

PSCA Career Education and Development: Look to the Future

Anne S. Morris, Chairperson

PSCA Career Development: Serving School Counselors ... A Needs Assessment

Among the goals of the Career Education and Development Committee is to provide quality service to the PSCA membership and to enhance our presence on the PSCA website. (www.pscaweb.org) In order to accomplish these goals, we need your valuable opinions. We invite you to respond to the following.

1. Please suggest topics for future CED articles in the *Pennsylvania Counselor*.
2. Please suggest features for inclusion on the Career Development website.
3. Please suggest services which would be helpful to you in your work as a school counselor.
4. Please suggest resources which would be helpful to you in your work as a school counselor.
5. Would you be willing to be a part of an On-line Committee (Think Tank) to support this process? Please include your name, school district, school, and email address in your response.

Please feel free to respond in the format which is most convenient for you – email, fax, or traditional mail. Anne S. Morris, Chairperson - PSCA Career Education and Development Committee, 1522 Fox Run Drive, Coatesville, PA 19320, E-Mail: annemorris@aol.com, FAX: (610) 384-4442.

Counselors Helping Counselors - New Website Feature Planned!

If you have not yet shared information with us regarding strategies for career and educational development in your district, we would love to hear from you! Please share a project or activity that works especially well for you. And ... please don't overlook the wonderful transition activities taking place via IDEA legislation.

To share information, we would appreciate it if you would provide a paragraph or two describing your favorite strategy, the name and location of your school, grade-level served, your name and title and the names of colleagues if you like, and a sentence or so about the community you serve. A photograph would be super as well – if you could send it digitally – wonderful! (If you send a photograph including students, please be sure that you have parental permission for us to post the photograph!) We will include your ideas on the PSCA Career Education Website – this will be a *new feature* which we believe will benefit many counselors across the Commonwealth. A few overviews will be selected for inclusion in a future issue of the *Pennsylvania Counselor*. Remember, what is “old” to you may well be “new” to another counselor and just the thing to generate the enthusiasm and excitement necessary to implement a wonderful new initiative for students. Email: annemorris@aol.com. Snail mail: Anne Morris, Transition Coordinator, Secondary Counselor, Great Valley School District, 255 N. Phoenixville Pike, Malvern, PA 19355. Thanks for your consideration!

Pennsylvania CareerLink – Serving The Workforce



We are pleased to announce that PA CareerLink is partnering with PSCA to provide resources to school counselors. Individuals who attend the 47th Annual PSCA Conference, in State College will be among the first recipients of this partnership. A special thanks to Carol E. Thornton, Marketing Officer for Team Pennsylvania CareerLink for her vision and support. An over-view of CareerLink background and services follows. Please do not hesitate to contact the career link office in your area they may be very helpful providing resources for you and your students.

Career Development Strategy: *In the Great Valley School District, PA CareerLink staff annually provides a series of workshops for transition-age students (Grades 7,9, and 11) on accessing services and information on the Career-Link website. The workshops were conducted in the school's computer labs providing a "hands-on" experience for students.*

“Team Pennsylvania CareerLink (PA CareerLink) was created as a result of the Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998. Its mission is to achieve the goal of consolidating, coordinating and improving employment, training, literacy and vocational rehabilitation programs in the United States. As the result, the WIA created state and local one-stop systems where services such as training, education, and employment programs are delivered “under one roof” – a simplified system. The goal was also to localize efforts as much as possible, while still maintaining a strict set of guidelines at the federal and state level for quality control.

The one-stop system has become a collaborative effort between several federal agencies, state affiliates and local community and non-profit organizations that carry out the legislation. In Pennsylvania, the Department of Labor and Industry and the Team Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board lead the one-stop effort called PA CareerLink. A local board, as designated by the WIA, governs each local PA CareerLink system, which works collaboratively with Pa CareerLink partners including; adult education programs, and welfare-to-work advocates among others.

Job Seeker Services

- On line and in-person access to PA CareerLink services
- Skill assessment and aptitude testing
- Resume building and interview skills
- Career counseling and planning

- Job search and placement assistance
- Occupational skills training
- Pre-vocational services
- Financial aid information

Employer Services

- Online and in-person access to PA CareerLink Services
- Orientation to PA CareerLink system
- Free and unlimited job positing
- Pre-screening of applicants
- Coordinated job fairs
- On-site recruitment

Pennsylvania CareerLink ... Fast Facts

- PA CareerLink is different from other career services websites in that it is an Internet-based system of recruitment and retraining services for employers and job seekers, supported by a network of professionally staffed offices across Pennsylvania.
- The goal of PA CareerLink is to address critical labor and skills shortages by offering market-driven services to employers, job seekers, and other participants in the Pennsylvania economy.
- PA CareerLink matches skilled Pennsylvanians with employers looking to fill jobs within the state.
- The PA CareerLink website attracts over 180,000 unique visits each month and features an average of 16,000 active job orders and over 575,000 active resume postings.
- To date over 470,000 Pennsylvanians have found jobs through PA CareerLink.
- All PA CareerLink services are free to job seekers and employers.

Today, there are over 75 professionally staffed centers throughout the state. In addition, Team Pennsylvania CareerLink services are also available online at www.pacareerlink.state.pa.us or by visiting the PA PowerPort at www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: jobs.”

Source: *Pennsylvania CareerLink Digital Press Kit*, Barry Ciccocioppo, Press Secretary, Department of Labor and Industry. December 2002.

National Career Development Conference Planned

The National Career Development Association (NCDA) has announced the 2003 Career Development Across the Lifespan Conference (formerly National Career Development Conference). The conference will be held at the Westin Westminster Hotel in Denver, Colorado, June 25-28, 2003. NCDA expects over 800 professionals to attend this, the premiere conference for career development professionals across all areas of career development and in all settings. Conference information will be updated periodically on the NCDA website www.ncda.org.