

CAREER EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT: LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Anne S. Morris, Chairperson

PSCA Career Education and Development Committee

In this issue of the *Pennsylvania Counselor* we are delighted to announce plans for the fourth annual PSCA Career Education and Development Awards Project designed to recognize exemplary elementary, middle, and high school programs. It is the intent of this project to not only highlight the efforts of Pennsylvania school counselors and their work to promote career education and development programs, but to also motivate all Pennsylvania counselors to development comprehensive, career education programs for students within their school districts. Look for the CED award application in this article of the *Pennsylvania Counselor*, or check out the PSCA Career Education and Development site on the PSCA website.

Also in this issue, you will also notice information on the application process for ASCA's Planning For Life Program. At the heart of PFL are the National Career Development Standards, which serve to form the basis of outstanding career education and development programs – both large and small. We are so very proud that our 2001 Pennsylvania PFL winner, Stroudsburg Area School District, went on to become the *NATIONAL* award winner! As Pennsylvania's PFL state facilitator, it was our honor to travel to Portland, Oregon, in support of Stroudsburg's own Charlotte Kresge, as she received the PFL national award. Charlotte is truly the driving force behind the District's incredible career development program.

The 2002 award winners of the PSCA Career Education and Development Award and our 2001 Pennsylvania PFL winners will be recognized during the Annual Business Luncheon at the PSCA Conference planned for April 2002 in Lancaster. Will your program be among those recognized? Don't delay; begin work on your application today!

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PA COUNSELORS ...LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Over the years, we have enjoyed highlighting Pennsylvania's career development programs and projects. This month, we recognize Chester County ITAG and the partnering sponsors of TechiesDay 2001. This is an outstanding example of collaboration among corporate and educational partners. Excerpts from an ITAG press release say it all!

The Chester County Information Technology Action Group (ITAG), a group facilitated by the Development Council, conducted its third annual TechiesDay program on October 3, 2001. TechiesDay created a forum for local high school students to travel to corporate host sites to learn more about technology companies and technology careers. Public and private schools sent a combined 200 students to host sites. This year's sites included Bentley Systems, CB Technologies, CTDI (Communications Test Design, Inc.), Delaware County Community College, IBM, iMedium, Microsoft, SCT (Systems & Computer Technology), Siemens Medical Solutions, and West Chester University – Business Technology Center.

The ultimate goal of the TechiesDay initiative is to increase the number of students pursuing technology careers. Recent downsizing and cutbacks have eased some of the short-term workforce needs, however, long-term forecasts continue to predict dire shortages of technology workers.

Through TechiesDay and other ITAG initiatives, the local business community is partnering to address those long-term workforce needs. In addition to the ten host sites, several other sponsors have enabled ITAG to provide lunches, t-shirts, web-design classes, and software prizes to students participating in Techies Day. Those sponsors include SunGard, Chester County Intermediate Unit, Delaware Valley Industrial Resource Center, Clemens' Markets, Genuardi's Markets, Microsoft, Springhouse Compute School, and Wawa.

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Since the inaugural events in 1999, TechiesDay in Chester County has evolved into a “best-practice” career awareness model. The 2000 TechiesDay was selected to TechieTeam 2000, a collection of the nation’s best technology career awareness programs.

For more information on ITAG or Techies Day, contact Mike Grigolonis at the Development Council, P.O. Box 959, 411 Eagleview Blvd., Suite 110, Exton, Pennsylvania 19341 or www.ChesterCountyIT.org

FINAL THOUGHTS...

As always, the CED committee looks forward to highlighting the career-related programs of 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 “old” idea may be just what someone else is looking for, or it may be the spark plug that creates an idea for a wonderful new initiative for another. Thank you for your participation in helping the students of Pennsylvania ... Look To the Future!

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