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PA CAREERLINK®...LINKING U TO THE FUTURE!

Youth Services Newsletter

2010 PA Health Careers Week—Berks County Student Health Care Heroes!

By Glenda Lopez-Rodriguez

INSIDE THE ISSUE:

- 2010 Berks County Student Health Care Heroes
- LSTA Grant (Library Services Technology Act)
- Scholarship Opportunity!
- Summer Jobs for Young Adults 2010
- Imagine Getting Paid To Be A Summer Learner!
- Teen Mentoring-Goodwill Goodguides



Kari Adams



Joeleinid Negron

Have you ever wanted to become a hero in your community? Isn't it great to be recognized for doing something that you really enjoy doing and that you already work or volunteer for? If this sounds appealing to you, wait till you hear what happens next. The Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers, together with the Berks County Workforce Investment Board and your local PA CareerLink®, give you the opportunity to become a hero. Every year, during the month of November, Governor Edward G. Rendell and the Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers designate a week as Health Careers Week. This year, Pennsylvania celebrated its 8th annual Health Careers Week on **November 8-12, 2010**. All Berks County high schools and some of the health care facilities were asked to participate. If you

missed your chance to participate this year, do not panic!! There's always an opportunity to participate next year. But you may be asking yourself why we do Health Careers Week? The answer is simple. Pennsylvania needs quality health care professionals to provide care for our fast-growing aging population. Pennsylvania is looking for smart, energetic young people to enter the health care field and help us meet this challenge. Nationally, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of jobs in the health care field has increased for 125 continuous months.

Among the highlights of Health Careers Week are the Student Health Care Hero Awards, honoring dynamic students in grades 9-12 who are contributing to the health care

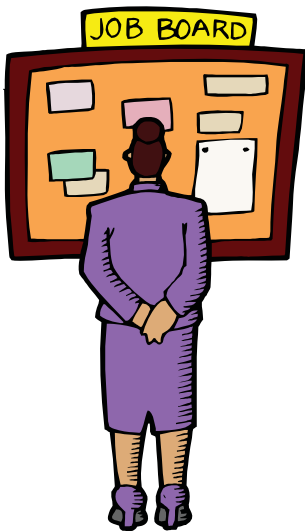
2010 PA Health Careers Week—Berks County Student Health Care Heroes!

From page 1

field through volunteer service or paid part-time work in a health care setting. This is where you get a chance to be nominated for an award. Nominations can be made by either a teacher or an employer, and you can even nominate yourself. This year, Berks County selected three local winners from the nominations submitted. These students were nominated for their hard work, dedication, high goals and accomplishments in the health care field. The first place winner was Kari Adams, a student from Berks Career & Technology Center West Campus. Kari was nominated by her Health Occupations Teacher Karen Holcombe. Kari is currently a senior in high school and wishes to

become a Pediatric Oncology Nurse. The second place award went to Ashlyn Horrex, a senior at Twin Valley High School, nominated by her Career Counselor, Karen Alig. Ashlyn aspires to pursue a career as a Speech-Language Pathologist. The third place winner was Joeleinid Negron, a dedicated student at Reading Muhlenberg Career & Technology Center. Joelinid, currently a Junior in high school, was nominated by her Health Occupations Instructor, Norma Tamayo. Joelinid wishes to pursue a career as a Registered Nurse. Read more on their stories at www.bccl.org (Youth Services- 2010 Student Health Care Heroes).

LSTA Grant (Library Services Technology Act) By Ashley Membreño



Need help writing a resume or searching for a job? Well, look no further! For this year, 2010, four libraries in the Berks County area have received a LSTA (Library Services Technology Act) grant in the amount of \$41,000. The Reading Public Library, Boone Area Library, Mifflin Community Library, and Womelsdorf Library have partnered with the PA CareerLink®

office to use the LSTA grant to expand community access to the CareerLink® services and to offer career-related guidance at various libraries around the county. According to the Berks County Public Libraries special services department, “This project will address a serious workforce development need by providing additional opportunities for citizens to use CareerLink® resources during evening and weekend hours when the CareerLink® center is

closed.”

By partnering with the Berks County CareerLink®, library staff were able to receive necessary training to help library patrons become familiar with the on-line Commonwealth Workforce Development System (www.cwds.state.pa.us). In addition to training library staff on how to assist job-seekers, the Berks County office also provided Youth Binders to all the library branches. These binders were compiled from various sources throughout Reading and Berks County as a source of information for the youth in the community.

Statistics show that roughly 35% of residents in the city of Reading live below poverty level. For this reason, the Reading Public Library has developed a specialized program from this

Continues on page 3



Scholarship Opportunity! By Glenda Lopez-Rodriguez

Check out this great scholarship opportunity through Junior Achievement. Junior Achievement of Greater Reading and Lehigh Valley is offering *Dale Carnegie Generation Next Leadership Course Scholarships*. Classes start January 2011 where *nine (9) Saturday A.M. sessions are to be held on a local college campus*. The *Dale Carnegie Generation Next Leadership Course* is designed to be a window into the real-world, as well as help students reach their full potential. This opportunity will be great for your students to: *Develop public speaking skills, Increase interpersonal skills, Increase self-esteem and self-confidence, Complete JA Success Skills Program, List on their college applications or job resume*. Students in grades nine through twelve are eligible to receive this award. Thirty scholarships are available in Greater Reading and Thirty in the Lehigh Valley, all sponsored by Dale Carnegie Leadership Institute. There is no cost to the student. Participation in this program is appealing to both colleges and employers. For more information about this great opportunity, check out the Junior Achievement website at www.juniorachievementreadinglehigh.org/

Summer Jobs for Young Adults 2010



By Rocio Damato

Arbor E&T, LLC's Berks County Teen Works employed approximately 500 kids employed this past summer. The employment initiative was funded by the state and

federal governments to provide summer jobs to low-income 16 to 24 year olds individuals. The worksites were both public and private companies, such as the City of Reading, Olivet's Boys and Girls Club, and Goodwill Industries. The jobs ranged from working at the parks department to administrative work. The program included a one week orientation where the youth learned about work readiness and were matched to job sites based on talents and geography to ensure their success. They worked between 25 through 32 hours a week at minimum wage. For updates keep posted at www.bccl.org.

LSTA Grant (Library Services Technology Act) From page 2

grant, to focus on at-risk teens in the city of Reading.

Many teens and youth begin looking for a job while still in school so they can help alleviate some of the financial strain on their families. It is important for the youth to begin learning job search skills. For that reason, the Reading Public Library will be offering specialized programming for the city youth on applying for jobs, interviewing, and other related skills. On Tuesdays at 4:00pm, the Teen Department at the Main Library will be having a series of classes called Life Skills 101. Topics include Job Hunting: learn how to find a job on the web using Reading Public Library's award-winning database, Berks-Online-Job Search; Resumes: learn how to create a resume no employer can resist; and Interview - The Big Day! Learn how to dress, ask and answer questions at an interview. Teens interested in the classes do not have to register to participate. Life Skills workshops will be offered at all other branches starting in 2011.

The Reading Public Library also offers small group classes for schools and other organizations. Please contact the Assistant Director for Public Service and Youth Services Supervisor, Bronwen Gamble at bronwen.gamble@reading.lib.pa.us or 610-655-6365 to set up a specialized Life Skills workshop.



Imagine Getting Paid To Be A Summer Learner!

By Shanice Towles (CareerLink's Teen Works Program Student)

Over 90 students this summer had the chance to learn and also get paid. The students attended Reading High for six weeks, where they were able to experience several different classes a day. The following is written by a student who participated in the summer program:

"I spent my summer of my senior year in the Arbor Summer Program. This program allowed me to gain knowledge of many new and stimulating topics. Since being in the program, I have made many new friends and learned quite a few things. I learned a lot in the work readiness class taught by Mr. Bower. I was able to learn how it feels to be part of a work force. I also learned what it would be like to have an interview. Mr. Bower gave us all many details to help us on what to say and how to look for an interview. In Mrs. Duran's class we did a lot of communicating and we even the opportunity to go online and apply for jobs. We also looked at colleges that had majors we were interested in pursuing. I have learned a lot in photography class with Mr. Charles. I was able to demonstrate my artistic skills. I could take a digital picture and manipulate it in many different ways. I loved that I was able to bring my photos that I made to my home with me and share them with my family and friends.

One of the classes that taught me a lot was law and justice. Law and Justice gave me an insight of how laws work. We even had different topics that we debated on, sometimes only one side would win or it would be a draw. We watched a movie that focused on segregation and how much our country has changed over the last fifty years.

Another class that I enjoyed was the medical careers class. We were

able to become certified in CPR in this class. We also watched several movies that focused on medicine such as John Q. Schuylkill Valley EMS came to the school so we could experience what a real ambulance looks like and all the materials that are carried on one.

Mr. Knox taught us environmental science. We made a decomposer stick to see what would happen in five weeks. Once a week we checked to see how it was developing. After awhile it started to stink, the water changed colors and there were parasites in the water. We would look through a microscope that let us see the small parasites. We talked about many environmental problems in the world, especially about the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

We also went on three field trips that were wonderful. I had a good experience on all of them. Going to Nolde Forest was an interesting event. We learned about different plants, insects, and the surrounding area. We went to the swamp and saw different creatures that were there. We also took a trip to the Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences. There we saw the several programs they have to offer. We had the chance to go into the nursing area and see the different kinds of techniques the students learn. Radiology was another field that I thought was fascinating. The last trip we went on was to the New Jersey aquarium. We saw many underwater animals. While there I even had the chance to touch a shark and a stingray.

This was a great experience that I would love to do again. I would recommend other students to become involved with the Arbor Program. Not only did I meet new people, but I also learned how to do CPR, proper ways to conduct an interview, and how to manipulate photos. The best part was that I had fun doing it."

Teen Mentoring Goodwill GoodGuides

by Rocio Damato



Goodwill GoodGuides is a national mentoring program designed to help teenagers between the ages of 12 and 17 who have either a disability, limited English proficiency, frequent school absenteeism or are involved with the juvenile justice system for the first time. It helps youth get on the right path by building career plans and skills, preparing for school completion, post-secondary training and productive work. GoodGuides provides structured and supportive relationships with trusted, caring adult volunteer mentors.

To become a Mentor, you must complete an application, have a criminal background check done, have a personal interview with the GoodGuides staff and attend an orientation. A mentee must enroll voluntarily, commit to participate, spend at least 4 hours a month with the mentor and engage in organized career awareness activities. For more information contact Zylkia Rivera at 610-777-7875 or email at zrivera@yourgoodwill.org.