

Career Development Committee Assesses Goals and Objectives

Anne S. Morris, Chairperson

In keeping with the mission of the Pennsylvania School Counselors Association, to promote excellence in professional school counseling, the mission of the Career Education and Development Committee is to encourage the development of and to promote excellence in the implementation of K-12 career education programs throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Our objectives for the 2003-04 are: To Analyze the Results of the Career Development Committee Needs Assessment; to Design and Implement Programming Addressing Current Membership Needs; to Update PSCA Career Development Website; to Support / Develop PSCA Career Development Partnerships; and to continue to improve the Career Development Awards Program.

Many thanks to our on-line committee members including: PSCA Officers and Governing Board, Trish Fisher, PSCA Governing Board; Patti Deutsch, PSCA Governing Board; Jay D. Cannon, State Administrator, Career Counseling, Bureau of Career and Technical Education; Dr. Peter Warchal, Exeter SD / Millersville University; Melissa Ostrowski, Penn Manor High School; and Lori Casanova, Conestoga Valley SD who have agreed to assist us in meeting our goals and objectives.

Counselors Helping Counselors ...Career Spotlight: Dallastown Area Middle School

We are always delighted to highlight the programs developed by the PSCA membership. This month the spotlight is on Dallastown Area Middle School. We extend our appreciation to school counselor Pat Walker, for sharing information on Dallastown's Pathways Career Fair. Pat writes, "We do a variety of career related activities here, but the Pathways Career Fair is the crown jewel. In January, just before the 8th graders do their 9th grade scheduling, we hold a week long career fair to

help them in their HS Pathway selection. Keep in mind that up to this point we have done activities such as COPS, CHOICES, career lessons, and have talked about the Pathways.

The high school has 5 Pathways: Business and Marketing; Communications and Humanities; Human Services; Industrial and Engineering Technology; and Science and Technology. In their scheduling, students must select one Pathway. For one week in late January, each morning, we feature a Pathway. We invite 10 speakers from the community to come and give a 3 minute overview of their job including training, job requirements and conditions, salary, outlook, etc. Then the speakers move on to a display which they set-up beforehand. The students follow, and are assigned to visit the 2 or 3 most appealing speakers to them for further questions and to look at what the speaker brought to share. The speakers bring along a lot of hand outs, tools, and neat “hands on” materials for the kids to see and touch. Each session is 42 minutes long and we have a team come each period for a total of 4 periods during which the presenters speak. A team is comprised of about 110 students at a time in the auditorium. The display tables are set up on the stage and in the lobby area. After a week, students have heard 50 careers from blue to white to gold collar to fit everyone's needs. Each day we have a variety of jobs represented in each Pathway from HS prep to college prep to keep everyone interested. We have huge permanent canvas banners for each Pathway which we hang daily, do announcements, offer refreshments, and provide a token gift to the speakers. Parents are invited as well.

Over the 30 years I have been a counselor, we have tried numerous ideas to have students experience careers first hand and this one is the best especially considering our large population of over 400 per grade. We get a lot of compliments from students, teachers, parents, and the speakers. We have done this for 3 years and have many repeat speakers so that tells me that they like the process and feel it is beneficial.”

For more information on the Dallastown program, please contact Pat at (717)244-4021 Ext. 2532.

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. We will highlight the natural connections between career development programming and the transition process in a future issue of the *PA Counselor*.

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*. 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!

THE PSCA 2004 Career Education and Development Awards

Calling All Counselors ... The 2004 application deadline for the 2004 PSCA Career Education and Development Awards and the 2005 Kenneth B. Hoyt Exemplary Career Guidance Program award is quickly approaching. In fact, the deadline is December 15, 2003. Don't miss this opportunity to have your program receive state-wide recognition. For more information and specific award criteria,

please contact: Anne S. Morris, Chairperson - PSCA Career Education and Development Committee,
1522 Fox Run Drive, Coatesville, PA 19320 H: (610) 384-3805 / W: (610) 644-6662 Ext 1139 E-
Mail Work: amorris@gvgsd.org / E-Mail Home: annemorris@aol.com.

PSCA Career Development: Serving School Counselors

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 ideas and opinions. Thanks to all PSCA members who have already responded. We want to be sure that everyone has the opportunity to share their ideas. Therefore, for a final time ... we invite you to consider responding 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.