

# **CAREER EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT: LOOK TO THE FUTURE**

Anne S. Morris, Chairperson

PSCA Career Education and Development Committee

With each issue we have enjoyed highlighting Pennsylvania's career development programs and projects. This time we will stray from our usual school-based initiatives to celebrate the work of Chester and Montgomery Counties and their "Educator in the Workplace" project. We are pleased to share an overview of the 2001 Chester County program.

"Educator in the Workplace is a highly successful educator summer internship project that links school-based and work-based learning. This program is designed to provide educators with workplace experience in order to build new partnerships and to become more effective as educators in addressing Chester County's workforce needs."

"These objectives are accomplished when educators experience firsthand the needs of business in the workplace and business leaders participate in schools to share their expertise. The collaboration brings into sharper focus how classroom learning is applied in the world of work. Educators gain a better understanding of how to relate "real world" experiences in the classroom and provide their students with this information per current business and industry standards."

Among the outcomes of the Educator in the Workplace program in Chester and Montgomery counties is a compilation of multi-level lesson plans developed by the educators who participated in the summer program. The lesson plans are compiled, then bound and published to become an incredible resource for not only program participants, but other educators and counselors who are interested in implementing career development programs and partnerships. For more information on the Chester County Educator in the

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Workplace initiative, you may contact Dawn Dietrich at the Chester County Intermediate Unit, Exton, Pennsylvania (610) 524-5190 or access the CCIU website (cciu.org). Information on the Montgomery County initiative may be obtained through the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, Norristown, Pennsylvania (610) 539-8550.

Our resource for the month is *Driving the Change* a newsletter published to keep folks informed of the most recent developments in the implementation of the Team Pennsylvania CareerLink system, workforce development, and economic development in the Commonwealth. For example, the lead article in the January 29, 2002 issue discusses the Pennsylvania Virtual Internship and Job Fair. “The Pennsylvania *Virtual Internship and Job Fair* is a free, online event and is part of the Commonwealth’s high-profile “Stay Invent the Future” initiative which aims to attract and retain young people. Participation is open exclusively to Pennsylvania employers and to intern and job candidates from inside and outside the state. To find out more about the “Stay Invent the Future” initiative and to register for the Pennsylvania *Virtual Internship and Job Fair*, visit [www.StayInventPA.com](http://www.StayInventPA.com). To subscribe to an online copy of *Driving the Change*, contact Janice Beckfield (jbeckfield@state.pa.us).

The PSCA Career Education and Development committee looks forward to highlighting career-related programs from schools throughout the commonwealth, in future issues of *The Pennsylvania Counselor* and to providing the PSCA membership with resources of value to school counselors. In order to accomplish our goals, we need to hear from YOU! Please share your successes, ideas and resources. Your ideas may be just what someone else is looking for, or they may be expanded to create an idea for a wonderful new initiative. Thank you for your participation in helping the students of Pennsylvania ... Look To the Future!

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