

CareerTEC Chronicle

"What you do today can improve all your tomorrows."

~Ralph Marston

From the Director...

With another successful year coming to a close I am pleased to share our third newsletter organized by the Careers in Business class.

Positive news to report: funding has slightly increased for the 2014-2015 school year in the CareerTEC regional delivery system! The state Career and Technical Education (CTE) grant fund-

ing increased by 2.5% and federal Perkins grant funding has increased by 3.4%.

The system will continue to support CTE programs that offer technical skills, credentials, and/or dual credit in programs that meet the needs of high-growth industries and help close skills gaps. Not only does CareerTEC provide the technical skills,

I am proud to say most of our students have developed the soft skills of attendance and attitude and have become well rounded, shake your hand, look you in the eye, engaging young adults ready for college and careers.

Best Regards,

Jen Newendyke
System Director

Consortium Member Districts

- Dakota #201
- Durand #322
- Freeport #145
(including Aquin)
- Orangeville #203
- Pearl City #200
- Pecatonica #321

Staff

Jen Newendyke
System Director

Jody Ackerman
Bookkeeper

Colleen Mills
Administrative Staff



August 12th—CareerTEC Orientation (except HOYA & Culinary) at HCC

August 18th—First Day of HCC classes

August 19th—First Day of CareerTEC classes

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*The mind is not a vessel to be filled,
but a fire to be ignited.*

-Plutarch





Business Students Learn Life Lessons

"I had to make my own living and my own opportunity! But I made it! Don't sit down and wait for the opportunities to come. Get up and make them!" – C.J. Walker

C.J. Walker is considered America's first female selfmade millionaire, but this quote holds true for people from all walks of life. Now, you may ask yourself what you could do to make these opportunities come to you. It's all about taking initiative. And that's exactly what the Careers in Business students did this year. Students learned the ins-and-outs of business and money management. They learned the importance of investing as well as how to invest wisely. They also learned about insurance, which policy they would need, what's worth insuring and what's not worth insuring. Most importantly, students learned how to employ all of their new skills in an ethical and moral manner.

Congratulations! Business Students Win 1st and 3rd Place in Stock Market Game!

This year the students played an online Stock Market Game where they competed to create the best-performing portfolio using live trading simulation. In the Stock Market Game, students were given a virtual \$100,000 to buy stocks, mutual funds and bonds. After spending time analyzing and researching companies, the students made their decisions regarding which stocks to purchase and which to short sell. They quickly found out the relationship between risk and reward!

The Stock Market Game is truly a real-world application, emphasizing the importance of long-term saving and investing.

To understand how stocks work, students need to learn how the economy works. To understand and calculate how their portfolio performs, they need to do the math. To decide which stocks to invest in, they need to read current events, and do a lot of research. Students who participate in The Stock Market Game program learn more than investing - they gain an education for life.

SMG is true learning by doing. The students made important, relevant, financial decisions and saw the consequences

for themselves. Every day the students checked their standing and portfolios and in fact did talk about investing in real life. Suddenly CNBC and Jim Cramer became interesting! These are lessons they will remember and apply in life.

At the end of the 16 week game, the team of Madi Avampato and Liz Klueg ended in 1st place in our region out of 232 teams after their portfolio earned a 14% return! Congratulations girls! They will each be awarded with a certificate and medal from Econ Illinois as well as a \$25 gift card. The other teams in the class ended up in 3rd (Adam Bardell and Colin Jennings), 18th (Dominic DeMichele, Jason Westfall, and Dylan DeBello), and 209th (Mady Folgate and Kylee Parkos - who's portfolio really took a loss when they invested in Amazon!)

Student Quotes:

"The stock market game was not only my favorite activity, but also the most educational. There is nothing like hands-on experiences." ~ Dominic DeMichele

"These lessons have inspired me to invest in real life and I feel even more confident in my ability to make money through investing." ~ Adam Bardell

"It is a lot of work doing the research to figure out which stocks to invest in and then which to purchase or short sell. We spent a lot of time researching companies

CareerTEC Programs

- Auto Body
- Auto Mechanics
- Business
- Careers in Auto Technology
- Computer Information Systems
- Construction
- Cosmetology
- Culinary Occupations
- Early Childhood Education
- Graphic Design
- Health Occupations
- NJROTC
- Welding

that we wanted to invest in. The stock market game furthered my interest in becoming a financial advisor when I get older." ~ Madi Avampato

Mady Folgate, winner of the Outstanding Business Student award, said of the class, "The entrepreneurship class was a great experience; it was one of the most important things I learned in high school. I learned how to develop a business plan and how to organize a business. [Careers in Business] means experiencing real life business in a college setting while still in high school. This class has made a big impact in my life."

Congratulations to Kaylie Siegner from the Early Childhood Education She is the winner of the Karen Johnson Scholarship for \$300

CAREER TEC

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Elisabeth Klueg and Madison Avampato from Aquin win first place in online Stock Market Game in the Land of Lincoln region.

CareerTEC partners with Highland Community College (HCC) to offer a new program: Welding & Print Reading.



The course will consist of 11 credits including: Introduction to Welding, Intermediate Welding and Fabrication, Print Reading and Inspection, and Tech-

nical Mathematics. The coursework can be applied toward a variety of certificates and/or degrees, including, but not limited to: Basic Welding certificate, Industrial Maintenance Technology certificate, and the newly approved A.A.S. in Industrial Training which partners with Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 23 out of Rockford. The partnership with Local 23 is de-

signed to create a career pathway with an emphasis in welding. Students can complete core courses at HCC while the remainder of their skill development can be obtained through the existing structure of the five year apprenticeship with the Plumbers and Pipefitters if

students apply and are accepted into the apprenticeship program. Logan Kuntz a junior at Freeport High School says, "I was excited to see Welding offered next year so I signed up because I like working with my hands, I had an uncle that welded and recommended it, and the class will help with job opportunities in my future."

Where are they now?

Elizabeth Chambers, **From Student to Leader**



~ written by Ms. Chambers
One of the most intriguing parts of life is looking back and realizing that every experience and every decision you make prepares you for the next season, working behind the scenes of the production of life. Nothing could be truer than my path with HOYA.

During my high school career at Pearl City, I was unsure what career path I wanted to take. I had an experience as a young child with the death of my great-grandfather that led me to consider health care. Many women in my family were nurses, so I figured I could do it as well.

I enrolled in HOYA 1 during my junior year in high school, and

the following year, HOYA 2. What I remember most are the rich and diverse experiences with the job shadows I went on. I particularly loved surgery and mortuary science. Through HOYA I was also able to obtain my CNA at 16 years old.

I graduated high school nine months pregnant with my daughter, Maria. That summer I got my first apartment, worked full-time, and enrolled full-time at Highland Community College. My plans to go to school for Neurosurgery were deferred. Now that I was a single mom to an infant I chose to go to nursing school instead.

Two years later I graduated from Highland with my LPN certificate. That same summer, my father died. I considered leaving health care because of the pain of having to deal with death, as I felt like I wasn't strong enough to deal with death with my patients.

After the encouragement from a nurse supervisor, I continued to work as an LPN in the fields of long term care (specializing as a wound care nurse) and being part of a

team starting a new health department in a rural county, in the role of a communicable disease investigator and Teen Parent Services Coordinator.

I then realized I wanted to continue my education and work towards becoming an RN. I started back at Highland, now a single mother of 2, and despite many hardships, persevered and graduated in 2007. I was also awarded the HCC Nursing Student of the Year.

As an RN, I worked in an ICU in a large hospital. During this time, Highland called me and asked me to tutor nursing students. My first thought was, "I am not in to this 'teaching' thing, nor do I feel qualified." But I gave it a try, and for four years ran a tutor group for Psychiatric Nursing, Medical-Surgical and Family Nursing. I started realizing the students knew the information, but had difficulty with test taking. After speaking with the faculty, I developed a test taking and critical thinking boot camp for incoming nursing students to improve their success.

Throughout my nursing ca-

reer, I've also volunteered as an Auxiliary Police Officer with the Freeport Police Department and a firefighter with the Lanark Fire Department. I've also run a very successful photography business for eight years, Photography by Elly.

So now that brings me to the present- how in the world did I end up where I am? Well, I was reading the newspaper last April and saw an ad for the HOYA Instructor position. I thought, you know, all these years I've been told I should be a teacher. And I realized that all those years teaching patients and students that I did have innate passion for education. So I applied, was offered the position, and graciously accepted.

Now that my first year of teaching high school and HOYA is under my belt, I can look back and see all of the dots connecting to make a beautiful masterpiece. I love coming to school every day, and it brings me great joy to give to the students what I've been given- the gift of lifelong learning. I am right where I belong!

And as if it doesn't get any stranger than fiction, my daughter Maria whom I was pregnant with while I was in HOYA is now enrolled in HOYA 1 this fall. The path of learning is never-ending!

About Ms. Chambers:

- Enjoys volleyball, going to the Y and weightlifting
- Has 2 daughters—Maria (15) and Riley (9)
- Spouse—Nicholas, Accountant
- Would love to get her pilot's license
- Plans to retire near the ocean

Congratulations to all CareerTEC Outstanding Students!

Casey Allen	HOYA I	Orangeville High School
Cullen Barkau	CIB II	Aquin High School
Callie Barker	COSMO	Orangeville High School
Cora Fiene	HOYA II	Dakota High School
Madalyn Folgate	CIB II	Freeport High School
Angelica Ishmon	HOYA I	Freeport Alt. High School
Alex Jansen	CIS II	Freeport High School
Nicole Steele	Graphics	Freeport High School
Emily Tomita	HOYA I	Freeport High School
Karli Weaver	CUL	Freeport High School
Sarah Wichmann	ECE	Freeport High School

Casey Allen Overall Outstanding Student

Senior Casey Allen of Orangeville High School will receive a plaque and a \$225 cash award for winning the Overall Outstanding Student Award in CareerTEC. Casey is involved in Servant Leadership, is a member of the National Honor Society and volunteers at Cedarville Baptist Church. Having completed his first year in HOYA, Casey feels that he has become stronger in what he wants to accomplish. HOYA taught him communication skills, learning skills, and how to work efficiently. He strongly suggests taking HOYA, especially for students who are planning on going into the health field later in life. Casey will be attending Rock Valley College and then will transfer to a 4 year University in pre-med. He said he is glad he has had the opportunity in high school to start his career by taking HOYA.



Culinary Arts

Starting from ramen noodles and working their way to making paella, the culinary class has learned many things on their

way towards careers in the food industry. Students in the class earned their food sanitation certificates and are now able to create many different national cuisines. Some of the fun, extra activities that the students have participated in are helping with fundraisers for St. John's Church, holding a gingerbread house contest, and taking a field trip to Eickman's Processing plant. Some students in the class are preparing to become chefs, restaurant owners, and cruise chefs; the rest now have a skill for life!



to become affiliated with a large corporation where she can have a positive impact on the world. Finally, she hopes to spend her free time volunteering abroad in third world countries, helping establish secure economies, and provide those who have had lives full of struggle, find solace.

All of us at CareerTEC wish Cora the very best in the future!

Career Mirror Career Mirror

Reflections from a student

Cora Fiene is a graduating senior at Dakota High School. For the past four years she has been a member of the highly successful volleyball team at Dakota. In addition to athletics, she is currently employed at Medina Manor Retirement center in Durand, IL as a Certified Nursing Assistant. During her junior year of high school she enrolled in the HOYA 1 program and she



said, "From that moment I have learned so much about myself as a person."

For her HOYA year II internship, Cora spent the first semester in the Ambulatory Care Unit at FHN Memorial Hospital. While working there she learned the ins and outs of the surgical process and got to acquaint herself with a wonderful group of nurses and medical professionals. Then, during her second semester, she began working at Medina. Both of these experiences were, and still are, extremely rewarding.

As a Certified Nursing Assistant, Cora's responsibilities are to complete simple medical processes including taking vital signs, assisting patients in personal hygiene processes, performing various housekeeping tasks, and most importantly, always having an upbeat and positive attitude.

About her experiences in HOYA, Cora says, "I am extremely grate-

ful for the wonderful experiences and opportunities I have had because of the CareerTEC HOYA program. When I began my junior year in the HOYA program I didn't know much about myself and was clueless about what I wanted to do in the future. Through this program I was able to get insight into many different healthcare fields and professions. I learned so much about myself through this process and also discovered in the end that I am not meant to be in the healthcare field at all. I am extremely grateful that I got to be a part of the HOYA program, and as I enter college the experiences that I have had will continuously help guide me to find my perfect career."

After graduation Cora is planning on attending the University of Iowa to study International Business Administration. In addition, she hopes to achieve fluency in Spanish and German therefore setting her up for an international career. She hopes

Focus on local CTE programs

* Agriculture at Pecatonica HS

Brenden Schultz is the agriculture instructor at Pecatonica High School but also teaches students from Durand and Winnebago. Recently, Mr. Schultz received the Environmental Education Award from the Winnebago Soil and Conservation District recognizing the work that he and his students have done. Over the past two years, Schultz and his students have done activities such as soil conservation, water conservation, constructing a shelter, and planting approximately 600 trees. Schultz said that the students deserve the award, and that he doesn't like the recognition much, but he is very humbled about receiving the award. Mr. Schultz teaches a variety of classes such as Introduction to Agriculture, Ag Management, Horticulture, and Veterinary Technologies.

When asked about Brenden Schultz at Pecatonica High School, students are quick to say that he is one of the best. Haley Greene, a senior, said, "Schultz makes the class very enjoyable yet educational. And we get to do cool projects." Aaron Ackerman and Anastasia, both freshmen, agree with Haley that Mr. Schultz is a great teacher who makes the class entertaining and educational at the same time.



CAREER FAIR

UPDATE

The 8th Grade Career Fair, once again, was a huge success! The event provided career awareness and exploration to students from Aquin, Dakota, Durand, Freeport Middle School, Carl Sandburg, Orangeville, Pearl City, and Pecatonica. Approximately 525 8th grade students came to HCC's Student Conference Center on Thursday, April 10th to talk with representatives from various careers in our community.

The students each picked five careers that they were interested in and then met with those presenters for about 20 minutes each.

Thank you! CareerTEC appreciates the schools counselors and students for their interest in this very worthwhile event and the HCC facility for accommodating this event.



It is with joy and sadness that we have to say good-bye to three very special people! We wish them all the best in their upcoming retirements; we are thankful for their many years of service, hard work and dedica-

tion to education! We hope they enjoy this new journey of their lives, that they cherish every moment and mostly, have fun!

Carol Luning has been the Events Coordinator for CareerTEC for the past 8 years. She plans on traveling and spending more time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in her retirement.

Cathie Schmerse has been the Cosmetology instructor at HCC for 35 years!!! She will truly be missed!

Tom Bergstrom has been the Auto Body Instructor for over 20 years!

Early Childhood Education

By: Mady Folgate

Recently, I had the pleasure of sitting down with Mrs. Hickey (instructor) and one of her students, Sydney DeWall, to discuss the class. Asking her why she decided to take this class, DeWall responded that it's a career she's interested in pursuing. She explained that the most important concept she has learned is to be patient with children. She also learned about motor skills and what activities children need to do to learn most effectively. Meeting new people from other schools and actually getting to learn what she wants to do with the rest of her life is what she enjoys the most about the class. When asked about her plans after high school, the high school junior said that she plans on going off to college and majoring in early childhood education.

Later, I got the pleasure of being able to talk to Mrs. Hickey, the instructor of the class. When asked to give a brief description of what the class has done over the course of the year, she explained that one day half of the students will plan activities, while the other half will teach. A typical day for the preschoolers would be the pledge of allegiance, going over the days of the week, a learning activity (planned by the high school students), and finally some form of fitness. The "extra" activities that the preschoolers have enjoyed this year would be having a volunteer firemen and fire truck come to the class to discuss fire safety. The students in the class are planning for many different careers such as early childhood education, speech pathology, day care entrepreneurs, and teachers.

Graphic Design ~by Kylee Parkos

The students in graphic design learn to apply knowledge and skills of the design fundamentals and computer systems to create projects based on a specific theme. Heather Cornelius, instructor of the Graphic Design program for Career Tec, said that during the first semester the students learn how to use programs like Adobe. The students tend to have individual smaller based projects during this time so they can get to know the programs really well. During the second semester, students have more of a free choice in what they are doing; the projects usually become bigger and they are group based. "We don't take field trips

because graphic design isn't a major industry around here, but we have had a couple of guest speakers which the students have enjoyed. I brought in one of my students from 2003 and he showed them the process of design and what he does today after graduating from Freeport High School and graduating from college," said Cornelius. The class does a lot of projects for the community such as T-shirt designs and printing. "Most of the students I have, after they graduate from high school, go to college for graphic design, web design, product design, and animation." Cornelius said. After talking with Ms. Cornelius I sat down with Eric Schoonhoven, a

junior from Dakota High School, who is taking the graphic design program. He explained that he's always been interested in computers and art classes and knew that this is what he wanted to do after high school so he took this class to get a head start on his future. One of the most important things that Eric said he learned in the class was the Adobe programs like illustrator and photo shop. Eric explained that his favorite part of the class was how open ended yet organized it was. In his upcoming years of school Eric plans to next year take the design class again

as a year two student. He then plans to attend a community college to get his gen-eds out of the way and then go to a graphic design school.



CareerTEC Students in the Community

Business Students

At the beginning of the school year, the business students set up and ran their own *CareerGEAR* business selling t-shirts and other items to promote the CareerTEC programs. The students named their business, came up with a mission statement, created advertising materials, sold items, collected money and then delivered the items. The students made a profit of \$350 from their business. In order to be socially responsible, the students decided to use part of those profits to help children from Freeport be able to participate in sports, to be active and healthy. So the business students decided to create two baskets for the Y's silent auction where



shopped for and even made their own items for the baskets. In total their donated items brought in close to \$300 for the Y's Strong Kids Campaign.

100% of the proceeds go directly to assist low income children be able to participate in activities at the Y. The students asked for donations,

HOYA Students

In December 2013, the HOYA students got together to serve the residents of the Freeport Housing Authority. The purpose was to give families a chance to have family portraits taken of them, free of charge. After the residents checked in and were waiting their turns, the students asked the ladies if they would like to have their make-up done for them. While doing their make-up the students would offer them small, casual compliments which surprised many of them but they were genuinely touched. The HOYA students also had little paper slips with complimentary sayings on them that could be given to the residents. One woman thanked the students very graciously for their admirable make-up skills. To thank her back one of the students picked a paper slip that seemed to fit her; the slip simply said, "You have a beautiful soul". When she read the slip she started to cry and tell the students how much that that meant



to her. They all ended up talking to her for a while about her life and theirs. Making a connection with that woman was very inspiring...to see what just a few words can do for someone.

After the make-up station, the families were directed to the picture area to have their portrait taken. When they were done with the picture, if they had kids, there were a couple tables full of donated toys for them to take one. The families were very grateful for the portraits, and the kids were grateful for the toys.

The stories some people told about their lives were amazing. For exam-

ple, there was a gentleman who was completely blind, but yet he was still going to school so he could get a job to support his family. His and his wife's story together was truly remarkable.

The students quickly learned from all the people they talked to that day that no matter what life situation they are in, having the right attitude will go a long way!

The business students also gave back to the community, helping at the Mall of Life for area 6th and 7th graders as well as at the 8th grade Career Fair at Highland, expanding horizons and opening new doors for area middle schoolers.

