

# The *Transition* TIMES

Winter 2009

TOP 5

## Manatee County's Top Five Tips for Achieving Positive Postsecondary Outcomes

The Manatee County School District ranks first place in Region 4 (West-Central Florida) in terms of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) Indicator 14. Indicator 14 measures the percent of ESE students who are no longer in secondary school and who have been competitively employed, enrolled in some type of postsecondary school, or both, within one year of leaving high school. Manatee county received a score of 61.9%, a whopping 6.2% above the postsecondary target of 55.7% set by the Florida Department of Education.

How and what does Manatee do to accomplish this feat year after year, especially in these tough economic times? The answers will be found in the top five reasons listed below and in the contents of this newsletter. Read on and enjoy!

**TIP #5...Staff networking.** Through a partnership with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, known as the Third Party Cooperative Arrangement, Manatee employs five Employment Specialists who network with the business community in an effort to provide employment opportunities for the students we serve.

**TIP #4...Job coaches.** Manatee County has certified ESE Teachers who serve as Teacher/Job Coaches in each high school. They also have a very successful Diploma

Option 2 Program which provides job services to at risk ESE students who might otherwise drop out of school.

**TIP #3...Interagency support.** Manatee County has an active Transition Interagency Committee known as MCTIC. Members set annual goals and meet monthly to monitor the progress of the goals. They also sponsor an annual awards ceremony to recognize outstanding On the Job Training Students.

**TIP #2...Business involvement through the BLN.** Manatee along with Sarasota County has been designated as the 15th Business Leadership Network (BLN) in the State. The purpose of the Manasota BLN is to educate and encourage employers to recruit, hire, train and retain employees with disabilities. (See more about the BLN on page 2.)

**TIP #1...Strategic, purposeful school/work connections.** The School District of Manatee County has a well thought out Mission Statement, Strategic Objectives, and Core Values that brings the community and our world into our classrooms through increased community partnerships. These partnerships offer a broader range of global knowledge and experiences for all students. As a result of this community spirit, ESE students have access to over 100-plus business sites to participate in paid and non-paid career experience on-the-job training programs.

*Diane Roberts, FDLRS/ESE Transition Specialist*

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# Business Leadership Network

## Did You Know? Facts About the Business Leadership Network

### *Did you know that...*

- ...Manatee and Sarasota recently were welcomed as the 15th local Business Leadership Network movement in the State.
- ...the purpose of the Manasota Business Leadership Network is to educate and encourage employers to recruit, hire, train, and retain employees with disabilities as part of promoting good business practices.
- ...there is no cost for businesses to become part of the Manasota Business Leadership Network.
- ...the unemployment rate for people with disabilities is approximately 57%
- ...people with disabilities represent the third largest

market segment, second only to baby boomers and the aging market.

- ...Business Leadership Network member benefits include timely and current training programs on relevant issues such as ADA guidelines and tax credit benefits, networking, newsletters, employer resource kits, and on-line resources.
- ...Manasota Business Leadership Network plans a big kickoff event in March, 2010. Stay tuned for details.

For more information about the Manasota Business Leadership Network contact Diane Roberts at [robertsd@manateeschools.net](mailto:robertsd@manateeschools.net).



**Don't look at my disability.**

I represent people with disabilities living in Florida who want to make a difference and become members of a team. We are strong communicators, organized professionals, and quick learners.

Hiring someone with a disability makes good business sense—we are qualified, productive and dependable. We want to make a positive impact, build a career and a life.

Give us the opportunity to prove ourselves. See how our wide range of abilities works for you.

Thanks to the Able Trust, you can learn more about recruiting and hiring people like me.

Visit [www.lookatmyability.org](http://www.lookatmyability.org)



*The Florida BLN has rolled out a statewide "Look at My Abilities" campaign to promote hiring people with disabilities. Ads similar to this one appeared in 53 recent Sunday newspapers including papers in Sarasota and Bradenton. Ads will also appear in the Manatee County East Observer and Sarasota Observer.*

**"To feel valued, to know, even if only once in a while, that you can do a job is an absolutely marvelous feeling."**

**Barbara Walters**

Governor Crist's letter supporting the BLN and promoting the new "Look at My Abilities" campaign.



CHARLIE CRIST  
GOVERNOR

November 3, 2009

Dear Business Leader:

As Governor of the State of Florida, I support the right of all Floridians to enjoy gainful and meaningful employment. I enthusiastically applaud the efforts of the Florida Business Leadership Network (FL BLN.) The FL BLN is a network of employers from around the state, dedicated to assisting your businesses to hire well-matched people with disabilities and reduce your recruiting and retention costs.

People with disabilities, the state's largest minority group, have a high unemployment rate, now approximately 57%. Of those who are not working, two-thirds prefer to work. The FL BLN's mission to improve employment opportunities for Floridians with disabilities should serve as an example for all of the business community. It makes good business sense to utilize this workforce group of qualified, enthusiastic, productive and dependable individuals who are defined by more than just a disability. Together, they also represent the third largest market segment, second only to baby boomers and the aging market.

According to U.S. Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Tom Donahue, "Employers tell us that, once hired this labor source provides some of the best employees within a corporation. They are generally dependable, dedicated, hardworking and productive."

Enclosed is a postcard that features a successful employee with a disability. It also contains other information on Business Leadership Networks and the FL BLN. Please consider this information carefully and contact the FL BLN via its website: [www.myability.org](http://www.myability.org) or by email at [info@abletrust.org](mailto:info@abletrust.org), to learn more about how you can reach this untapped source of dependable, talented workers.

At this time when we are facing many economic challenges, my administration has focused its efforts toward creating an economic environment that is conducive to business success. Increased job opportunities for all Floridians, including dependable workers with disabilities, will lead to a more diverse and thriving workforce. I thank you for doing your part to make this a reality.

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist

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(850) 488-2272 • FAX (850) 922-4292



The Manatee County Transition Interagency Committee (MCTIC) presented Sandra Craig, with the Kick-It-Up a Notch Award on November 19th, 2009. The MCTIC meeting was held at Blake Medical Center in Bradenton. Sandra is the VR employment specialist for Manatee High School and works closely with the staff at Blake. Blake Medical Center has been a business partner with the school district since the 1980's, and is a great supporter of the career experience OJT program, having hired many former students who participated in the career experience program. See related article on page 6.

# Lakewood Ranch High School

## Graduated...But Not Forgotten

Every now and then, Michelle Khargie phones Candace Carlucci, her former ESE teacher and job coach, to share the progress she's making on her goals. "It's always a treat to catch up with Michelle," says Mrs. Carlucci. Michelle graduated from Lakewood Ranch High School in the spring of 2002. She participated in the career experience program at Wal-Mart on State Road 70. Michelle was a hard worker then, and apparently some things do not change because her perseverance has served her well.

Michelle began living independently about a year after graduating. Despite some formidable health challenges, she has worked at Target for almost three years in customer service. She is currently enrolled at MTI in order to earn her GED and plans to continue her education in the field of medicine. Michelle is



*Michelle works the register at Target.*

exploring the possibility of becoming a pharmacy technician or medical assistant.

One thing she is sure of—she wants to be in a position to help others. She has not given up on this dream of helping others, and plugs away at it one day at a time.

Michelle says she is thankful for the great experience gained in the work program. She is a wonderful testimony to how valuable community work based experience is to our teens. Michele's bright smile and unfailing optimism remind Mrs. Carlucci that despite challenging days in teaching, to never give up the dream.

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

## YMCA Recognizes LRHS Youth Volunteer

In November, the Manatee County YMCA held their second annual volunteer recognition event. Among those honored for their contributions to the Y community was Lakewood Ranch High School student Justin Barrett. The YMCA Lakewood Ranch branch presented Justin with their "Youth Volunteer of the Year" award.

Justin is a longtime student volunteer worker at the Y and has put in over 1,100 hours of service in the past



*Justin with YMCA property manager Drew Cabana*

three-plus years. A student of LRHS Job Coach Ms. Candace Carlucci, Justin puts in at least eight hours per week as part of his career experiences class, but has also put in hours on his own

initiative during school breaks and vacations. Ms. Carlucci has described him as "a very personable and capable young man."

Justin has proven himself in performing a variety of maintenance duties and projects at the Y. A flexible helper, he has worked on many tasks both inside and out, and has even assisted with the children in daycare when needed.

Lakewood Ranch branch executive Scott Morin and property manager Drew Cabana have spoken highly of Justin, stating that he is "an asset in training others" and that he "will be hard to replace" when he graduates from high school in January '10.

Justin Barrett is an example of a student who has benefitted greatly from job coaching and has been able to find a niche for himself, thanks to the community based work experience program. It is our intention and Justin's hope to secure paid employment, perhaps at the Y, by the time he graduates.

# Manatee High School

## A Bright Future

**H**awa Allarakhia, a senior at Manatee High School (MHS), is excited about planning for her freshman year of college. She currently has a 3.4 GPA and will receive a Bright Future Scholarship. Hawa's top three college choices are the University of North Florida, Florida Gulf Coast University, and the University of South Florida.

While at Manatee, Hawa has earned approximately 200 community service hours. Most of the hours were spent working with Ms. Swart's Exceptional Student Education class at MHS. Hawa has helped Ms. Swart's students prepare and deliver pre-game meals for the MHS football team. Additionally, she volunteered during the

summer for the extended school year program for students with disabilities.



*Hawa feels comfortable working in the finance office.*

Currently, Hawa participates in the non-competitive community based work experience program working in the Finance Department at the School Board of Manatee County.

Guidance Counselor Christina Ruggiero says Hawa is determined, conscientious, and motivated. We all wish Hawa the very best of luck!

***“Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.”***

Lou Holtz

## District Employs MTI Graduate

**R**yan Smith, an MHS graduate, first began his venture into the field of culinary arts when he enrolled in the non-competitive on-the-job training (OJT) program. While in OJT, he worked at Blake Medical Center in the food and nutrition department. During his senior year, Ryan decided to take it a step further by dual enrolling in Manatee Technical Institute's (MTI) culinary arts program. After graduating from high school, he continued his education at MTI where he met Chef Bert Spagnola. Chef Bert became very influential in helping Ryan achieve his goals. Chef Bert says that Ryan's attention to detail and work ethics made him an asset to the culinary arts program.

The semester before graduating, Ryan was promoted to *sous chef*, which is the second chef in the kitchen. His primary responsibilities were to work with new students, showing them the ropes and guiding them to a good start in the program. Also, Ryan was a member of the “original crew” of Café 911 at MTI East Campus.

Today, Ryan is happily employed with the School District of Manatee County at King Middle School. His supervisor is Sandy Kozyra. Sandy says that they prepare between 750-800 lunches every day for students. Ryan is very well liked and gets along wonderfully with his co-workers. Congratulations Ryan!



*Ryan and supervisor Sandy Kozyra.*

# Manatee High School, cont.

## OJT and Work Ethics Lead to Employment

For three years, Tracy Rutledge participated in the career experience OJT program at Blake Medical Center's (BMC) Food and Nutrition Services. She graduated from MHS in 2002 and then attended MTI's Culinary Arts program for one year. Six years ago, her education, training, and persistence landed her a job as a Food Service Assistant at BMC. Being one member of a team that together assures that patients get the prescribed diet, Tracy plays an integral part in preparing and serving a variety of food items. She also takes pride and care when she prepares and serves food to employees, physicians, volunteers, and visitors.

Tracy's impeccable attendance record as an OJT student is only one part of her work ethic that transferred from school to work at BMC. She is also known for being

reliable and dependable. In addition to maintaining her excellent work ethic, Tracy is involved in the BMC Safety Committee and serves as the "Safety Rep" for the Food and Nutrition Department. She is committed to meeting and exceeding OSHA standards. If anyone has any safety concerns relating to the department, they go to Tracy first. If there is a safety problem, Tracy follows through to get the problem rectified.

Going from non-paid work experience to a great job with good benefits, Tracy presents an excellent example of the transition continuum at its best!



*Tracy serves as food and nutrition "safety rep."*

**"Education is when you read the fine print.  
Experience is what you get if you don't."**

*Pete Seeger*

## Palmetto High School

### Pedro Nievus, Taskmaster Extraordinaire

When Pedro Nievus walks into the CVS on the corner of 10th Street and 8th Avenue in Palmetto, he knows what he is going to do. He may not have an idea of his specific tasking for the day, but he does have a plan: to make his manager's job easier.

Pedro, a second-year participant in Palmetto High

School's (PHS) career experience class, wears many hats in the store. One day he may be replenishing the balloon supply by filling and designing a new balloon display. The next day he may be changing prices for advertisements. Every day is different.

"I like working at the CVS because I never know what I am going to do each day," Pedro says. "Some of the jobs are not the greatest, but since I do not have to do the same job every day, I never get bored" he added.

When store manager Maryann Ramirez was asked how she feels about Pedro's contributions to the store, she answered, "Pedro walks in with a smile and is willing to do whatever I need him to do. He makes our job easier."

This attitude also makes the teacher's job easier. "It is always nice to walk into a jobsite and the manager has nothing but praises for one of your students," PHS career experience teacher Bryan Wilkes stated. The best way to keep a job and advance in any career is to make the manager's job easy, and Pedro has acquired a good habit that will serve him well in whatever career choice he makes.



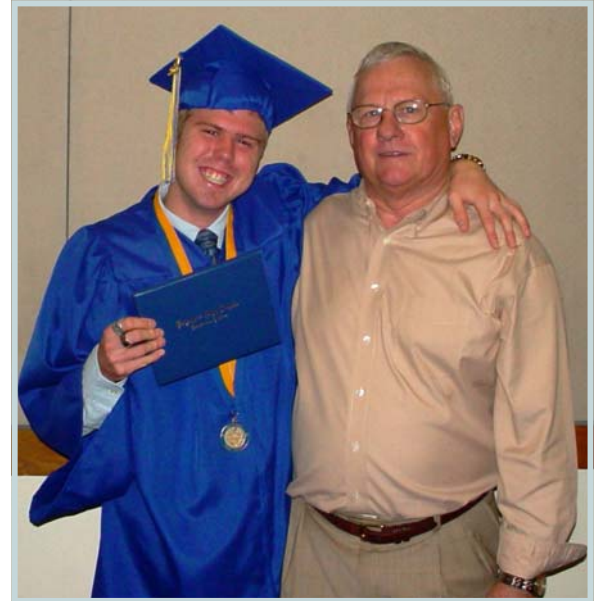
*Pedro and his job coach, Bryan Wilkes.*

# Bayshore High School

## Grad Successfully Transitions to the World of Work

Colton Gallo, a 2009 Bayshore High School (BHS) graduate, has been working at the Publix Market on Holmes Beach for the last three years. Colton learned his marketable skills while in Mr. Cliff Essig's on-the-job training (OJT) career experience class at Bayshore High. While in the class, he worked at Westminster Communities assisting in the activities department and in the laundry. He did such a great job that he was awarded "OJT Student of the Year" for his work at Westminster. Mr. Essig, Colton's OJT teacher, stated that Colton always took great pride in his work and attendance, which transferred over to his job at Publix.

Colton transitioned to the career placement program and began working at Publix as a junior. Then in his senior year, he chose the Diploma Option 2 program giving him the opportunity to work full time. Stu Bergmann, Diploma Option 2 Coordinator, says that Colton always has a friendly smile and offers fast paced service to Publix shoppers.

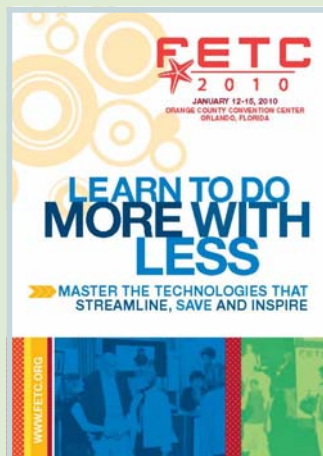


*Colton with OJT teacher Cliff Essig on graduation day.*

**"High expectations are the key to everything."**

Sam Walton

## Conferences...SAVE THE DATES!



### FETC 2010 Conference

January 12–15, 2010  
Orange County Convention Center  
Orlando  
[www.fetc.org](http://www.fetc.org)

### Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA)

January 28–29, 2010  
Orlando  
[www.atia.org](http://www.atia.org)

**ATIA 2010 Orlando**  
*Showcasing Excellence in Assistive Technology*

### VISIONS Conference

April 28-30, 2010  
Lake Mary

# Southeast High School



*Jaime Hernandez*



*Warren Cockrell*



*Heather Parish and Jeremy Golibersuch*



*Alex Taylor*

## Goal-Based OJT Choices Yield Longevity in Career Placement

An article was written back in 2003 on the students who had acquired jobs due to their participation in the Southeast High School (SEHS) on-the-job training (OJT) program. At the time, there were nine students who were spotlighted. But where are these students today? How many of the original nine are still working? Have any other students managed to obtain and retain their OJT placements as paying careers?

The nine students featured in the 2003 article were all hired by Manatee Memorial Hospital (MMH), the largest of our OJT partners. MMH's level of participation is due in part to their size, but also because of their desire to retain an OJT student in the position for which they've been training, when possible. It was discovered that six of the previously highlighted students (67%) were still employed in their same or similar positions at the hospital! This proves how important the non-competitive OJT program is to job longevity. OJT students have an accurate concept of what their job involves and are not then disappointed with job duties with which they are not adept or for which they are not well-suited. Knowing they can do the job creates confidence and self-esteem, enabling the students to pursue a job that they know could become a career.

Our longest working student is **Jaime Hernandez**,

who started working part-time in food and nutrition while he was still a participant in the OJT program. From there he transferred to the radiology department. For awhile, he added part-time hours through the transportation department and is currently planning to work in ER X-ray! Jaime has been with the hospital for **11 years!**

**Warren Cockrell** is being honored by the hospital this year for his **ten years** of service. He started working in HVAC because he developed a way to recycle part of the air conditioning filters. He was currently asked to work in the hospital's "plant," taking readings on many of the large machines including the boilers. He is very pleased with his new department.

**Jeremy Golibersuch** was hired to work in Surgical Core towards the end of his senior year. He is currently in his **ninth year** working for Manatee Memorial. After starting as a surgical assistant, he expanded his skills by moving to the emergency room, where he is currently employed. He enjoys working in this exciting environment.

Not even a semester after Jeremy was hired, **Heather Parish** (now Heather Golibersuch) became an employee of Day Surgery (now Same Day Services—SDS). The director of the department felt Heather had

*(Continued on page 9)*



*Clint Hinsz*



*Clayton Rhodes*



*Amy Fessenden*



*Adriana Tamayo*

become an indispensable part of their daily routine during job training and created a position for her. She has been with them for **eight years** and has been an OJT trainer in her department for the past five years.

Also working on **eight years** is **Alex Taylor**. Alex impressed the Environmental Services department during his time in OJT; his supervisors saw that he was a dependable and reliable worker. He worked very hard, was rarely absent, and has continued exhibiting these valuable job traits to this day. Several companies have contracted the environmental services department over the years and Alex has kept his job with all of them!

After leaving school during his early years in the OJT program, **Clinton Hinsz** realized that the cooking he had started learning was what he wanted to do for a career. With the assistance of the head sous chef at the time, Clint was able to finish school and become a hospital sous chef himself! He credits the support he received from his supervisor in getting him into the career he now enjoys. He has completed **over seven years** and has been able to keep his job through two different contracted companies in Food and Nutrition.

Several additional students need to be recognized for their careers brought about through the Southeast High School job training program. Though they weren't employed when the article was written in 2003, they all have chalked up a good number of years, as well.

Like Jaime, **Clayton Rhodes** began his Manatee Memorial career working in radiology. He was hired to work nights, but soon longed for a regular day schedule. Shortly after applying to the hospital's receiving department (now Central Stores), Clayton was transferred to a position with them. He will also be honored by the hospital this year for completing **five years** of service.

The transportation department has trained a number of Southeast OJT students over the years, but **Amy Fessenden** has been the one with staying power. Amy was quick to learn the transportation computer system and after only one year in OJT (she was a transfer student), was hired shortly after graduation. This year marks her **fourth year** as a transporter at MMH.

And finally, recognition is given to daycare worker **Adriana Tamayo**, who entered the OJT program more than **three years** ago. While finishing her senior year, Adriana also completed her necessary Project Child Care classes and passed her child care certification tests to be a teacher with her own class—of which she is very proud! She was hired by her jobsite, First for Kids, a preschool in downtown Bradenton.

The Southeast ESE department is very proud of the dedication and loyalty these students have shown in their careers and wish them well as they continue to achieve their career goals.

*“As long as the sun rises and sets, a second chance awaits us.”*

*Patricia Marsolais*

# Braden River High School

## Graduate Excels at Two Jobs

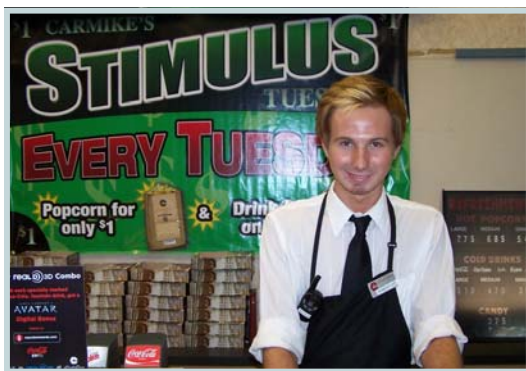
**M**ichael McIlvain graduated last year from Braden River High School (BRHS) with the desire to work hard and one day become a successful business owner. Near the end of his junior year, he was enrolled in the full time on-the-job training (OJT) program working at the Terrace Beach Café in Bradenton. Manager and business owner Dave Valone started Michael out as a dishwasher to see if he would be a good fit for his restaurant. Michael quickly learned that working in a restaurant environment is both fast paced and fun. As he learned to work quickly and efficiently, Dave gave him the opportunity to work in food prep and as a short-order cook. At first it seemed a little overwhelming learning all of the restaurant acronyms, shortcuts, and the need for attention to detail. However, with Dave's guidance and patience, Michael is becoming a fantastic cook. "Trust me, I've tasted his cooking," said Brian Pettis, Michael's BRHS career experience teacher. According to Dave, Michael is a reliable and dedicated employee.



*Michael is becoming a fantastic cook!*

Unfortunately, due to the downturn in the economy, Michael's hours were reduced. In spite of the economy, Michael obtained a second job at Superior Cleaning where he works 40 hours per week. At Superior Cleaning, Michael is responsible for cleaning the SCAT buses for Sarasota County. His shift at Superior Cleaning is approximately 3 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. He manages to juggle both jobs, often arriving at the Terrace Beach Café at 6 in the morning.

Michael says that his future plans are to become a rich and successful entrepreneur. He possesses such a strong work ethic, dedication, and dependability that those who know him are certain he is capable of achieving his dream. Good Luck Michael!



## Manager at Age 17!

*Robert Lee working hard at the theater.*

**R**obert Lee is an outstanding student at Braden River High School (BRHS) and maintains a 3.5 grade point average. He is also a hardworking manager at the Carmike Royal Palm 20 Theatre. Robert started his career at the theatre as a floor staff employee through the on-the-job training program at BRHS. About nine months later, he was promoted to a supervisory position. He was promoted because of his great leadership skills, his flexibility with his hours, his willingness to fill in for other employees when they cannot work, and because he excels at training new employees.

*"Even on the springboard to success, you have to bounce a little."*

*Zig Ziglar*

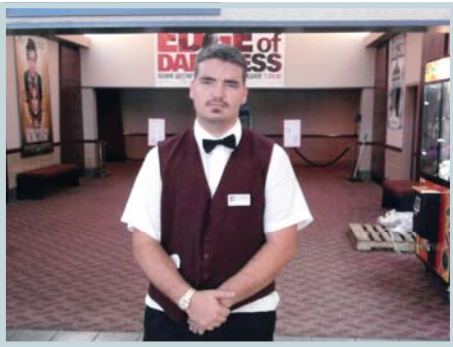
Robert has stated that "working at the theatre has taught me a lot" about the world of work. "I have learned a lot about what it means to be a good leader. I've learned a variety of other duties and responsibilities such as inventory, great customer service skills, and training new employees." Robert says he loves working at the Royal Palm 20 because "the work is fun and very rewarding."

In addition to high school and working 40 hours per week, Robert is also interning at Bradenton's Flair Hair Salon. He plans to save up enough money to one day attend the Paul Mitchell Academy and become a successful hair stylist. With Robert's drive and ambition, who knows where he may end up?. Someday we might be watching Robert on a popular television show like *Extreme Make-Over* or *What not to Wear*. Whatever Robert pursues, I'm sure he will succeed. All of us at BRHS wish the best for Robert in his future endeavors!

# Easter Seals

## VIP Academy Successes

**E**aster Seals has had many successes in placing students into competitive, gainful employment. Over the last four years, Easter Seals has grown the Vocational Introduction and Preparation (VIP) Academy from 15 students to 35. This program uses a functional skills curriculum to focus entirely on helping students to become more independent and competitively employed. Students spend time in the community and visit numerous job sites during the week to hone both their independent living and vocational skills.



*Chris Lawson loves the smell of popcorn on the job at the Royal Palm 20 Theater.*

**Chris Lawson**, a 2006 graduate, learned his marketable skills while volunteering at various area businesses in community based work experience (CBWE). Once Chris developed marketable skills, he was able to obtain employment with the Royal Palm 20 Theater. Today, Chris takes tickets with the same enthusiasm and glee as he did the very first time. He still loves the smell of freshly popped popcorn.

*James Kraus outside the doors of the Taco Bell.*



**James Kraus** also participated in the VIP Academy's CBWE opportunities before he landed a job with Taco Bell. Working up to three shifts per week,

James has met the challenges to be successful there. He works in the janitorial department where he enjoys sweeping and mopping. He reports that he loves his job, enjoys the food discounts, and likes spending part of his paycheck at Wal-Mart.



*Maurice Albritton enjoys his paychecks from Wal-Mart.*

This year, **Maurice Albritton** began working as a cart gatherer at the SR-70 Wal-Mart Store. Working 30 hours per week, Maurice scours the huge parking lot, battling the fierce Florida summer heat and frequent, unexpected rainstorms to gather carts. In the beginning, Maurice rode his bicycle to work some five miles each way until he decided the Handi Bus was a better option. Maurice enjoys his paychecks and the impact that his newfound independence has had on his life. He returns to the VIP program regularly to visit with friends and help motivate them to become employed as well.

### Academy Seeks Business Partners

The VIP Academy has had many successful placements at local businesses like Goodwill Industries, Global Organics, Publix, and various fast food restaurants. Academy staff believe that the CBWE opportunities at places like True Vine Missionary Baptist Church, Meals-On-Wheels, Manatee Apparel Graphics, Boys and Girls Club of Sarasota, Manatee Players Theater, and the facilities in and around the school are integral to their students' success in the real world. As a result, the VIP Academy is continually looking for additional CBWE opportunities with different businesses. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming part of the VIP Academy's family of volunteer worksites, please notify Don Herndon at 355-7637 ext. 425.

# Manatee County Transition Interagency Committee

## Our Mission Statement

To network with the business community to improve and expand career opportunities for successful transition to gainful employment for those we serve.



## Purpose

Providing and maximizing ESE students' opportunities to participate in and benefit from job preparatory programs and on-the-job-training, thus increasing their success in the world of work.

## Transition Services

A set of coordinated activities designed to help a student move from school to post school activities including independent living, work, or continued education after finishing high school. This may include instruction, related services, community experiences, work toward post-school goals, and, if appropriate, daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation, all based on the student's needs and preferences.

## Adult, Career & Technical Education

The Adult, Career & Technical Education Department (ACT) is the umbrella for all of the adult, career and technical education programs in our middle schools, high schools, and Manatee Technical Institute. We encompass Tech Prep, Career Academies, Smaller Learning Communities, Exceptional Student Education (ESE) On-The-Job Training (OJT) and Transitions Services, and Take Stock in Children. Through our programs we prepare youth and adults for careers by providing leadership in developing an educated, prepared and competitive workforce.

## School District of Manatee County

Adult, Career & Technical Education  
215 Manatee Avenue West  
Bradenton, FL 34205  
www.ManateeACT.com

Diane Roberts  
FDLRS/ESE Transition Specialist  
robertsd@manateeschools.net  
(941) 708-8770 x2186  
fax (941) 708-8686



## 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.*