

Adult, Career and Technical Education (ACT)

Update #1 – February 2001

The Need For Information:

One thing that is constant among your peers is the need for information, on a regular basis, to all ACT teachers from the office of Adult, Career and Technical Education (ACT). Each month this office will be sending an ACT update such as the one you are reading now, to all of our Secondary Career and Technical Education teachers as well as the leadership at Manatee Technical Institute (MTI) for distribution. This will be a great source of information to keep you up on what is going on in our area.

County Office Mail:

At the county level we get a great deal of material that needs to get to the teachers. In some instances the material is in the form of a CD or Video and only one set is sent to the county office. When this happens we will send it out to the schools with a tracking slip. Please review the material and send it to the next teacher on the list. Labels will be included for your convenience. Please forward the information on to your colleagues after you have reviewed it. This will keep the information flowing and we will not cause delays by taking time to reproduce the media.

E-Mail Updates:

All of the secondary teachers in this county have now been put into e-mail groups based on your teaching content areas. When we have something that we need to get out to all teachers (it could be content specific information, professional development opportunity or just an answer to a question that would apply to all teachers who teach the same course) we will be mailing to the teachers who teach in that area and are members of that group. There are many benefits that will come from keeping the information flowing and working together on issues.

Who Is A Part Of The County Office ACT Staff?

Trish Litton, Secondary Vocational Program Specialist (741-7229)

I joined the ACT team from Bayshore High where I was an assistant principal from 1995-01. Prior to 1995 I spent two years at the School Support Center developing the Tech Prep and Blueprint initiatives. I was a school-based administrator at BRMS in 1991 following eleven years of teaching in the Family & Consumer Science department at BHS. In 1992 I traveled to PHS as an assistant principal. Prior to my marriage and moving to FL, in 1979, I spent two years teaching at Irmo Chapin Career Development Center in Columbia, SC and two years in Charleston, SC. I look forward to working with our middle and high school teachers to benefit the students of the district.

Debbie Revell, Administrative Secretary (741-7267)

I was formerly with The Department of Construction Services. I have been with the School District since June of 1980 working in the Operations, Maintenance, and Construction Services Departments. I started as the ACT Administrative Secretary at the end of February. I'm looking forward to working closely with all of you and learning everything I can about Adult, Career and

Technical Education. Please feel free to give me a call at 741-7267 if there is anything I can do for you.

Debbie Merrill, Career Education Specialist (741-7289)

I began my Manatee County career after returning to this area from Miami, where I worked as an advisor for the College Assistance Program at Miami Springs Senior High. I first took on a permanent substitute position at Manatee High in the Social Studies area. Then, as school opened in 1991, I began teaching English at Bayshore High School. In 1995 I took on the role of School to Work Coordinator (now Career Connections Coordinator), when the ACT department became involved in the Suncoast School to Work Consortium. In May 1997 I moved to my current position. The job has changed over the last four years as various initiatives of school reform have moved to the forefront. I must say it has kept things interesting for me! I continue to be delighted to work with you. Please give me a call anytime if I may be of assistance!

Marge DiBello, Administrative Secretary, Tech Prep (741-7747)

I have been with the ACT office since October 2000. My husband and I moved here from New York in July. I worked in a school district in Syracuse, New York for 17 ½ years. I was secretary to a principal in an elementary school and high school. Before that I was secretary to the director in the Instructional Resource Center in that school district. I am enjoying my new position here in the Adult, Career & Technical Education office.

Doug Wagner, Director (741-7254)

I am here by way of the Department of Education where I worked as the State Supervisor for Career and Technical Education program areas since 1996. Prior to DOE, I was at the county level (Clay County) and worked at both the middle and high school levels. I am currently serving as the State Advisor for one of the Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO). They were called Vocational Student Organizations (VSO) up until 1999. I am also a past National President for that organization. You may have heard of DECA, FFA, HOSA, TSA, FBLA or Skills USA-VICA just to name a few. I believe this type of organization is the backbone of our Career and Technical programs, and that they share a key role in preparing all students for the future, regardless of their educational path.

I would like to thank everyone for making my transition to Manatee County a great one. I have been in Manatee County 26 working days and have met with almost every secondary Career and Technical Education teacher. (If I have not made it out to your school yet to say hello and see your program, this is TOP priority and I hope to complete all school visits within the next month.)

Last Word:

Most look up and admire the stars. A champion climbs a mountain and grabs one. Thank you for your educational efforts, you all are champions.

Thank you,

Marge DiBello
Tirsh Litton
Debbie Merrill
Debbie Revell
Doug Wagner