

The *Transition* TIMES

Spring 2010



It's All About Relationships

Just ask Laura Lynch, on-the-job training (OJT) teacher at Southeast High School, about the importance of building relationships with business partners. She will proudly recite to you the many success stories that have resulted in students transitioning to some very good jobs upon high school graduation.

Each year, Laura and her business partners team up to recognize the students in the OJT program. Manatee Memorial Hospital provides the room and food for over 100 invited guests comprised of parents, students, business partners, and educators. This celebration is no ordinary event by any means.

At the hospital, the students work in the following departments: Sterile Processing, Food and Nutrition, Central Stores, Patient Transportation, Same Day Services, Endoscopy, Surgical Care, Environmental Services, Respiratory Therapy, Labor and Delivery, and the Cath Lab. The most exciting part of the event is when the supervisors from these departments, who seem more like proud parents, glowingly and appreciatively speak about how well the students perform their duties. You can feel the level of self-esteem rising in the room. Over the years as a result of this amazing relationship between the School District of Manatee and Manatee Memorial Hospital, many students have had the opportunity to successfully transition to gainful employment. For

example, former OJT student Clayton Rhodes, who attended the event, was hired in 2004 and has recently been promoted to Administrative Assistant in Central Stores.

Laura has also cultivated relationships with other business partners. Her students are placed at the Courtyard Marriott, the Humane Society, Roy's Automotive Center, The Parts House, and Wakeland Elementary School. *(See the article on page 6.)*

With the unemployment rate at an astonishing 57% for people with disabilities, it is imperative that we build on our relationships throughout the business community. The Manatee and Sarasota School Districts are collaborating with the Manasota Business Leadership Network (BLN) to foster new relationships with our outstanding business leaders. Hopefully, all of us can take a page out of Laura's book and build positive relationships with members of our BLN. Our students' futures depend on it.



SEHS OJT students with teacher Laura Lynch.

Save the
Date!

What: *Manasota Business Leadership (MBLN) Network's Kick-off Breakfast*
When: *September 10, 2010*
Where: *Professional Support Center, 501 63rd Avenue East, Bradenton, 34203*
Who: *Current and prospective business partners, local employers*
Why: *To learn more about employing people with disabilities as part of promoting good business practices.*

For more information contact Diane Roberts, MBLN Liaison, at robertsd@manateeschools.net.



Shaping the Future
ACT
ADULT, CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Adult, Career & Technical Education / Exceptional Student Education Transition

MCTIC: Restructure and Revitalize for 2010-11

The current Manatee County Transition & Interagency Committee (MCTIC) dates back to 1999 and formerly was known as the *Vocational Interagency Committee of Sarasota/Manatee Counties*. 24 agencies, including both school districts, signed agreements during the summer of 1999. Several years later, the two districts had grown so large it was decided that each district would host their own transition interagency council: enter MCTIC.

After more than ten years of following the same program format, the group has decided it is time to

revitalize the MCTIC. Beginning next year, there will be four MCTIC meetings. The meetings will take place on Wednesdays, enabling more teachers to attend since Wednesday is an early-out day. The MCTIC meetings will begin at approximately 1:00 pm. The site of the meetings will either be at the PSC or MTI East so participants can enjoy lunch together. Meetings will include presentations from speakers on various secondary transition issues regarding career opportunities for successful transition for those we serve.

Manatee County Welcomes Federico Valadez, Project 10 Region 4

Federico Valadez is no stranger to the School District of Manatee County. He formerly held the position of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Supervisor for Manatee County and worked closely with the district transition specialists, VR employment specialists, and job coaches regarding secondary transition issues, especially as it related to the Third Party Cooperative Arrangement.

In his new capacity as Project 10 Regional 4 Transition Representative, Federico brings his experience as a valued member and active participant on the Manatee County Transition & Interagency Committee (MCTIC), the Manasota Business Leadership Network (BLN), and the Manatee Children's Committee.

This year he has assisted the district in several major trainings, delivering outstanding presentations and providing on going technical assistance on the transition indicators and transition data. He met with the ESE Director, ESE secondary coordinator, ESE specialists, various agencies, and other stakeholders to explain and conduct the Manatee County School District Needs Assessment. Federico planned, facilitated, and presented at the Project 10 Regional 4 Winter Institute. He also encouraged attendance at the ARTthread workshop, which was a wonderful day of

creating art and learning how teachers can implement it in their classrooms.

Federico knows the importance of getting information and resources out to the 12 districts he serves. We are constantly receiving important transition updates and resources such as "The Transition Wheel."

The mission of Project 10 is to assist Florida school districts and stakeholders in building capacity to provide secondary transition services to students with disabilities in order to improve their academic success and post-school outcomes. Federico has certainly done this and more. We are happy to have his assistance and expertise as we strive to improve in the area of secondary transition. Thank you, Federico!



Federico Valadez presents transition indicators.

Visions Conference

Tim Schoonmaker Honored

Mr. Tim Schoonmaker, Director of Food Services for Sodexo at Manatee Memorial Hospital, was awarded the Florida Division on Career Development & Transition's (FLDCDT) "Making a Difference Award" on April 29, 2010. Mr. Schoonmaker was one of five business partners honored at the annual VISIONS Conference held in Lake Mary, Florida.

Mr. Schoonmaker provides job site opportunities in the culinary arts and related areas for students in the Southeast High Career Experience and Career Placement OJT Programs. He is willing to recognize students who perform well at their jobs and has offered employment for those in the OJT Program, the Diploma Option 2 Program, and the Vocational Rehabilitation Summer Work Program.

Mr. Schoonmaker has volunteered to take part in the Agriscience, Business and Consumer (ABC) Career Academy on Southeast High School's campus. His input from the perspective of current culinary trends and what culinary career-seekers need to be successful in finding employment after



Tim Schoonmaker (right) with students Jacob Kimball and King Blair.

graduation has proved invaluable. In addition, he has contacted culinary teachers on the Southeast campus and offered his services as a speaker in their classes on a variety of culinary topics, for which the teachers are very grateful.

Mr. Schoonmaker was nominated for this honor by Laura Lynch, SEHS OJT Coordinator and Debra Morse, VR Employment Specialist. Laura and Debra stated in their nomination letter, "Mr. Tim Schoonmaker most assuredly is the absolute best person to have working with school partnership programs!" Congratulations, Mr. Schoonmaker, for providing the students of Manatee County in general and Southeast High School in particular with your expertise and generosity.

"There are few, if any, jobs in which ability alone is sufficient. Needed, also, are loyalty, sincerity, enthusiasm and team play."

William B. Given, Jr.

Manatee High School

Student Honored at VISIONS Conference

Hawa Allarakhia received the prestigious Debra Husted Memorial "Dreams Can Come True Award" at the annual VISIONS Conference held on April 29th in Lake Mary, Fl. Hawa is well deserving of this award as she will be graduating with a 3.47 grade point average, and has completed nearly 200 community service hours. Many of those hours have come from assisting students with disabilities during the school year as well as in the Extended School Year Program. Her empathy and understanding allow her to successfully communicate with and help these students achieve their goals.

While at Manatee High, Hawa was a member of the student council and FBLA Club. Most recently, she volunteered her services to the District's Finance Department, where she learned

the process of paying invoices and working with purchasing card statements. Throughout her academic career at Manatee High, Hawa has maintained a high level of academic performance, courage, independence, perseverance, and fortitude. She has proved to herself, family, school personnel, and friends that she can and will be successful.

Hawa will be attending Florida Gulf Coast University in Ft. Myers where she will major in Accounting. Congratulations Hawa! We are very proud of all your accomplishments.



Hawa Allarakhia

Manatee High School *continued*

Outstanding at Work and School

Shundevon Jones, a Manatee High School junior, has participated in the OJT Program at Blake Medical Center for two years. He works in the Environmental Services Department. Some of his job duties include pickup and delivery of linen throughout the hospital.

Shundevon is a genuine and caring person who works very hard to get the job done and on time. His supervisor, Edward Vetter, says, "Shundevon is a dependable and reliable worker." He also praises him for being a polite, friendly, and courteous worker. Many employees at Blake Medical Center are big fans of Shundevon, pointing out that he always exhibits a positive attitude. Ms. Craig, employment specialist at Manatee High, says, "He is an extremely hardworking student who completes his duties and displays a



Edward Vetter and Shundevon Jones

wonderful work ethic."

Shundevon also excels in the classroom and maintains excellent grades. Presently, Shundevon is training and working hard to join the football team next school year. We all wish him the very best.

Manatee High School Students Celebration Surprise!

The MHS OJT students recently gave a surprise appreciation breakfast for the Adult, Career & Technical Education Department as a special thank you to Doug Wagner, ACT Director, Diane Roberts, FDLRS/Transition Contact, and Stewart Bergmann, Diploma Option 2 Coordinator.



Braden River High School



Flower Power

Shelby Routh is a bubbly, outgoing sophomore at Braden River High School. She enjoys spending time with friends at the beach and shopping. In her first year in the Career Experience program, she is excelling in her position as a floral assistant to Ellen James at Elite Florist in Bradenton. Her supervisor says Shelby is "talented and a quick learner."

Shelby has found that working in a florist shop can be creative and fun. However, she has also learned that it can be stressful, especially around the holidays. When an enormous amount of orders came in around Christmas and Valentine's Day, she had to work efficiently to help the florist shop meet the demands of its customers. Ellen was very pleased with the assistance and hard work that Shelby provided to the shop during those busy times. Shelby has not only learned about floral arrangements and decorations; she is also learning a lot about what it takes to be a successful entrepreneur, especially during difficult economic times.

A special thank you goes to Ellen James for the wonderful opportuni-

ties that she has provided to Shelby as well as to our former OJT students. In addition, Shelby's teachers at Braden River High School wish Shelby continued success for a bright and prosperous future.



Shelby Routh at the Elite Florist shop.

Braden River High School *continued*

Pursuing Her Dream

Beverly White is a senior at Braden River High School. When she isn't studying for her childcare certification, she enjoys swimming and spending time with her family. She loves arts and crafts, which comes in handy when working with the children at Sunny Daze Preschool. She often brings in fun projects for the children.

Beverly has always known that working with children was the career path she wanted to pursue. Her passion in life is to be a successful childcare provider and eventually own a daycare. She has other family members in the childcare business that will give her the support she needs to be successful.

Beverly has participated in the Career Experience Program since 2007. Her first on-the-job training site was Sunny Daze Preschool. In August of 2008, she was accepted into the Child Care program at Manatee Technical Institute and spent one year in the program. In the spring of 2009, she returned to the OJT program at BRHS and to Sunny Daze Preschool to resume her training. Her supervisor, Donna Desantis, was excited to have Beverly back and encouraged her to get her certification.



Beverly White at the Sunny Daze Preschool

Now that she is in her senior year, she has been focusing on studying and taking State of Florida online classes to earn her childcare certificate. She has already passed the first section of her classes and will soon be taking the first part of the State exam.

Beverly is appreciative of all the support she has gotten from her teachers, supervisor, and family. She is a great example of how valuable the on-the-job training program is to our students. We wish her all the best in her pursuit of the dream to be a childcare provider.

**"The best way to appreciate your job is to imagine yourself without one."
Oscar Wilde**

Excellent Customer Service

Todd Clemens is a senior at Braden River High School where he has attended for the past three years. His teachers have seen how his confidence and ability have grown. Todd has always been a great student and has never missed schoolwork deadlines. His strong work ethic has carried over to his place of employment. He began in our OJT program working for Publix, where customer service is a top priority. He has moved up the ladder at Publix and is always going out of his way to help others. Todd will be attending the State College of Florida in the fall of 2010. He is keeping his options open towards the future, and has no plans on a specific profession at this time. The OJT program has enabled him to earn money while earning his high school diploma. All of us at Braden River High School wish Todd the best in the years to come.



Todd Clemens at Publix

Southeast High School

Lisa's Transformation

Lisa Alderman came to the OJT program a shy student who wanted to work with animals. It didn't take long for her to blossom into so much more! Quiet and unassuming, Lisa was the type of student that could easily be overlooked; she always did all of her work and never caused any problems. The Humane Society would give her a place to interact with animals in her quiet, shy way.

Lisa quickly picked up on the procedures being done in the clinic. She became an integral part of the prep team for animals going into surgery. She weighed animals, filled out charts, prepped and sterilized instruments, and soon became indispensable. Lisa can be found working with animals as they recover from surgery, preparing vials and instruments needed by the clinic's vet, or operating the autoclave. But the most amazing thing was her ability to learn the duties of the reception area, dealing with the public and their animals.

Lisa began to take on more and more front-office duties, without being asked. She greeted clients by smiling and making

eye contact, and helped them with their animals. She assisted with intake and answered phones. She was in her element.



Lisa Alderman at the Humane Society

It is a pleasure to watch Lisa work seamlessly between the reception area and the surgical room. Her love of animals and her newly discovered office skills have made Lisa an invaluable member of the Humane Society team. Her supervisor says the staff has come to dread school holidays because they know Lisa won't be there. She plans to volunteer over the summer and return for another year of "Animal OJT" in the fall.

Lisa smiles when sharing her plans to attend SCTI to participate in their vet tech program after she graduates. Her transformation has been a joy to watch and we expect her to meet—and quite possibly exceed—her new career goals. OJT has not only given her job skills; it has given meaning to her life. We're very proud of your accomplishments, Lisa!

"Every person I work with knows something better than me.
My job is to listen long enough to find it and use it."
Jack Nichols

Yvonne's Hopes and Dreams

Yvonne Alvarez's supervisor is second-grade teacher Ashlie Fulmer. Ashlie shared the following on how much Yvonne is appreciated at Wakeland Elementary School.

"Yvonne is a beautiful young woman who is committed to our school. I can honestly say that Yvonne provides the most consistent support to me as an educator. She shows up every day with the intention of helping me in any way possible. She will do anything that I ask, including filing student work, assisting students, grading papers, or running errands around campus. Yvonne saves me an hour every day of clerical time, allowing me to have more quality time with my students. I use this time to reinforce teaching objectives, and support student learning. Without Yvonne I would not be able to accomplish these things. She is a great asset to our school and the lives of our children.



Yvonne Alvarez and teacher Ashlie Fulmer

Some of Yvonne's best qualities are her kindness and optimism. She is always positive, smiling and making the best of every situation. She shows kindness in her willingness to help others. Yvonne has high hopes for herself; she plans on graduating high school and attending college to pursue a degree in elementary education. I am proud to say that I helped influence Yvonne's dream. My hopes for Yvonne include her pursuit of a college degree and to become a teacher where she can continue to touch the lives of children."

King Blair Cooks Up a Great Future

King Blair was always the one that made sure things were picked up and put away at the end of a class period. He wasn't much for reading, but when we would cook during class, King came alive. He could read and follow a recipe's directions precisely, creating scrumptious food and always cleaning the kitchen afterward.

Academics were not King's strength and neither was a clean attendance record. The only class he never skipped was culinary. His lack of motivation in his "real" classes caused him to have to wait an extra semester before he could qualify for the OJT program. Once he was eligible, he chose the dietary department at Manatee Memorial Hospital for a work site, and boy, did he go to work! His newfound motivation became his trademark almost immediately.

Employees couldn't get over King's ability to catch on and the speed with which he accomplished his tasks. He started off preparing desserts for the cafeteria. By the end of his first week, he was doing desserts for the cafeteria, patients, and catering events. He's quick, efficient, and always leaves his work area impeccably clean. His uniform is always spotless and neatly ironed, right down to his apron. His mother even asked if she could get extra uniforms because he was washing so often, their water bill went up!

King has impressed everyone. Mention his name around

the kitchen and you'll get an earful of accolades. Within his first month of OJT, King started assisting the sous chefs with entrees. No other student has made this quick of a transition in such a short time.



King Blair found his niche in the kitchen.

But the best part of the story is King himself. Formerly struggling with a low GPA and a less-than-glowing discipline record, King just received an "A" in six out of seven classes and hasn't seen the inside of a dean's office in months. What an amazing transformation: from a formerly challenged student to a never-absent, straight "A" cook who is admired by peers and his OJT coordinator for his culinary skills. From a culinary class on Southeast's campus, to a stellar training site at Manatee Memorial, to a goal of becoming a chef by attending MTI, King is a true postsecondary transitioning success! Congratulations, King! You've "cooked up" a great future for yourself! The sky's the limit!

Happy to Lend a Helping Hand

Elizabeth Smith arrived to assist Wakeland Elementary School first grade teacher Amanda Chandler in January of 2010. Ms. Chandler's positive feedback shows just how valuable Elizabeth has become in the classroom.

Ms. Chandler says, "The minute she stepped into my class she was eager to lend a helping hand and be involved in the lives of my students. Elizabeth always comes in with a smile on her face and takes great pride in performing the tasks she is assigned. Elizabeth takes the initiative to assist in my classroom as well as the other four first-grade classrooms, thus saving us all valuable teaching time. Whether she is cutting out something the students need for the next day or reading with a group of students, her happiness is infectious. I am very thankful to have her in my room daily and the children absolutely adore her. Elizabeth exhibits a strong work ethic and a positive attitude, I am sure she will go far in whatever career path she chooses. Thank you, Elizabeth!"

"I like the job.
That's what I'll miss the most...
I'm not sure anybody ever liked this
as much as I've liked it."

Bill Clinton



Ms. Chandler and Elizabeth Smith

Southeast High School *continued*

A Career of Helping Others

Meet Miss Bonita Macias. She is a high school volunteer from Southeast High School's OJT program who has been working in Mrs. Karasick's kindergarten class since August 2009. Miss Bonita walks into class each morning with a brilliant smile as students throw hugs around her. Hispanic parents, in need of a translation, seek her out to communicate questions, concerns and/or needs for their children.

Bonita is a very capable, conscientious, and organized worker. Her duties in the class include working with small groups of students to help support mathematical concepts, assisting students with writing activities, as well as computer and calendar activities. She also collects homework, and corrects and files student work. She handles her duties professionally, and works hard to be sure our non-English speaking students understand their lessons. She is self-motivated, and once introduced to a task, she is able to carry that task out with diligence and creativity. She interacts with young students in a very calm, positive and supportive manner.

Bonita aspires to be a massage therapist or a pediatric nurse where she can help people. She has had many opportunities to work with young children as a babysitter and tutor. These experiences have helped her decide to work towards a career that helps others.

We have found Bonita to be a conscientious, dependable, young lady who has a bright future, helping others.

"To find joy in work is to discover the fountain of youth."

Pearl S. Buck

Former Graduate Climbs Corporate Ladder

Clayton Rhodes began the Southeast High School OJT program innocently enough. He worked in the Radiology Department at Manatee Memorial Hospital, delivering and filing folders of X-rays, thousands and thousands of them! He was dependable and accurate, and was soon hired for a part-time radiology position at night.

Because he was always looking to improve his job

skills, after about a year Clayton started looking into courses being offered at MTI. He thought a more medically-oriented position might be more to his liking. However, while checking out his options at MTI, a full-time, day shift job opened up in Central Stores. Perfect! So he quickly applied and became one of the few, the proud, and the efficient of the receiving department.

This position seemed to suit him well, as he stayed there for six years before he got the itch to move on again. But this time, before moving on, he was offered a promotion in his own department—the administrative assistantship in Central Stores!

To say we at Southeast are very proud of his accomplishments is an understatement—Clayton ROCKS! We think we'll be watching him climb the corporate ladder for many years to come. Congratulations, Clayton! You're a shining example of what the OJT program can produce when a student applies initiative, dependability, and hard work to reach his career goals.



L-R: Mrs. Karasick and Bonita Macias



Clayton Rhodes at his desk in Central Stores at Manatee Memorial Hospital.

Palmetto High School

Students Have a Can-Do Attitude

Palmetto High School OJT students Angel Aills, Brittney Swilley, and Simeon Morris have completed a very successful year in the Career Experience Program. Angel and Brittney are student assistants at Palmetto Elementary and also mentor students in classes at PHS. Simeon works at Sweetbay and is also enrolled in construction at Manatee Technical Institute.

Cathy Hunter, their teacher stated, “The self-confidence my students acquire from being in the Career Experience program is one of the most important aspects of being in the program.” She added, “They see that they can do the job successfully, and their confidence skyrockets.”

Bryan Wilkes, Career Experience Job Coach, comments that when the students are absent, which is



L-R: Simeon Morris, Brittney Swilley, and Angel Aills

rare, they are very much missed by their site supervisors. He states, “That makes you realize they are appreciated at their OJT site.” Wilkes added, “While educational success is the goal, it is also important to feel successful, respected and appreciated.” Thanks to the positive atmosphere of the OJT program, PHS students and teachers have a “can-do” attitude.

Bayshore High School

Attitude is Everything

For eight Bayshore High OJT Career Experience students, working at Westminster Manor has been a source of pride and has helped them to develop a more positive attitude toward the world of work. The students take pleasure in how they approach their daily responsibilities and the employees at the Manor have embraced and welcomed the students with open arms.

Diane Roberts, FDLRS/Transition Contact and Tracy Marsteller, Manor Activity Director, started the ball rolling that began this special relationship last fall. Cliff Essig, OJT Career Experience Teacher, recommended the students that he felt would do extremely well at this new worksite.

The students were placed in various areas such as activities, maintenance, housekeeping, laundry, and grounds maintenance. The staff has not only provided a work experience site, they continually encourage our students to do their best. The Manor hosted the Manatee



Job coach Cliff Essig (far right) with OJT students

County Transition and Interagency Committee this year, and the various supervisors had only positive comments about the students and the Career Experience Program.

The Westminster Communities (Shores, Towers, & Manor) have embraced both the Career Experience and Career Placement Programs, thus giving Bayshore High students many career and employment opportunities. Because of this special relationship, more and more BHS students will become responsible workers and citizens. This is a great example of the business community and schools working together to make a better tomorrow for Manatee County students.

Lakewood Ranch High School

Versatility is the Key...to Earning 'MVP'



Roland Bohley is the "go-to" guy!

Roland Bohley began in the Career Experience Program last fall in the 2009/2010 school year. One of the most valuable aspects of the Career Experience Program is that students obtain real life experiences while working at various business sites. Roland was first placed in the Central Stores department at Lakewood Ranch Medical Center.

While he did a fine job in Central Stores, Roland was still anxious to explore other departments in the hospital. So next, Ms. Carlucci, his OJT teacher, placed him in the Dietary Department. In the Dietary Department, he proved to be well suited to just about any task they gave him.

Roland has proved he's dependable, flexible, and willing. These same traits are observed in the classroom daily. "He's the first to jump in, see what needs to be done, and does it," Ms. Carlucci, says. "He's our 'go to' guy." These are the reasons Roland is being honored as the Lakewood Ranch High School MVP.

Roland will graduate this spring and plans to attend MTI in the electronics program next fall. We know he will excel at anything he puts his effort into because that's the kind of student he is. We wish him the best in all his future endeavors!

"Don't be afraid to give your best to what seemingly are small jobs. Every time you conquer one it makes you that much stronger. If you do the little jobs well, the big ones will tend to take care of themselves."

Dale Carnegie

With a Little Help from Our Friends

Marlana Houston began working at the YMCA preschool in our Career Experience Program at Lakewood Ranch High School last fall. Marlana assisted teachers with children during play time, lessons, crafts, and snacks. She was always very helpful, yet a little shy. The children responded well to Marlana's attention.

Teachers at the "Y" suggested that Marlana teach a lesson to help her grow her skills as a caregiver. Marlana jumped right in and put together a lesson on the letter of the week, complete with a fun craft. The experience moved her to another level and her self-esteem and confidence began to grow. Marlana put several lessons together during her participation in the program. The "Y" teachers and staff were very impressed with her progress.

The YMCA exemplifies a dedicated business partner, and the staff provides caring support and positive encouragement to



Marlana Houston is the "Most Improved" student!

Marlana. LRHS is pleased to honor her as our "most improved" student of the year. Marlana has since transferred to Braden River High School. Ms. Carlucci, her OJT teacher stated, "We know she will continue to blossom and grow wherever she goes."

Easter Seals

Kelly Shines on the Job

Kelly Collins is a 22-year-old student who has been attending the Easter Seals VIP Academy for five years. Kelly has always been eager and willing to participate in all of the VIP Academy's Community Based Work Experiences (CBWE). The skills, expertise, and experience she has gained while participating in CBWE's have been invaluable to Kelly. She has learned many essential skills that will assist her in becoming competitively employed.

The business site where Kelly shines the most is Manatee Apparel

Graphics. Since starting at Manatee Apparel Graphics, Kelly has become very proficient in various job tasks, therefore boosting her self-confidence.

Kelly is so proficient that she is now training incoming students. Her role as a trainer has assisted Kelly in becoming a more socially outgoing and assertive young woman. She is now more self-assured and poised. Kelly has gained the skills to speak with potential employers and also to be a valuable and important team member wherever she goes.



Kelly Collins knows her way around Manatee Apparel Graphics.

"I'm not after fame and success and fortune and power. It's mostly (that I want) to have a good job and have good friends; that's the good stuff in life."

Drew Barrymore



Tyler Cook works hard.

Tyler Cook: a Role Model for Others

Tyler Cook is a 20-year-old student who has been attending the VIP Academy at Easter Seals for a year. Prior to attending the VIP Academy, Tyler obtained employment in the YMCA's after-school program at Haile Middle School.

Tyler enjoys his employment very much. During the transition to the VIP Academy, he worked hard to maintain his hours and his duties there. This required a great deal of flexibility and maturity on Tyler's part due to the necessary transporta-

tion and scheduling changes.

At the VIP Academy, Tyler acts as a role model who can share his valuable vocational experience with others. Not only does he maintain his job duties at the YMCA, he is an active participant in and works hard at all Community Based Work Experiences (CBWE).

While Tyler is unsure of the job that he wants to acquire once he exits the VIP Academy, we are sure that given his motivation, respectfulness, and reliability, he will surely find his career path.

Resources

- **CVS Drugstore Chain Offers \$25 Million to Fund Youth Disability Programs.** Over the next five years, CVS Caremark All Kids Can program is making \$25 million available to make life easier for children with disabilities. Through this program, CVS will support nonprofit organizations that provide innovative programs and services in local communities focused on helping children with disabilities to learn, play and succeed in life. <http://info.cvscaremark.com/community/our-impact/all-kids-can>
- **NCWD/Youth Releases InfoBrief: "Improving Transition Outcomes for Youth Involved in the Juvenile Justice System: Practical Considerations."** This InfoBrief describes the characteristics of and issues faced by youth involved with the juvenile justice system, including those with disabilities. It provides a framework for youth service professionals to help these youth avoid or transition out of the juvenile justice system, promotes cross-systems collaboration, and highlights promising practices currently being implemented. This InfoBrief is based on *Making the Right Turn: A Guide about Improving Transition Outcomes for Youth Involved in the Juvenile Corrections System*, available at: www.ncwd-youth.info/juvenile-justice-guide. Access the InfoBrief at www.ncwd-youth.info/node/554.
- **Transition Resource Directory.** An outstanding resource to locate projects of interest in the transition field, this site lists many programs with descriptions, including the funding agency, target audience, mission/purpose, services, sample products or publications, and where to find additional information. www.findyouthinfo.gov/topic_transition_resourceDirectory.shtml
- **Calling All Students.** Want some information on filling out a Summary of Performance? Here's a video you can watch that will help you think about what you should include in your own SOP. www.nsttac.org/NSTTACVideos/SOPVideo.aspx
- **Online Financial Games.** Like playing games online? Here's a source that lets you play games and increase your financial knowledge at the same time! www.practicalmoneyskills.com/games
- **Family Café.** The 12th Annual Family Café is in Orlando June 18-20, 2010, featuring the Summit on Disabilities. www.familycafe.net
- **Florida Developmental Disabilities Council** www.fddc.org

School District of Manatee County

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Around the District

Watch for all of the publications keeping you informed about what's happening around the District in the Adult, Career & Technical Education department.



Transition Times, ACT Update, Tech Prep, Spotlight on Success, Take Stock Times, Manatee Stars, Careers in Action, Education Today/Career Tomorrow, and Technical Education Today.