



NEWS

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From the director's desk

Julie-Ann Fuchs

What a wonderful fall semester we have had at VALEES. All of our program committee meetings have been busy and very productive. I want to thank our program chairs for providing the leadership for these important meetings, and our instructors for taking time out of their classrooms. It is my belief that your students will benefit from the time you have invested on their behalf.

To date, each committee has reviewed their curriculum and articulation agreements with the participating community colleges, planned a

professional development activity, and prepared for the Business Advisory meeting scheduled for February 18, 2005.

As you may have heard, this fall has brought one personnel change in the VALEES office. Our part-time office assistant, Beth Kaetzer, who was responsible for the ISIS reporting, left at the end of November. She accepted a full-time position, and we wish her success at her new job. We are pleased to announce that Laura Somerlot will join us in January to fill this position.

In this issue you will find

information on a number of activities that involved our Career and Technical Education students. Some of the scheduled events were: Technology Careers for Women, the 2004 Kendall County Transition Fair, a Culinary Arts competition, an Accounting presentation, and a visit by a U.S. Army NHRA Top Fuel dragster to our Automotive students.

In closing, I hope that you had an enjoyable holiday break, and as we begin the new year, are looking forward to the exciting activities we have planned for the 2005 spring semester.

Academic and Careers Connection

People ask why we need to be talking about careers in the elementary school and middle school...

The reason we explore careers at these young ages is to help establish "development of purpose." If a child sees the connection between school and career, then being in school becomes important and relevant. There have been many research studies proving that if an at-risk child discovers that a meaningful career is

within the realm of possibility, the behavior problems disappear.

Talk to your child about what their aspirations and dreams are. Even if these ideas seem silly or out of reach, listen and encourage. By the time they get to high school, their level of career maturity (the ability to make logical career choices...) will be...more developed.

...Your child has his or her own unique personality and interest. Work with them to

help them know...what is available to them in the world of work...

Nobody has more influence over children than parents. NOBODY—not even television or peers. The more you dialogue with your child, the more success you will see. Start young; as ridiculous as it sounds—IT WORKS!*

*Excerpts from, *Development of Purpose: The Connection Between Academics and Careers*, by Career counselor, Jane Harris, Geneva H.S.

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VALEES School Districts Number & Name

1.....	Leland
2.....	Serena
9.....	Earlville
18.....	Newark
88.....	Plano
101.....	Batavia
115.....	Yorkville
129.....	West Aurora
131.....	East Aurora
272.....	Lee Center/Paw Paw
302.....	Kaneland
304.....	Geneva
308.....	Oswego
425.....	Indian Creek
429.....	Hinckley-Big Rock
430.....	Sandwich
432.....	Somonauk

Fox Valley Career Center
Indian Valley Vocational Center
Kendall County Special Ed Coop.
Waubensee Community College

Kendall County Transition Fair Report

On November 13, 2004, fifty people from the community participated in the Kendall County Transition Fair at Yorkville High School. The Fair was sponsored by the Kendall County Special Education Cooperative (KCSEC) and VALEES. This was the second annual event for parents, family members, and school personnel that addressed the needs of students with disabilities. The 25 agencies involved in the fair represented services available to challenged students; these included sheltered employment, group homes, community college, special recreation, financial planning, respite services, vocational rehabilitation, computer training, adaptive clothing, and therapy dogs. The number of exhibitors and the diversity of services resulted in an increase over last year's fair.

In addition to the exhibits, two presentations were offered. The *Ehlert Group* talked about financial and life planning for the disabled, and covered topics, such as, housing, guardians, employment, as well as medical and recreational activities. *The Life Span Project*, a statewide information advocacy co-

ordination system for people with developmental disabilities, provided the second presentation. Both sessions were well attended and the evaluations were excellent.

This year, graduates from KCSEC programs who are now attending college or vocational training were also a part of the program. The students represented a range of disabilities from moderate to severe. Parents in attendance commented,

"It was nice to see the students being successful after leaving high school."



Auto Tech students visited by pro driver

September 30, 2004 was an exciting day for students and staff in the Automotive Technology department at Waubensee Community College. The department hosted Mr. Tony Schumacher, driver of the U.S. Army NHRA Top Fuel dragster. Mr. Schumacher brought the unique dragster for display,

answered questions, and signed autographs.



At the conclusion of the presentation, the Automotive students were invited to attend Route 66 Raceway in Joliet on Friday, October 1.

3rd Annual CTE: Building partnerships for America's future

All Career and Technical Educators (CTE) are invited to attend an all day in-service, *Building Partnerships for America's Future*, on February 18, 2005 from 7:30 am—2:00 p.m. at Waubensee Community College (WCC). This event is sponsored by VALEES and WCC. It will feature keynote speakers, break-out sessions, and business advisory meetings with representatives from business and industry. Be sure to register after January 5, 2005 at www.valees.org.

Career Day 2005

Chad Foster will be the keynote speaker at the 2005 Career Day on March 17, 2005 from 9:00 am—noon. This event, sponsored by Waubensee Community College and VALEES, will focus on *Preparing Teenagers for the Real World*. Registration will begin in February, through the VALEES office.

Articulation update

For 2004-05 note the articulation changes for Graphics Communications and Construction. Check with VALEES for specifics. Last year, 1,846 college hours were requested by 362 students; 318 requests were granted for 1,355 hours. Yorkville High School submitted the largest number of requests for the second year in a row, and Newark had the highest percentage of increase. The Marketing Committee won this year's award for the highest percentage of increase in requests.

Leland faculty present at 2004 IASB Conference

District #1's Superintendent, Laurel Walker; Grant Coordinator, Mary Jane Chapman; and Guidance Counselor, Eve Johnson presented at the IASB-IASA-IASBO conference at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago on November 19, 2004. Their topic, *School Wide Career Day—Students Explore the Real World*, shared ways to conduct a successful school-wide Career Day for underclassmen.

Technology Careers for Women is a Big Hit

Forty-six young women from area high schools attended the November 19 program, *Technology Careers for Women*, at Waubensee Community College. The event, sponsored by Fox Valley Career Center and VALEES, and coordinated by Anna Schwein of FVCC, provided insight about the expanding opportunities for women in technology-based careers.

The women had an opportunity to work with five different hands-on experiences, such as, upgrading RAM on a PC motherboard, working with a web cam, testing network cables, and using a database interface to print information about the date they were born.

Suzette Long, associate dean of Business and Technology at Waubensee, spoke to the group about educational opportunities at Waubensee in the areas of business and technology. She provided certificate and degree information in Programming, Web Development, Office Automation, Networking, Information Management, and Computer-aided Design.

Laurie Petrick, a partner at Eagle Engraving in St. Charles, explained how her career was propelled by the technology skills she learned by taking classes at Waubensee. Ms. Petrick earned her degree in Business Management at the University of Wisconsin, but realized she needed more technical knowledge after her employment situation changed. She landed an unpaid internship at a one-man company—Eagle Engraving. Due in large part to her technical knowledge, Ms. Petrick earned a partnership position with that firm, which now employs 12 people. Eagle is now purchasing its second storefront in St. Charles, after having moved out of a basement office about one year ago.

Ms. Petrick also explained how a well-rounded skill set in technology can allow women to have more flexibility in their job choices. This is important as many working moms wish to work at home, either full- or part-time, and have flexibility in scheduling in order to attend school functions with their children.

Judy Bosko, director of Operations for Sysmex, spoke about the importance of PIE (performance, image, and exposure), in career advancement. She explained that performance is expected as a condition of employment, but that a positive image and corporate exposure to the right people are most important when trying to advance in any career.

VALEES purchased the book, *Technology Careers for Women*, for each of the participants. This book and many other items were given out as part of a take-away gift for attending. In addition, Dell donated a four-in-one printer/fax/scanner/copier to the woman who had the closest guess regarding the amount of memory in the computer used to land the first men on the moon. The door prizes donated by Waubensee and VALEES included clothing imprinted with Waubensee's logo, Best Buy gift certificates, and flash drives.



Culinary Competition at Oswego High School

On Friday, October 22, five culinary students from Oswego High School competed in the annual Illinois ProStart Student Invitational. This competition was sponsored by the Educational Foundation of the Illinois Restaurant Association and was hosted by Robert Morris College.

The five competitors, Bob Belanski, Mike Hochstetler, Samantha Lorenz, Mary Lukowski and Dan Solomon trained for several weeks before the competition under the direction of their Restaurant Management teacher, Dan Okoren and their two chef mentors from Joliet Junior College, Cheryl Aakeberg and Jenny Manola (two former OHS graduates). Their hard work paid off. The team took first

place in the culinary competition and will represent the state of Illinois in that area at the National ProStart Competition held in Orlando, Florida in April 2005.

This is a huge honor for the students and the Culinary program at Oswego High School.





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The Valley Education for Employment System ensures equal educational opportunities are offered to all students regardless of race, color, national origin, age, gender, religion, or handicap.

2005 VALEES Calendar

January

- 11..... Student Services —8:30-10:30 am, Delnor Hospital
- 27..... Steering Committee—11:30 am -2:30 pm, Oswego HS
- 28..... ISIS all WBL and Special Pops Codes due to VALEES
- 31-2/2 Madison Careers Conference—Madison Wisconsin

February

- 15..... Coordinating Council—8:30 am, Bodie 220
- 18..... All day inservice—8:00 am-2:00 pm, Bodie 147
- 18..... ISIS 2nd Semester enrollments due to VALEES

March

- 9, 10..... Connections Conference, Pheasant Run, St. Charles
- 16..... CAD Committee—12:00-2:30 pm, Bldg. A-129
- 17..... Career Day—9:00 am-12:00 pm, WCC
- 18..... FY 06 Course/Program changes due to VALEES
- 23..... Ag/Hort Committee—4:00-6:00 pm, Bldg. A-129
- 25..... ISIS Preliminary Claims, Enrollment Summary, and Funding Factor report changes due to VALEES

April

- 6..... Computer Tech Committee—1:00-3:00 pm, Bldg. A-129
- 13..... Business Competition Day—WCC
- 13..... Business & Tech, Marketing, Accounting Comm.—WCC
- 14... Steering Committee—11:30 am-2:30 pm, West Aurora HS
- 20..... Early Childhood—12:00-3:00 pm, FVCC
- 21..... Student Services—8:30-10:30 am, Bldg. A-129
- 25. Graphics Student of the Year Mtg—4:00-7:00 pm, Bodie 147
- 26..... Coordinating Council—8:30 am, Bodie 220

May

- 5..... Committee Chairs 12:00-3:00 pm, Bodie 147

Please submit items of interest to VALEES for future issues.

We're on the Web!
www.valees.org

2005 Grad Class for EFE-ETC Development

This past fall, 30 educators (15 from VALEES and 15 from Northern Kane) completed the EFE-ETC graduate class, collaboratively sponsored by Kane County ROE #31, Northern Kane EFE, VALEES EFE, and the Illinois School Counselors' Academy. Due to ongoing interest and need, CAHC 590, a *Workshop in Counseling: Emphasizing Student Academic Success by Integrating Career Development Across the K-12 Curriculum*, will be repeated in spring 2005.

This course is designed to raise awareness about career development and its integration into the curriculum. Participants will design a project to be implemented at their school or in their classroom. An assessment will also be required to determine how the project increased student awareness, motivation, academic success, and planning.

Participants may expect to increase their over-all knowledge about career and technical education programs, career

specialists, post-secondary planning, and resources for career information. The course will also include exploration of the use of field trips, classroom career assignments, career cruising, internships, and job shadowing, as well as nontraditional career options.

Register now, if you are an educator interested in developing the means to meet career development learning standards. Class size is limited to a total of 60 participants (30 VALEES EFE and 30 Northern Kane EFE). The course will meet in the evening at Riverside Receptions, 35 North River Lane in Geneva.

Online Registrations only at: www.kaneroe.org. *Step 1:* Go to: Workshop Registration; *Step 2:* Register for correct section—VALEES EFES register under CAHC 590-valees, Northern Kane EFES register under CAHC 590-nk.

Note: Participants must attend all classes, staying for entire period. One absence for illness is allowed.