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Newspaper in Education Presents

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Making a Difference in Tomorrow's Workforce Today: Industry-Specific Advisory Councils

Help Wanted—Calling All Healthcare Professionals

Health Sciences Education prepares students to assist or become qualified health professionals providing diagnostic, therapeutic, preventative, restorative, and rehabilitative services to patients in health care facilities in the home and community. A few of the career opportunities for aspiring healthcare professionals include medical transcriptionists, laboratory technicians, x-ray and imaging operators, emergency medical technology (EMT) professionals, massage therapists, midwives, patient care representatives, medical coding and billing specialists, physical or respiratory therapists and aides, nurses, and physicians. The list is endless and workers are needed at every level—especially here in Florida.

Clinical affiliations or agreements between our high schools and health care agencies are an integral and critical component of Manatee's health science programs. **Advisory Council** participants play a key role in helping students to develop clinical skills and teaching roles, relationships, and responsibilities in the practice setting.

Join King Middle School's Health Care Education Advisory Council

Health care instructor Marie Chirico brings seven years of teaching experience to the new Health Occupations program at King Middle School. Mrs. Chirico implemented the Medical Magnet theme at another area middle school where she was honored as teacher of the year and Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA) Advisor of the Year. Mrs. Chirico is excited about the new medical program at King Middle School which will feed directly into Manatee High School's Medical Academy.

This summer the Gulfcoast South Area Health Education Center, Inc. (GSAHEC) held a recognition ceremony to honor Ms. Chirico and another community partner for their strong commitment to its Professional Continuing Education and REACH (Recruitment & Educational Assistance for Careers in Health) Programs.

Volunteers from King Middle's Health Occupations Advisory Council are often used to teach a course in Certified Babysitting and CPR. Members include Erica Orgeron, a radiological technician; Jerry Cronkite, a nursing teacher Edna Apostel from Gulfcoast South Area Health Education Center Darlene Monroe from the Red Cross and many King teachers, administrators, and parents.

Join Manatee High School's Medical Arts and Sciences Academy Advisory Council

With cooperation from health care providers, Laura Sollenberger and other educators at Manatee High School have created a program specifically for students interested in careers in medicine. The Academy provides core health courses that make learning relevant to their chosen career fields and integrate required academic classes into healthcare. Advisory Council members make a difference by providing job shadowing opportunities, sharing their expertise in the classroom, and reviewing curriculum to ensure students are equipped for the workforce or for their next step in post-secondary education. The Advisory Council recently held a Career Fair so all MHS students would have the opportunity to explore medical and other fields. Participating Advisory Council members from the healthcare community include Patricia Ehrenfeld and Mary Ellen Deeves from Blake Hospital; Betty Chambliss, Ava Nichol, and Katie Powers from Manatee Memorial Hospital; Jerome Ruffing and Larry Leinhauser from Manatee County Emergency Services; Mary Ann Legler, Nurse Practitioner; and Carolyn McElveen, Bradenton Neurology. Post-secondary education participants include Dr. Idelia Phillips, Manatee Community College; Nerina Stepanovsky, St. Pete College; and Sharon Herman, Manatee Technical Institute.

Advisory Councils are a vital tool in helping students make a seamless and natural transition to post-secondary education. The students are well prepared and have often earned college credit through articulation of their health care courses. Articulation agreements are arranged through the Tech Prep program. Area post-secondary facilities include Manatee Technical Institute, Manatee Community College, St. Pete College, the University of South Florida, and others.

Going above and beyond

Advisory Councils: Real-World Connections Between Education and Industry

Can business and industry professionals make a difference in their future workforce? Over 165 educators, business, and industry representatives answer with a resounding yes! We can make a difference in our future workforce. With our ever-changing workplace and rapid technological growth, it is important to promote greater cooperation between the educational arena and private sector. Since 2003, Manatee County Schools and the Manatee Chamber of Commerce have partnered to meet this challenge by bringing industry and education together in the form of **Advisory Councils**, a diversified group of men and women from business, industry, the educational community, and trade and community organizations.

What is an Advisory Council? Advisory Councils are school-based community partnerships designed to connect business with education and build relationships. The role of the Council is to match industry standards with classroom instruction by reviewing state and national standards, assess facilities and equipment, support the educational programs through job shadowing and internships, and keep educators abreast of new trends in industry. A productive Advisory Council also keeps members informed on current and pending legislation affecting vocational education, and is proactive in making sure funding is secure for these invaluable programs.

There are currently 20 middle and high school Career and Technical Education programs that have active, effective Advisory Councils covering Family Consumer Science, Business Technology, Agriscience, Technology, Health, and Early Childhood Education. These groups meet three to four times per year and have positively impacted education, ultimately affecting more than 4,000 students. As the program continues to grow in the 2006-2007 school year, business, additional industry & community representatives are needed.

What role does the Manatee Chamber of Commerce play? The Chamber's mission: "to build a positive business environment while enhancing the community's quality of life," and the district's mission: "inspiring students with a passion for learning, empowered to pursue their dreams confidently and creatively while contributing to our community, nation and world," make the Advisory Council partnership a natural fit and positive for both entities. The Chamber supports the partnership by providing office space for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Council Coordinator. They also sponsor an article featuring CTE programs and Advisory Councils in the widely-read *Current*, a monthly Chamber publication.

More on the Chamber Connection. The Chamber connection serves as a resource offering educators direct access to business and industry leaders willing to serve their community. Chamber members are a source of potential volunteers to serve as industry advisors to the school district's vocational programs. Because these professionals possess knowledge of the requirements for specific occupations, they are able to provide valuable advice, guidance, and assistance to the educational system. These partnerships benefit students in many ways, including updating teachers with current business and industry standards, and the opportunity for students to interact with prospective employers. Businesspeople receive the benefits of having career programs that are responsive to the needs of our

community, instructors who are abreast of a changing workforce, and ultimately—well trained, skilled employees. It's a win-win relationship!



Advisory Council member Edna Apostel (left) presents recognition award to health care instructor Marie Chirico

Advisory Councils Need You!

Are you a Manatee or Sarasota County businessperson? Partner for your future workforce!

To impact your community and participate on an Advisory Council, contact Carol Lewis at (941) 748-4842 x137.

Discover the Future

Advisory Council members making a difference in their future workforce!



Jerome Ruffing and Larry Leinhauser, Manatee County EMT at the recent Manatee High School Career Fair.



Mary Jane Wettstein, Medical Academy teacher; Carol Lewis, CTE Advisory Council Coordinator; Kelli Kennedy, Tech Prep Specialist at a recent Advisory Council open house. Lewisc@fc.manatee.k12.fl.us mail to: Lewisc@fc.manatee.k12.fl.us

For more career information see your school counselor and get information on-line at:
<http://jobstar.org/tools/career/spec-car.cfm>
OR
<http://www.acinet.org/acinet/default.asp>

MAKE AN IMPACT ON YOUR FUTURE WORKFORCE!

SERVE ON A CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL



Manatee County Schools' Adult, Career and Technical Education Department is looking for representatives from business, industry, trade, and community organizations who want to share in the educational process.

Advisory Councils meet 3-4 times per year to evaluate program curriculum, assess facilities and equipment, and provide career guidance to students.

Today, more than ever, education and industry must work as a team. Career and Technical Education Advisory Councils provide a real-world connection that strengthens career and technical programs in Manatee County middle and high schools.

Program areas include Agriscience & Natural Resources, Building & Construction, Family & Consumer Science, Marketing, Business, Technology, Industrial, and Health Sciences.

Get Involved! Contact:

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The mission of the Manatee County School District is to inspire our students with a passion for learning, empowered to pursue their dreams confidently and creatively while contributing to our community, nation and world.



InquiziKidz page is published every Wednesday in The Herald. Provided by Newspaper in Education, Brandy Braver (941) 748-0411 ext. 5031, Julie Beacham-Hooie, Ad Designer.

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