

The *Transition* TIMES

Spring 2011



It's about **TIME**

Time to appreciate, time to reflect, time to applaud

As the saying goes, "Time flies when you are having fun." Or, to quote motivational speaker Michael Altshuler, "The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot." Well, we must have had a lot of fun this year because time has certainly flown by at warp speed.

Speaking of time, I would like to take a moment to thank the following for giving their time and for their unwavering support for our ESE Secondary Transition Programs:

- Tim McGonegal, Manatee County Schools Superintendent
- Lynette Edwards, Assistant Superintendent
- Doug Wagner, Director of Adult, Career, and Technical Education
- Nancy Beal, ESE Director
- ACT Department Colleagues
- 100+ Business Partners
- Joe Roberts, Secondary ESE Coordinator
- Stewart Bergmann, Option 2 Coordinator
- Holly Derrick, FDLRS
- ESE/OJT teachers
- VR Employment Specialists
- Secondary Department Chairs
- Secondary Specialists
- Wendy Giron, Finance Dept.
- Federico Valadez, Jr., Project 10 Regional Transition Rep.
- Joe Eubanks and staff
- Karen Golus, Tech and Information Services

- Mel Jones, School Improvement & Accountability
- Deborah Van Fleet and Beth Clark, Professional Development

These are just a few of the many who have supported our secondary transition programs and that is why Manatee County continues to have the best OJT programs in the State.

In conclusion, consider this quote by Earl Nightingale, who shared keys to success through books and radio for over 50 years:

"Learn to enjoy every minute of your life. Be happy now. Don't wait for something outside of yourself to make you happy in the future. Think how really precious is the time you have to spend, whether it's at work or with your family. Every minute should be enjoyed and savored."

P.S. Hope you take the time to read the great student success stories in this edition of *The Transition Times*.

Diane Roberts

FDLRS/ESE Transition Specialist

Secondary Transition Team: Job Coaches, VR Employment Specialists, and Transition Specialist



"If we take care of the moments, the years will take care of themselves."

Maria Edgeworth

Manasota Business Leadership Network



MBLN's Internship Program is Good Business

Members of the Manasota Business Leadership Network (MBLN) know that hiring workers with disabilities is not just good—it makes good business sense. Just ask Ben Mills, Chairperson of the Manasota BLN and Tropicana Area Manager in logistics. Four years ago, Ben hired a person with a disability to work as a forklift driver in the warehouse. He says it was one of the best hiring decisions he has ever made. Ben states, “If we had more employees like this, our warehouse would be even more efficient.”

David Harris, a Walgreens Manager, echoed the same sentiment, stating that he has found that people with disabilities make the most dependable employees and are extremely conscientious.

According to a recent Kiplinger newsletter, Vol. 88, No. 16, the hiring of workers with disabilities is on the upswing. They give the following examples:

- Walgreens tries to hire people with disabilities for 10% of clerk jobs at Dallas-area stores, and plans to expand the program to the rest of the nation in 2010.
- Merck hires interns with disabilities, some of whom stay as workers, and they seek suppliers whose owners are disabled.

- Northrop Grumman hires former soldiers with disabling injuries.
- According to the Institute for a Competitive Workforce (ICW), “there are more than 50 million qualified, highly motivated Americans with disabilities.”

If you want to tap into this untapped workforce in the Manatee/Sarasota area, contact Diane Roberts, MBLN liaison, at robertsd@manateeschools.net for Mentor and mentee applications and information. You will be glad you did.



MBLN members meet to strategize on best business practices.

King Middle School

Mr. C, How Does Your Garden Grow? All Year Long!



Students in Mr. Jim Comkowycz class have been growing vegetables since November despite the frigid cold spells, high winds, and school vacations. With the help from a former student, Laurel Audet, students have put together a self-watering, low maintenance, year round vegetable garden. The garden requires no care over weekends, winter or spring breaks due to the combination of a PVC pipe grow house and an on-demand gravity/siphon watering system.

Students use a specially adapted miter box to cut PVC pipe with diameters up to 4 inches. The grow house re-

quires applying PVC pipe primer and glue, a skill most of the students were able to learn. They assemble the grow buckets and grow house giving them practical application of measuring, drilling, sanding, painting, cutting, and gluing skills.

To date, the students have harvested lettuce, peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, snow pea pods, cabbage, yellow squash, green beans, strawberries, and broccoli. From this harvest, students have made baked stuffed peppers, salad, snow pea pods, coleslaw, and vegetable dip for our green broccoli, in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Currently, they are

King Middle School, continued

awaiting the arrival of egg plant, zucchini and Brussels' sprouts.

When aphids invaded the peppers, the students learned to make a spray from tomato leaves to successfully fight them off and still keep our ladybugs alive. The students watched safely behind hurricane strength windows as a late March storm pounded the grow house, predicting that it would be blown away any minute, only to watch it survive.

Every day, faculty and students check out the garden to see what is growing and how the systems are working. A lot can be learned and shared while watching nature work its wonders.



Mr. "C" and King Middle School students work in the self-watering, low-maintenance, year-round garden.

"All my possessions for a moment of time."



Elizabeth I

Easter Seals

Bobbie Mauro: Quest for Independence

Bobbie Mauro came to the VIP Academy after attending Braden River High. Bobbie said "I want to be independent." She was ready to begin focusing on improving her vocational skills and finding a job. She felt like the VIP Academy could assist her in achieving her goals.

Initially, Bobbie's transition presented her with the challenge of being in a new place and having to make new friends and deal with an environment that was totally different from her previous school. She was used to a more academically-based curriculum and was now being asked to concentrate solely on improving her vocational skills and increasing her independence. In order to overcome her new challenges, she sought out her teacher at the VIP Academy and asked to be placed on a behavior contract. This act demonstrated that she was becoming more responsible and was taking a more proactive role in her decision making.

Her maturity and confidence was noticed by the employers at the various CBWE (community based work experience) sites where she practiced her employability skills daily. One of the employers who took notice was Goodwill Industries. Goodwill has been a huge supporter of the VIP

Academy. They permit students to practice employability skills at their many sites and even interview students prior to their participation in the various work experiences. Don Herndon, Director of the VIP Academy states, "This type of collaboration where students gain positive work experiences is invaluable to the VIP Academy."

After several months of participating in Goodwill's CBWE, Bobbie was offered a job as a greeter at Goodwill's North Trail store. She is now perfecting her skills, and is becoming more confident and comfortable with greeting the public. Bobbie's quest for independence is becoming a reality. Congratulations Bobbie!



Bobbie Mauro at Goodwill Industries

Easter Seals, continued

Kirk Davis: Jobs are Easy to Get—Transportation is Not!

Kirk Davis came to the VIP Academy at Easter Seals following graduation from Southeast High School. He was looking for a program that would help him transition from school to work, and with his great attitude, he fit in right away. After taking an interest in various tasks and community based work experience (CBWE) business sites, Kirk concentrated on Goodwill as a job goal. Due to his hard work, continued job improvement, and great work ethic, Goodwill Industries recently employed him as a greeter at the Desoto Junction Goodwill retail outlet and donation center.

Kirk is well liked, recognizes regular customers, and seems to be a natural as a greeter. "I like my job and it's different," he says, referring to the many different tasks that his position requires and that he does so well.

Kirk's biggest challenge is to travel to work independ-



Kirk is mastering the MCAT bus system to get to work.

ently. He receives transportation assistance from the VIP Academy, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and from his Manatee County School District employment specialist. Kirk is working hard learning how to ride the MCAT bus. He must learn how to maneuver busy intersections, bus schedules, and the best times to take the bus.

With Kirk's energy and his interest in maintaining employment, and with the assistance of his employment specialist, he will soon overcome his transportation challenges so that he can continue to prosper, grow, and fully enjoy all the benefits that working and being independent provide. We wish Kirk continued success!

Bayshore High School The Sweet Smell of Success



*In the Bayshore halls, the aroma flows...
To find room 502, follow your nose!*

Thursday is the most anticipated day of the week at Bayshore High. Why? Cookie day of course! Cookie aroma fills the hallways and classrooms of Bayshore High and entices students to head to the Bruin Bakery to support Denise McLellan and Kathleen Hamilton's classroom enterprise.

The teachers approached Principal David Underhill about the idea so they could raise funds for bi-weekly cooking classes. However, it became apparent that the lessons and benefits of the Bruin Bakery far surpass the original goals and purpose. Cookie day teaches a plethora of essential life skills vital to the curriculum. The students have improved their skills in the following areas: interpersonal relationships, money management, responsibility, reading, and self-advocacy.

*"Time is the wisest counselor
of all."* Pericles



The Bruin Bakery orders unbaked cookies from Otis Spunkmeyer. Cookies are baked, cooled, and packaged at the cost of \$1.00 per bag. Teachers call the bakery to place their order and ask to have the cookies delivered to their classrooms, or students can purchase at the bakery door. All students have a role in the cookie business.



Bayshore bakers learn the sweet business of success.

Continued

Bayshore High School, continued

Talhia's Activities: Bonding Experiences

Talhia Garcia, a junior at Bayshore High School, is new to career experience this semester at Westminster Manor. With an opening in Activities in the Health Center at the Manor, Talhia chose this position so she could work directly with the residents. Every day is different and brings with it a new exciting activity.

Many residents show up each morning. They enjoy working alongside Talhia in various activities such as beach ball throw, sing-a-longs (with instruments), travel excursions on video, blowing bubbles, morning news, manicures, sharing trivia, and coloring.

Another part of Talhia's job includes serving coffee, juice, and morning snacks to the residents and taking residents back to their rooms or to the Beauty Salon to make an appointment. Many of the residents love the time spent with her and the feelings are mutual. It has definitely been a great match for Talhia. Her supervisor, Nell, is happy to have Talhia working with the residents in Activities.



Talhia colors an Easter picture with a Westminister resident.

Talhia said, "I enjoy going there because it is a different experience everyday and each resident has a different life story to share." According to Bonnie Condor, OJT Coordinator, "In a short period of time, Talhia has come to know the residents and has bonded with them. What a wonderful experience for Talhia." A special "thank you" goes to Westminster Manor for awesome Career Experiences for our Bayshore High students.

Jason's Outdoor Beautification at the Manor

Bayshore junior Jason Dmuchowski works at Westminster Manor in landscaping and outdoor maintenance. He experienced this type of work last year in his lawn care career experience at the Shores and Towers. Jason's work this year has included mulching, irrigation, pruning, planting, cutting dead branches, raking and picking up trash, pressure spraying, and repairing irrigation heads. Jason is always busy while at work because keeping up with the grounds at this facility is a pretty big job.

Jason and his supervisor, Tim Rowe, recently took on an extensive project—replacing all of the mulch at the Manor. Old mulch had to be raked and bagged before laying new mulch, and the project took weeks to complete.

When Jason was asked what he likes best about his job, he responded, "I like being outdoors." He is very reliable and has a great work ethic.

Jason has also worked in the past in laundry and in activities at Westminster Shores and Towers. He is inter-

ested in pursuing a paid position through the career placement program in outdoor maintenance next year. During his career experience at Westminster, he has acquired the necessary skills and knowledge to achieve his desired career goals in the future.



Jason helps supervisor Tim Rowe keep the grounds beautiful.

Braden River High School

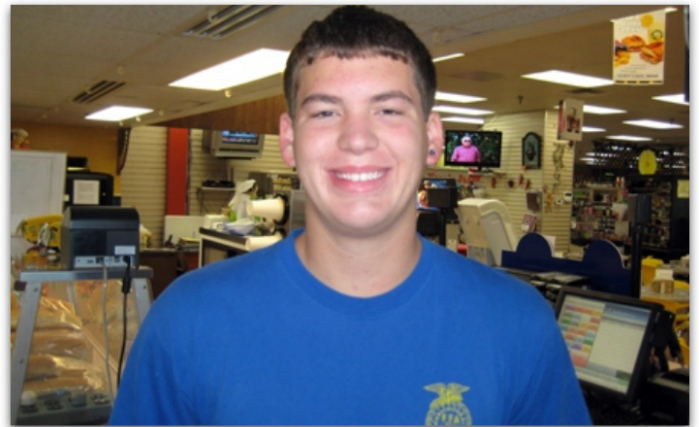
Farewell to an Outstanding Student: Schuyler Zoutendyk

When Schuyler first arrived at Braden River High School, he was a stereotypical freshman; shy and anxious about being in a new school. However, Schuyler seemed to fit into the high school culture rather quickly. He made friends easily and has always been admired by his teachers.

During Schuyler's junior year, Brian Pettis, career experience/job coach, approached Schuyler about the prospect of becoming an OJT student. Mr. Pettis asked longtime business partner, Mixon Fruit Farms, if they were interested in working with one OJT student. As it turned out, the only student that they were interested in was Schuyler, since he had volunteered for them in the past and they knew they could trust him to do a great job.

Mixon's busy deli department needed some extra help. At first, Schuyler wasn't sure if working in the deli was the right fit for him. It took some time, but eventually he settled rather well into the deli department. He has developed into a fine, hardworking young man. All the employees within his department work well with him and, he has developed a great rapport with his supervisor and co-workers.

Schuyler has learned the following important skills pertaining to the food service industry: health and sanitation, expiration dates, food preparation, customer service, cashiering, inventory, and many other job-related duties. Schuyler is one of those students who only comes along once in a great while. Mrs. Morse, his employment specialist, and Mr. Pettis, his job coach, wish Schuyler all the success life has to offer, and to continue in the habit of being a lifelong learner.



So long, Schuyler! Great job on the job!

"Time is the most valuable thing a man can spend."

Theophrastus



Kaylee's success stems from a positive attitude.

Kaylee's OJT Career Placement Pays Off

Kaylee Luh, a senior at Braden River High School, has learned that the OJT career placement program can be very profitable. Not only has it provided Kaylee with a good paycheck, but it has also provided her with the opportunity to gain valuable work experiences needed to be successful in the public sector.

Kaylee has been employed at VF Factory Outlet for the past two years, working from 25-40 hours per week. Kaylee says, "The OJT program has made me more responsible, organized and driven to achieve my goals." While employed at VF Factory Outlet, Kaylee has been trained to work as a retail associate, customer service associate, and a fitting specialist. Her successful employment has been attributed to her positive attitude, work ethic, and determination.

Next year, Kaylee looks forward to attending St. Petersburg College, where she will pursue a degree in nursing. Kaylee's success in dealing with the public will be a huge benefit when she transitions into her career goal of nursing. We wish Kaylee all the best.

Lakewood Ranch High School

Former Student—Tyler Gives Back

One of the things that can warm an educator's heart is seeing former students succeeding on their chosen career path. This is especially true when that 'success' offers encouragement to a teacher's current roster of students.

In spring 2008, Tyler Lang was honored as Lakewood Ranch High's MVP for his exemplary participation in the OJT Career Experience Program. He stayed one more semester before enrolling in the Culinary Arts Program at MTI East. Knowing that his career experience teacher, Mrs. Carlucci, likes to invite chefs into her classroom for culinary demonstrations a few times a year, Tyler called and offered to be one of those chefs. He said that he would like to demonstrate how to make Cordon Bleu and a French crepe dessert.

Tyler had been to these demonstrations before and he came prepared. He shared about safe food and knife handling, thermometer calibration, and a few chef secrets. Best of all, he managed to engage most of the students in the work, creating a real cooperative scene. The food was delicious and the kids were impressed. One student commented how he thinks he might want to try culinary arts his senior year.

Mrs. Carlucci could not have been more pleased with the results of this lesson plan. Kudos, Tyler! Keep on following your dreams and thanks for all you do to keep on giving!



Tyler and Chris show their chef skills in the kitchen.

Students Realize New Career Goals

Lakewood Ranch High School Career Experience/Job Coach Candace Carlucci's OJT class has taken advantage of their time in the classroom by utilizing the MECA¹ system to explore career possibilities. Mrs. Carlucci introduced this new PC-based system to her students using technology in the classroom, and then took the entire group to the computer lab. In the lab, each student completed the Personal Responsibility and Success Profiler modules of the system. One of the students commented afterward, "It was really good—I learned a lot about myself."

On subsequent Wednesdays in the classroom, Mrs. Carlucci had students complete the Interest Indicator module, an assessment of interests based upon personal likes and dislikes of everyday activities. Next, MECA assigns specific vocational areas for the student to take an in-depth look at various careers. It was fun to watch the "light bulbs" go on when students realized there are exciting jobs available for them to pursue.

The class also really enjoyed choosing occupations from the Work Samples module, and watching the videos

that show in detail what's involved with performing a particular job.

[¹MECA: Microcomputer Evaluation of Careers and Academics, an age-appropriate transition, career exploration, career assessment and vocational assessment system related to training, education and employment.]



Demetrious Johnson and Charles Ramirez on the PCs using the MECA system in Ms. Carlucci's classroom.

Southeast High School

Monica's Smile: Service that Found Success

With a wish to help people, Southeast High School student Monica Ibarra began working in Same Day Services (SDS) at Manatee Memorial Hospital last year. Monica learned how to prepare a room for incoming patients, keep the linens organized and, if necessary, warmed for patients after surgery. She provided snacks to patients dealing with IVs. She was the runner for the laboratory. After procedures were over, she often discharged patients and escorted them in a wheelchair down to their waiting car.

Monica learned quickly and soon found herself with more and more responsibilities. To the delight of the department, she returned for a second year. Everyone in SDS spoke very highly of her, often commenting that she was one of the best OJT students they had ever had working with them. She handled every request with a smile and never had a problem prioritizing all the requests, which sometimes can become overwhelming in a surgical unit. She was efficient, meticulous, and made the department run much more smoothly.

Monica's supervisor, Heather Golibersuch (a former OJT student herself), emphatically reported that Monica was the best student (besides herself) that the OJT program had assigned to SDS. Kudos for Monica flowed freely, as most of the department employees had a "Monica story" involving how she had come to their assistance on a particularly busy day. Monica was often told that if a position ever opened, they would want her to be the one to fill it. But budget and economy issues made that seem like a dream.

So why is this story in past tense? Because Same Day Services wasn't the only department that had noticed Monica's talents on the job! The staff in Environmental Services (EVS) had run into Monica often as she performed her duties for SDS, and they were impressed. Better yet, they had positions that needed filling and they wanted to employ her.

Needless to say, Monica was thrilled! She accepted the job offer, quickly completed her paperwork, and en-

rolled in the Diploma Option II program. Monica is currently working a full-time morning shift in her new position. Whenever she is asked to pick up a shift for someone else, she always says yes. As she performs her duties for Environmental Services, her smile is even bigger than before, if that's possible. She says she loves her job and hopes to be there a very long time. From the feedback her supervisors are giving, her wish will come true!



Monica loves her job at Manatee Memorial Hospital.



"Nothing is as far away as one minute ago."

Jim Bishop

Southeast High School, *continued*

Kids! Kids! Kids! Elizabeth Loves Them

Elizabeth Smith loves working with children. In the two years she has participated in Southeast High School's on-the-job training program, she has explored countless career options involving children.

Last year she began working with two-year-olds at First for Kids Daycare. She could often be found on the playground with two or three children wrapped around her legs and one in her arms! At the end of the semester, Elizabeth asked if she could experience slightly older children, in order to aid in her decision-making process, and soon arrived at Wakeland Elementary School.

At Wakeland, Elizabeth settled in with first-grade teacher Mrs. Chandler. Mrs. Chandler helped Elizabeth learn by example and provided opportunities for her to work one-on-one and in small groups with the children. Elizabeth soon discovered that she liked this age group as much—if not more—than the younger children.

After working with Mrs. Chandler for a semester, the two developed a strong bond and wanted to continue working together in Elizabeth's senior year. So it was no surprise that this year found Elizabeth back with Mrs. Chandler, who encouraged Elizabeth to explore other first grade classrooms to gain even more understanding of what it's like to be a teacher. Elizabeth learned from them all and they responded in kind, praising her initiative and motivation. The Wakeland experience provided many useful scenarios for Elizabeth which will prepare her even more to reach her goal of becoming an elementary school teacher. Elizabeth says she felt encouraged to never let anything or anyone convince her to let go of her dreams.

The success she is experiencing at Wakeland has significantly raised Elizabeth's self-esteem and reinforced her desire to pursue a career working with children. To this end, she started taking classes through the Florida Department of Children and Family Services (FLDCFS). Elizabeth has already completed all six areas of childcare instruction by attending classes at night and on weekends. She is now studying for and taking the

state certification exams and is currently certified in two courses. She continues to study hard so that she can complete the last four courses before she graduates.

Elizabeth is very service oriented and has applied her new childcare skills at her church, teaching a Sunday school class of 6–12 year olds. She enjoys assisting in children's church activities such as the recent Easter egg hunt. Known as "Miss Elizabeth," the children she mentors respond positively to her upbeat personality and ready smile.

The fact that she volunteers to perfect her childcare skills and takes FLDCFS classes to earn state certifications needed to fulfill her career goals is commendable. Also, Elizabeth is to be applauded for continuing with her plans to become an elementary school teacher. This determination shows her strength of character and makes her an inspiring role model for all the children who will have the honor of being in her classes.



Future teacher Elizabeth Smith

Manatee High School

Arnold Santana: A Perfect Fit

Arnold Santana is in the Career Experience OJT Program at the YMCA (Y) on 59th Street in Bradenton. This is the first year that Manatee High has placed an OJT student at the Y, and this is Arnold's first year in the program. So as luck would have it, this turned out to be a perfect fit for both Arnold and the YMCA.

The staff at the Y has welcomed Arnold with open arms from the moment he walked through the doors. If you visit the Y, you might see Arnold vacuum the entire full size gym, or sterilize over one hundred individual exercise machines, or wash the giant picture windows.

Shortly after Arnold began his work experience, Mr. Adam Schrott, Director, mentioned that if they had a position available, they would have hired him on the spot. Well, this summer Arnold will be working at the Y as a paid employee! The entire OJT work experience has been a win-win for both student and employer. Congratulations to Arnold for work well done!



Arnold works hard at the Y.



"Nothing is a waste of time, if you use the experience wisely." Rodin



Donald (right) helps keep Blake Medical Center running smoothly.

Donald Hogan: Not Afraid of Hard Work

Donald Hogan recently transferred to Manatee High School (MHS) from Pennsylvania. Right away, he expressed an interest in the MHS/Blake Medical Center career experience program. Donald was placed in the Plant Operations Maintenance Department and immediately became an overnight success. Some of Donald's job tasks include assisting a plumber in repairing leaks, unclogging drains, and replacing commodes; working with an electrician changing light fixtures and bulbs; and lending a hand to a carpenter in breaking down and removing complex shelving and flooring systems. These are only a few of the many jobs Donald has helped with to keep Blake Medical Center running smoothly.

Employment Specialist Sandy Craig says she constantly hears remarks such as, "What a great worker!" and "Do you have any other OJT students like Donald?" Donald's resourcefulness and ability to adapt to a variety of jobs is a plus in this economy, and has made him very marketable. Next year, Donald plans to continue in OJT and/or attend the carpentry program at Manatee Technical Institute. Congratulations to Donald for all of his hard work!

Palmetto High School

Jack-of-all-Trades

Palmetto High School career experience students Thomas Kelly, Alberto Betancourt, and Keith Toole can perform many types of work. Once they arrive at Riviera Palms Rehabilitation Center, they check in with Nann Lawrence, Student Supervisor and Stores Manager, to receive assignment for the day.

At the center, a student needs to be a jack-of-all-trades. Job tasks range from checking inventory, delivering and stocking supplies, washing dishes, laundry, and general maintenance tasks. Ms. Lawrence gives the students and the career experience program high praise. “They are willing to do anything that I ask them to do,” she says. With this great work ethic, some students have moved on to paid positions.

Alberto, Thomas, and Keith are carrying on the tradition of a great working partnership by assisting the center with caring for more than 80 patients a day. Alberto and Thomas have teamed up to take care of the medical stores area. They make sure that nurses’ stations are stocked with

enough medical supplies for the day. When Keith is not snacking on the peanut butter and jelly sandwich prepared especially for him by the kitchen workers, he is washing dishes and filling up juice cups for the meals that are soon to be delivered. However, those jobs can change in an instant in an active workplace. PHS job coach Bryan Wilkes states, “Adapting to your work environment is a very important quality that these students are experiencing first hand through this jobsite.”



Thomas, Keith, and Alberto perform many tasks on the job.

Students Take Interest: Career Inventory

On typical Wednesdays, Job Coach Bryan Wilkes’ students ride the school bus to various career based work experience sites. They learn first-hand about job skills, tasks, and duties. Recently, instead of traveling to their OJT sites, eight students remained at school with Employment Specialist Chanel Roberts. Their objective was to explore ideas about their place in the world of employment by completing a career interest inventory. The online assessment is known as *MECA*, or Microcomputer Evaluation of Careers and Academics, and is new to the Manatee County School District.

All eight students completed the initial *Interest Indicator*, a series of questions designed to narrow interests into complimenting career categories. Thomas Kelley, Iris Sanchez, Jatesha Glenn, Fransua Quinonez-Tirado, Ashley Pearson, Keith Toole, Todd Connick and Casey Collins all agreed that the results of the assessment were congruent with the information they’d entered and were ready to ex-

plore other aspects of *MECA*. Some continued with the *Career LAPs* (Learning Assessment Programs), based on results of the Interest Indicator. Some students completed lessons on goal setting in the *Personal Responsibility* section. The remainder of the students entered the *Success Profiler* section to build decision-making skills and learn about effective ways to deal with change.

Overall, the students enjoyed the process and gained knowledge needed to help accomplish their career goals.



L to R: Iris Sanchez, Jatesha Glenn, and Fransua Quinonez-Tirado work on the *MECA* program.

Transition Resources:

Health care, the arts, and digital books



- ★ www.healthytransitionsny.org. A healthcare site that teaches skills and provides tools for care coordination, keeping a health summary, and setting priorities during the transition process from pediatric to adult health care. It features video vignettes that demonstrate healthy transition skills and interactive tools that foster self determination and collaboration. This website is ADA accessible and is available with audio for non-readers and in Spanish language translation.
- ★ www.vsafll.org. The new updated Very Special Arts website provides a myriad of learning opportunities, information of statewide programs, and resources. The mission of the VSA Florida is to create a society where people with disabilities can learn through, participate in, and enjoy the arts.
- ★ www.bookshare.org. Bookshare's goal is to make the world of print accessible to people with disabilities. With a dynamic leadership team, dedicated members and partners, Bookshare is making this goal a reality. This website explains how Bookshare works including valuable information on trainings and webinars.

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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, Career Pathways, Spotlight on Success, Take Stock Times, Careers in Action, Education Today/Career Tomorrow, and Technical Education Today.