created a curriculum for teachers to use during their Advisory class—a structured time of mentoring designed to help students know how to navigate college and career pathways. Christie and Kelli also serve as community liaisons to new students and parents, providing information and tours to those who are considering Braden River High School via the school choice process. As Christie and Kelli staff the Career Academic Center, meet with students, visit classrooms, and support academy teachers, they provide an incredible resource for the entire BRHS community.

## InnoVators

Networking...  
Who do you know ?

In a perfect society, motivated, hard-working people with the right skills deserve to get a job. But in the real world, many times getting a job also depends on who you know—or *networking*. Networking refers to the intricate web of relationships where "someone you know knows someone who knows someone."

According to Dr. Randall S. Hansen, Ph.D., founder of Quintessential Careers, "Networking means developing a broad list of contacts—people you've met through various social and business functions—and using them to your advantage when you look for a job. People in your network may be able to give you job leads, offer you advice and information about a particular company or industry, and introduce you to others so that you can expand your network."

Networking isn't always characterized by chance introductions or right-place-right-time moments; a considerable amount of relationships can be built through your own efforts. Joining a student club or a professional organization opens many doors. Even online social networking sites help people meet others in the business world. It's never too early to create a network, especially when it comes to finding a job.

However, a great network won't help if your public image gives people sour impressions. How do you act in public? Maybe you goof off in a restaurant with your friends, throw food, make a mess, show utter disrespect to your surrounding environment—and a few months later you apply for a job at the same restaurant. When they don't hire you, you try your next option: you heard that your friend's dad might be hiring at his company. Too bad he was eating at that restaurant that day and observed your wild behavior.

You never know who's watching you, in public or online. It's incredible what people will share with the world on their Myspace and Facebook profiles. What does your public behavior (real or virtual) say about you? Do you present a picture that you'd like a future employer to see? Clean up your image—in public and online—and your networking efforts might help you get that job.

Explore  
IT

## Name Your Network

Every working adult you know is connected in some way to some business. Are you trying to get hired? It helps to name your network—and then tell everyone you know that you are looking for work.

1. List five of your friends.
2. Call each one and ask them to name their parents, aunts, and uncles—and list the name of the businesses where they work.
3. List five adults who know you—teachers, neighbors, church leaders.
4. Find out and then list the businesses where they work.

The next time you are looking for a job—even a summer or part-time job—call everyone in your network and ask them if they know of any jobs that you might apply for. In a tight job market, networking can make a difference!

Other ways to grow your network: Join a club. Try out for a sport. Act in a play. Volunteer. Attend church. Attend community events. Take up a cause. And wherever you go, show a positive public appearance.

DISCOVER  
the  
Future

**Regional Careers:** Current wages in the Suncoast Workforce Region.

Occupational Title	Entry Level	Experienced
Minimum wage	\$7.21	--
Dental Assistants	\$14.10	\$18.53
Nursing Aides	\$10.15	\$13.77
Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics	\$13.02	\$19.96
Network and Computer Systems Administrators	\$19.91	\$34.32
Human Resources Managers	\$25.88	\$48.56
Educational Services Managers	\$25.30	\$58.65

**Source:** <http://fred.labormarketinfo.com>  
 FL Labor Market Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics & Wages Program

**Career Pathway:** Students desiring a career in any of these areas can find related educational programs at these schools\*:

*Braden River High School  
 Manatee Technical Institute  
 Manatee Community College  
 University of South Florida*

\*Other Manatee schools may offer similar programs. Listed schools are related to today's issue.

WEB  
Wise

Check out the following websites:

[www.manatee.k12.fl.us/sites/highschool/brhs](http://www.manatee.k12.fl.us/sites/highschool/brhs)  
[www.quintcareers.com/networking\\_guide.html](http://www.quintcareers.com/networking_guide.html)  
<http://career-advice.monster.com>  
[www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org)  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)