

LCJVS Board of Education Report

By: Chris Fletcher, Director



September 2008

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- **Lorain County JVS Receives Donated Ambulance**

Instructor Meeting

The annual fall instructor meeting was held on August 28, 2008. Approximately forty new and experienced instructors attended the 3-hour meeting. Activity groups included topics on: Career Development, IT, Healthcare, Skilled Trades and Enrichment programs. Teachers received their ID badges, completed BCI/FBI background checks and completed teaching certificates. Chris Fletcher reviewed procedures from the instructor handbook. The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Lorain County Community Action Agency, Lorain

Diana Gott, Adult Career Center Program Developer, contracted with Lorain County Community Action Agency to coordinate a two-hour workshop on Professionalism in the Workplace. Frank Prihoda delivered the workshop that covered the following topics: People We Admire, What are Work Ethics, Respecting Each Other in the Workplace and Workplace Behavior.

The workshop was attended by 130 employees that included the administrative staff.

Parker Hannifin Corporation, Elyria

Part-time Program Developer, Frank Prihoda, is coordinating eight hours of training for the staff at Parker Hannifin from July through December. The topics include: Recognizing Job Stress, Elements of Proper Communication, Dealing with Difficult People, Teamwork and Key Elements of Customer Service. The individual sessions are offered in a classroom setting where discussion is encouraged and issues from specific work areas are addressed.

Lorain County JVS Receives Donated Ambulance For EMT Training Program

The South Lorain County Ambulance District (SLCAD) recently donated an ambulance to the Lorain County JVS Adult Career Center.

"The SLCAD Board made the decision to donate the retired vehicle to the JVS to help support the training in the Adult Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Program," stated Pat Wilkinson, Director of SLCAD.

"The SLCAD, an advanced life care service that covers 125 square miles in Southern Lorain County, has always been very supportive of our training initiatives," confirmed Marsha Leonard, JVS Safety Service Program Developer. "It regularly hires students from our Adult EMT program, and Pat Wilkinson serves on the EMT program's advisory committee, which advises us on matters of curriculum and equipment."

"The vehicle will be used for several purposes," continued Leonard. "Our state-mandated curriculum requires that students practice lifting and moving patients into and out of an ambulance."

"The vehicle is also equipped with a stair chair, so students will practice transporting patients up and down stairs using this equipment," continued Leonard. "Additionally, since the ambulance is fully functional, students will also practice placing a patient on a backboard and driving. Safe driving practices are an important part of the EMT curriculum."

"This donation is very much appreciated and replaces a training ambulance that wasn't functional," affirmed Leonard. "It will greatly improve the learning opportunities for students in the Adult Career Center's EMT Program."



From left: Bill Spicer (SLCAD Board Member), Pat Wilkinson, Marsha Leonard, Chris Fletcher (Adult Director), John Nolan (JVS Assistant Superintendent).

Adult Student Overcomes Obstacles and Begins Healthcare Career at the Adult Career Center

September 5, 2008 -- Julie Gaspari walked through the doors of the Lorain County JVS Adult Career Center during the summer of 2007 with the goal of earning her GED. By the time she left the JVS, she had accomplished this goal and so much more.

"One of the best things about the JVS Adult Career Center is that it offers programs for people who are at different stages in their lives," said Gaspari, who dropped out of high school when she was 16 years old.

"I wanted to earn my GED to be an example for my children," she said. "I wanted to show them that getting an education is important, no matter what your age."

"But taking those initial steps to resume my education was challenging because I had been out of school for so long," continued Gaspari, who is 33 years old.

"In truth, I probably wouldn't have done it if I hadn't received so much support from the JVS teachers who helped me every step of the way."

After successfully passing her GED exam, it didn't take Gaspari long to realize that she wanted to explore additional training options that would help her get the skills she needed to start a career. After talking with a career counselor, she decided to enroll in the Adult Career Center's Medical Assisting Program.

"Being a mother of three, I was a little hesitant about committing to a full-time program that met 4 days a week and lasted for 9 months," stated Gaspari. "But my instructor, Nancy Smith, helped me stay focused on my future while juggling my classwork and family obligations."

"When she first started the Medical Assisting Program, Julie was worried that she might not be able to get through the difficult course content that is drawn from an in-depth analysis of general, clinical and administrative tasks that medical assistants perform on a daily basis," Smith said.

"But in reality, she excelled at the administrative training, including medical records management, billing and coding," continued Smith.

All of the Adult Career Center's full-time programs have an internship component built into the curriculum. Gaspari, of Sullivan, completed her internship at Akron Children's Hospital, where she worked in the neurology and pediatrics departments. During her internship she performed a variety of tasks ranging from blood pressure checks to immunizations.

"I was nervous about using needles when I first started my training; especially the



Julie Gaspari, on the job, at Akron Children's Physician Associates

thought of giving shots to babies," said Gaspari. "This is where my JVS training really helped. Knowing that immunizations keep children from contacting potentially fatal diseases helped me conquer my fears."

Gaspari's internship led to a full-time position at Akron Children's Hospital Physician Associates, in Wooster, where she currently works.

"Julie demonstrated knowledge and commitment to the medical assistant profession by passing the CMA (AAMA) Certification Exam," Smith said. "The preparation and cost of the exam is included as a part of the Medical Assisting Program."

"Like other professional designations, the CMA (AAMA) is evidence of competence in a demanding field... it will afford Julie broader career advancement opportunities and enhanced job security."

Gaspari plans to take advantage of these opportunities and continue her education at Lorain County Community College to become a nurse or surgical assistant.

"Without the JVS, I'd probably be working a low-paying job with no chance for a better job," said Gaspari. "The training and support I received at the JVS Adult Career Center helped me get to a point in my life where I have educational options and a great career in my future."