

**LCJVS Board of Education Adult Career Center Report  
Chris Fletcher, Director**



October 2011

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**County-Wide Agricultural Advisory Breakfast**

On Friday, September 23, the JVS Adult Career Center hosted a county-wide Agricultural Advisory Breakfast. The purpose of the event was to gather the agricultural leaders in Lorain County to share ideas and gather feedback on the focus of continued agriculture education in the Lorain County JVS with high school and adult students. After a brief presentation by Laura Dowdell, organizer of the event, JVS staffers facilitated round-table discussions to learn what our guests perceived are the biggest training opportunities that we can provide to their business sector. The facilitators are now participating in team debriefings to organize next steps. The JVS believes it is time for agricultural education to return to the forefront of training and education. We'll have more information to share soon!

**Adult Career Center Has Second Highest Graduation Rate in Ohio**

A recent report by the organization, Complete College America, ranks the Lorain County JVS Adult Career Center as having the **second highest graduation rate at 85% in the state of Ohio**. Not only is that impressive among public 2-year colleges, but that also handily beats out 4-year institutions as well. Time and again, the data shows that for a strong economy, the skills gap must be closed. By 2020, even though 56% of jobs will require a career certificate or college degree, too few students make it through college. For too many students, the path through college ends with no degree—and often lots of debt. While we're making great progress in providing access to more students, for states to compete, their students must earn more degrees and certificates—and all credentials should provide clear pathways to higher success, which is a great focus for our organization.

At the Lorain County JVS Adult Career Center, we are using the formula of realistic pricing, relevant programming, rigorous instruction, and effective remediation to ensure our students succeed.

**Gainful Employment Disclosures**

The U.S. Department of Education published final regulations on October 29, 2010, requiring institutions that participate in the student financial assistance programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, to report certain information about students. These students are enrolled in Title IV eligible educational programs that lead to gainful employment in recognized occupations. These final regulations became effective on July 1, 2011.

Our staff has been gathering student information from the 2006 - 2007 to 2010 – 2011 school years. The end result of these reporting requirements will be the availability of valuable information to students, parents, and higher education officials. It will also provide stronger standards for Pell eligible programs that will promote better student outcomes.

## Adult Career Center Student Uses Training & Support Services to Advance Her Career



A few months ago, life was dealing Beverly Keathley some very bad cards. “I was unemployed...my husband wasn’t working much ... I was discouraged,” Keathley admitted. But today, you could say that she has life *wrapped* around her finger. That’s because Keathley took advantage of wrap-around services offered by the JVS Adult Career Center to help her complete a 9-month training course in Electronic Health Records while also preparing her to earn a Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certificate. The wrap-around services that Keathley took advantage of included tutoring, job seeking/resume writing workshops, and job

placement assistance.

Keathley, who graduated from Lorain High School in 1979, was searching for work and learned about the JVS program through Lorain County’s Employment netWork. “I always wanted to work in the medical field and this program sounded interesting,” said Keathley, who worked in customer service the past 20 years. “It was something new, something with a future.”

“Now I have a terrific resume, something I know will attract an employer’s attention,” said Keathley, 50, who graduated from the JVS in 2011 and is gainfully employed. “But I also sharpened my interviewing skills and learned to ‘dress for success.’” Even better, Keathley qualified for a grant that paid for her education and opened new doors to employment as a physician’s secretary assistant at The Center for Orthopedics in Sheffield, where she handles patient registration, checkout and data entry.

“I had no doubts about returning to school,” the Oberlin resident said. “It was convenient. I knew that I needed to update my skills. I was excited. I wanted to succeed. I had to. It was a matter of survival.” That included balancing her schedule and working part-time while attending class four days a week to complete the nine-month program. “I worked from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., and then headed to school, which began at 8am. I took a lot of cat naps,” Keathley laughed.

The Electronic Health Records Program is a great career option for those who want to join the healthcare industry but prefer no hands-on care. The program prepares individuals to work as a medical secretary, with the added value of experience working with Electronic Health Records. With a 2014 mandate for all medical offices to keep electronic records, these jobs are projected to be one of the fastest growing career paths by the Department of Labor.

As part of the Electronic Health Records curriculum, Keathley completed an internship in the records department at EMH Regional Medical Center, where she now also works part-time as a switchboard operator.

“I had my foot in the door thanks to the Adult Career Center and my teacher, Terri Brennan,” Keathley said. “It was so much more than just a business class. Terri is compassionate, concerned, down to earth; an amazing woman who really stressed the importance of good communication and accuracy.” “I know that I could work full-time if I wanted to, but I love what I’m doing and the flexibility and variety of both my part-time jobs,” she said. “I enjoy talking to people and I take pride in my work. And I know I would not have gotten these jobs without the wonderful support and assistance I received from the JVS Adult Career Center.”