



The OVR Review

"To assist Kentuckians with disabilities to achieve suitable employment and independence"

Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

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Article submitted by Robin Ritter and Jason Jones

Job Placement Month 2010

"Activities Across State Recognize Partnership between Business and OVR"

"The people you bring to us are people who are suited to us. We hire for attitude- we can always teach skills. PACE helps us see the personality traits to determine if the individual will fit with our organization. We are glad to be part of this program." Those are the words of Dorothy Eggeston from CSL Plasma in Lexington after she received an employer recognition award from the Lexington/Bluegrass districts. Her words symbolize the goal of all those who do job placement for the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), to assist businesses with finding employees that are a good fit.

"Whereas, The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) has successfully served individuals with significant disabilities since June 2, 1920" - Governor Steven L. Beshear. So begins the proclamation declaring the month of May 2010 as the "Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Job Placement Month." This proclamation reflects Governor Beshear's support and belief that all individuals can be productive citizens with the right to achieve full independence and integration.

Every May, OVR celebrates Job Placement Month with special events across the state. OVR staff participates in special events that bring job seekers together with employers. These expanded networking efforts and the partnerships developed by the agency will serve Kentuckians with disabilities for years to come. OVR is excited to have this opportunity to showcase one of the hallmarks of the profession – Job Placement.

This year was as exciting as ever as staff all across Kentucky found innovative ways to highlight their trade. The commitment went far beyond a paycheck and job description as many used their own time and resources to make sure the importance of communicating with our business partners was not lost among budget pressure and a dark economy.

"This may be one of the toughest environments in the history of our agency to find employers who are willing to hire our consumers. There just aren't many jobs available," said OVR Executive Director Beth Smith. "The importance of having extremely qualified staff that have developed relationships with local businesses, is more paramount than ever. Our staff deserves this opportunity to showcase what they do. I'm really proud of them and the work they do."

Activities varied depending on the region of the state and in

places like Louisville the celebration will continue into July.

Paducah celebrated by recognizing some of the employers in the district, presenting each with a certificate at each place of business.

"It is very rewarding to return to an employer's work site and see our certificates proudly displayed," said Paducah JP Specialist Cindy Ragland. "It is a great

reminder of the partnerships we have formed in west Kentucky and a reminder that our work and our support along with the employers in the community, affects individuals, families and communities."

Madisonville/Hopkinsville participated in the Job & Career Expo in Madisonville.

Owensboro and Henderson celebrated several ways. They hosted a staff meeting at Henderson Community College that included statewide updates, a video presentation, and a demonstration of the new job placement. Partner agencies and staff joined in the afternoon for a panel discussion by local business leaders, a presentation on the local labor market and a reception.

Bowling Green and Glasgow staff coordinated a multi-phased intensive interview workshop for consumers currently participating in the job placement program. A comprehensive team approach was relied upon to successfully plan, implement and complete this project. Staff provided skills training and enabled involved consumers to obtain objectives and valuable information regarding their interviewing skills, while enhancing these critical abilities. Counselors, assistants, and even the district manager participated, with some staff members serving as "interviewers" and others contributing through various support roles, ranging from technical to administrative.

Elizabethtown presented information and referral literature to the Kentucky Probation and Parole Offices



Bluegrass Job Placement Specialist Lea Miller presents Dorothy Eggeston of CSL Plasma in Lexington with an employer award during the Lexington/Bluegrass Job Placement Month breakfast in May.

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Job Placement Month *2010*



Employee Spotlight Presents Cindy Ragland

"Ten Questions with a Job Placement Specialist"

Tell me about how you grew up.

I grew up in a small coal mining town that was at that time the wealthiest in Kentucky. Making money was a major goal in our community. When I was 12, my five-year-old brother was having his tonsils removed. He was supposed to spend the night in the hospital, but because there was a mine explosion the night before, he had to come home. When we arrived at the hospital to pick him up, there were rows of badly burned bodies. Families were there to try and identify them. It made such an impact on me that I decided then and there, the things that really are important in life are respect for yourself and love of family and friends. Making money didn't matter.

Family,... size, traditions, etc.?

My family was very close-knit, we had three meals a day at exactly the same time and after cleaning our plates slick, we played outdoors in the neighborhood on our own until dark. My parents both worked, so I was a latch key child after school, but we always had everything we needed, not in excess, but I grew up without any cares in a loving caring environment. We were very involved in our church and were there anytime something was going on. My father sang in a gospel quartet, "Hometown Harmony Quarter." We visited country churches where they would sing and we would have food prepared by the lady folks of the congregation. All home made, no fast food in those days.

Education history?

I was homecoming queen and played in the concert and marching band in high school. I attended WKU, but came home after a year, got married and had my two daughters. After finding myself divorced and a single mother, I went back to school and obtained a BS in organizational communication with a minor in marketing and management. I was the first in my immediate family to obtain a degree from college. It was a very proud moment for my family and me.

What do you do outside of work ?

I love to work in my home and yard and do Yoga. I love to travel. I have visited Venice, Croatia and took a ship up and down the Adriatic Sea. I was able to go to France in 2007 and if I could live any where else in the world it would be there. The fields of lavender and

sunflowers were breath taking and the country area where we stayed was heavenly. But my very favorite thing to do is to visit our daughters and grandchildren. My youngest daughter lives in Kentucky, in the middle of 800 acres of virgin woods with two cabins. My oldest daughter lives in Florida on a golf course a mile from the beach. Not only do I get to visit and love on my grandchildren, but both families live in perfect vacation settings.

Why VR? How did you end up here?

I came to know about OVR through Jan Gordon in Hopkinsville. She was working in the Paducah office in 1986 and introduced me to Jerry Adams, the manager at the time. I applied with the state and found myself at the front desk of one of the busiest offices (Community Based Services) in the state. I



Cindy presents Tony Hamilton, owner of B A's Automotive in Paducah with an employer award.

worked there for a couple of years before a call came from Jane Smith in the Bowling Green OVR office. She gave me the sweet news that I was to report on the first day of the year in 1989 to VR. 24 years later, here I am.

Who was instrumental in your success?

Jerry Adams gave me the permission to attend Leadership Paducah, as well as return back to school to finish my degree. His encouragement and patience paved the way for me to be where I am today. And my husband Bob Ragland ...talk about patience. He is my rock, the love of my life, my soul mate. We had only been married six months when I came to work for OVR. He was a bachelor, no kids, never been married and took on me and two daughters 12 and 17 years old. He was in shock for about 2 years.

You have been presented with several awards over the years for your work in the community. Any you were most proud of? Being active in the local Business and Professional Woman's Club gave me the honor of Woman of Achievement for telling pretty much this same story. The struggles of not having an education and finding myself as a single parent working full time and getting through college. I have never been so shocked to receive anything in my life. But honored beyond words, because there are so many women in society who do struggle to find themselves and their own identity in life rather than wife and mom, which certainly are important, but I feel it is important that we know ourselves as well.

Who was your unofficial mentor?

Serving as chair for the KY JPD President in 2004 and National Chair in 2007 connected me with folks I will never forget. Jeannie Dugger is fabulous to these organizations and the work and dedication she brings made it possible for me to serve. Without her, I could not have made it through. The Janet B. Gold I received in 2006, truly should have had her name engraved on it. She is absolutely the most driven and passionate person I know for serving people with disabilities. She along with former job placement specialist April Lee were my mentors and inspirations.

Is it important to recognize the efforts of the businesses you work with?

Recognizing an employer for giving their valuable time and a listening ear to hear about our programs and wonderful folks we have to offer to them should be mandatory. We can't do our jobs without them. The employers who work with PACE and open their doors and hearts to our consumers deserve to be rewarded with a simple plaque and a snapshot of me handing it to them. It is a tiny way we can show our appreciation.

Would you do anything different?

Maybe owning my own business, or studying economics or being a landscape designer sounds like fun. But not if it meant I wouldn't meet the wonderful and dedicated consumers, coworkers, employers or community leaders like I have met on this journey with OVR. Maybe, when I retire I can try one of those challenges.

Best Buy Forms Partnership with OVR

“Abilities Initiative Means More Jobs for Kentuckians with Disabilities”

Best Buy has launched an innovative initiative to hire individuals with disabilities at a new distribution center in Shepherdsville. OVR and Options Unlimited along with more than 20 other community rehabilitation programs are partnering with Best Buy in this “Abilities Initiative”. Best Buy is committed to a partnership model with KY-OVR and the local community rehabilitation programs to make the “Abilities Initiative” a success.

Best Buy would like for the partners to experience their culture in order to fully understand their values. They will be inviting the partners to spend the day at the distribution center. Through their partners Best Buy will provide disability awareness training for their supervisors and staff. All their supervisors will also spend a week at the Walgreens Distribution Center in Anderson, South Carolina.

The new distribution center, opening



in September 2010 will be a 600,000 square feet .com operation. This means that they will be shipping directly to customers (not stores). They will initially hire 45 employees and hope to have 600 employees at the end of the first two years of operation. Best Buy is committed to having a large number of people with disabilities as part of their workforce.

The Best Buy leadership team has studied and visited the Walgreens Distribution Center model in Anderson, South Carolina. They plan to use a simi-

lar model and improve on it. They will have an on-site training center where individuals with disabilities could go for an initial training period lasting from 10 to 60 days.

Pam Smyth, Distribution Center Director, indicates that Best Buy has a commitment to this project from the top down. They currently have a corporate Disability and Inclusion Team. Pam stressed that these jobs will be competitive employment but the training up front will be different based on each individual's needs.

To facilitate the hiring and training of these individuals Best Buy has hired Tammie Hollar as the Accessibility Coordinator and Shae McGahey, as Human Resource Director. Tammie is conducting workshops for applicants, OVR staff and community rehabilitation programs to provide information how to apply on-line for positions.

Submitted by Beth Smith

Message from Executive Director, Beth Smith



As I come to you this month, we are in the full swing of summer and all the activities that go along with warm weather. I hope everyone is taking advantage of as many opportunities as possible to enjoy the season.

When Jason told me he was going to do a special job placement edition of the newsletter, I was excited for several reasons. First of all, I have participated, read or been told of all the activities that have taken place around the state and some significant recognition is well deserved. The ideas some of you came up with were innovative and exciting. I am always excited about activities that allow us to honor and embrace our business partners across Kentucky. I have seen plaques presented, receptions held, job fairs and more, all to shed light on the importance of communicating with businesses.

Second, I get excited when we do anything that stresses the importance of job placement services. I truly believe that job placement has to be at the center of what we do for our consumers. After all, even if we have the most prepared, most job-ready candidates on the planet, it wouldn't matter without business partners who are willing to work with us to find the right fit for our consumers.

Finally, I am excited to see all of you who do job placement get the personal recognition you deserve. I have always heard and truly believe myself that it is everyone's responsibility to do job placement. And from the things I witness from staff from Paducah to Ashland, Covington to Harlan and all corners of the state, we are doing the necessary things to place our consumers with business entities in a way that is mutually beneficial to both. I'm proud of the work we do in job placement...so kudos to Robin Ritter and her JP Team and to everyone who helps find that final piece of the employment puzzle.

I just want to give a quick update on the budget before I close. I'm sure everyone knows by now we have a budget for the next two years. VR was mentioned specifically in Governor Beshear's compromise and we did not receive as deep of a cut as some agencies. However, the recent rejection in Washington of a bill to aid states with staggering unemployment numbers may force our state to find even deeper cuts to balance the budget. We aren't sure of the potential impact that would have on us, but I just wanted everyone to be aware that we aren't out of the woods just yet. Once again I applaud your efforts working under such tight fiscal restraints and hold out hope that those restraints can somehow be loosened in the months to come.

2010 CDPVTC Graduation

“170 Students Take the Stage at 2010 Perkins Center Commencement ”

Commencement for the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center Class of 2010 was held June 18, 2010 in the gymnasium on campus in Thelma. This year’s class was one of the largest graduating classes in the history of the Perkins Center and saw a total of 108 graduates out of the 170 eligible participating in the ceremony. Another first for the Perkins Center was that the graduating class included six deaf graduates.

OVR Executive Director of Beth Smith, and CDPCVT Assistant Director Barbara Pugh welcomed the near capacity crowd of approximately 400. The keynote speaker for the event was Former Perkins Center Director, William Duke. The student speaker, Sarah Dunn, reflected on her time and accomplishments while at the Center. Cosmetology graduate Tierra Allen provided the musical entertainment. Visitors on hand for the event included State Representative Hubert Collins (Johnson, Floyd, Martin, and Pike Counties) and many OVR Managers and Counselors.



Pictured top left, Center Acting Director Barb Pugh, Executive Director Beth Smith, and other representatives from the area wait to congratulate the Class of 2010. Bottom left, a window is decorated to cheer on students participating in the ceremony. Above top, a graduate takes one final stroll down the hallways of the Perkins Center. Above, left to right Steven Collins, Anton Cousar, and Rachel Byrd pose for a snapshot prior to the ceremony .

Kentucky Rehabilitation Association Holds Annual Conference

"Willett, Smith and Others Recognized by Peers"

The Kentucky Rehabilitation Annual Conference was held May 24-26 at the Hilton in Downtown Lexington. The theme for the conference was "We Are...KRA", a statement encouraging members to define the organization and themselves by their actions and deeds in service to persons with disabilities. KYJPD opened the events with their well-attended preconference session headlined by Glenn Minor, Director of Kentucky Reentry.

The opening session featured Dancing Moose Productions' unique and entertaining ethics presentation entitled "Ethics: A Musical Comedy." Capping off the events, KARRS held a sports themed dance headlined by the band "Trailer Trash.

The second day of the conference was a concurrent session day, providing up to date information related to ethics, managing conflict in the workplace, Supported Employment, Addiction & Employment, Homeless Students, AgrAbility, Brain Injuries & Employment, Autism, Long-terms services and supports for people with disabilities and creating a more organized worksite.

The last day of the conference was kicked off by the awards breakfast. The following individuals were recognized at the banquet for their service to persons with disabilities:



Above KRA President David Beach presents OVR District Manager Greg Willett with the KARL Leadership Award at the 2010 KRA Conference. bottom right, Beach presents Counselor Phyllis Smith with the Counselor of the Year.

- Charles McDowell Education and Advocacy Award – **Dorothy Brame OFB**
- Esther K. Taylor Award – **Carol Estes OVR**
- Ben F. Coffman Award – **Jane Smith OVR**
- Janet Gold Job Placement Award – **Keith Brown – OVR**
- Wendell Taylor Award – **Marian Spencer (Retired) OVR**
- Outstanding Employer of Persons with Disabilities – **Larry Killebrew, Aramark at Western Kentucky University**

- KRA Staff Award – **Beverly Back**
- Personal Professional Achievement Award – **John Jones & Kelly Colvin OVR**
- KARL Leadership Award – **Greg Willett OVR**
- Margaret T. Wilson Service Award – **Sue Bogens OVR**
- KRCEA Counselor of the Year – **Phyllis Smith OVR**

In the business meeting, Jamie Yarber (OVR) was chosen as President-Elect, Elo-die Dickinson (Goodwill) was chosen as Secretary, and Debbie Mazurek (OVR) and Todd Hines (OVR) were elected to the KRA Board.

The conference was closed by Lynn Bertsch and Dr. Thomas Williams from the University of Kentucky's Institute on Workplace Innovation. They spoke on the debilitating physical and psychological effects of stress and provided much needed strategies for reducing stress and maintaining well-being.



Council Corner

Articles submitted by Dave Matheis

2010 SCVR Employer Awards

"Nominations Sought to Honor Kentucky Employers"

Once again this year, the Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation wants to recognize employers who work closely with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and who make the hiring of persons with disabilities a priority.

Nominations are being sought for employers to receive a recognition award for their commitment to employing Kentuckians with significant disabilities. We appreciate the help you have provided with effort in the past. A form was sent out early in July. Forms need to include the employer's name, contact person, address, phone number and a description of why the employer deserves recognition.. Please submit nomination forms to Nanci Soard at Nanci.Soard@ky.gov by the close of business on July 28, 2010.

All employers nominated will receive a certificate of appreciation. There will be four regional winners who will be recognized by

the Council at a luncheon to be held in Lexington at the Marriott Griffin Gate Resort on September 20, 2010. Please contact Dave Matheis or Nanci Soard for a copy of the nomination form or for more details.

Statewide Council for Vocational Rehabilitation (SCVR) Meeting

Monday, September 20, 2010
9:00-3:30

Marriott Griffin Gate Resort and Spa
1800 Newtown Pike
Lexington, KY 40511

NEWS BITS

Jessee to Direct Program Services for Office for the Blind

After more than 17 years of service with OVR, Assistant Director of Program Services Allison Jessee, has resigned in order to accept the position of Director of Program Services for the Office for the Blind. Jessee's first day with our sister agency was June 1.

During her tenure with OVR, Jesse served at every level within the agency. After starting in Somerset as an assistant, she quickly moved to counselor, then to Central Office as a Vocational Administrator, before her last post with OVR as the Assistant Director and a member of the Executive Leadership Team. Jessee's program and policy expertise will be sincerely missed. Thank you to Allison for her years of service and best of luck in her new endeavor.

The search has begun to find a replacement.

Rally Commemorating 20th Anniversary of ADA to be held July 26 in Frankfort

Join with hundreds of Kentuckians with disabilities, family members and advocates from across the Commonwealth to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the American with Disabilities Act.

The rally, entitled "Lead on"... in the pursuit of equality for all Kentuckians with disabilities, will be held at the Capital Rotunda in Frankfort, 11 am — 1 pm, Monday, July 26. Lunch will be provided for the event.

For more information or alternate format requests contact Independence Place, Inc. in Lexington, (859) 266-2807 or Toll Free (877) 266-2807 or by e-mail pglisson@independenceplaceky.org

Phyllis Smith Retiring after 36 years



Phyllis Smith, VR Counselor in our Hazard Office is retiring from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation effective August 31, 2010, after 36 years of service. Her branch manager Viva Anderson, states: "Phyllis has served the citizens of Perry

County with compassion, commitment and persistence. She has always believed in quality consumer services for all; including both internal and external consumers. Our Whitesburg District Team and our VR agency will miss her wealth of knowledge and experience. We want to wish Phyllis the best as she pursues new adventures upon retirement. "

East Kentucky Job Fairs Sponsored by Protection and Advocacy

The Department of Public Advocacy, Protection and Advocacy Division, has received a Protection and Advocacy Beneficiaries for Social Security (PABSS) Grant to assist individuals receiving SSI/SSDI in returning to work. The grant is being used to host four job fairs in eastern Kentucky. The target audience will be SSI/SSDI recipients only. Postcards inviting individuals to the events are being sent to not only VR consumers - but all SSI/SSDI recipients who might be considering returning to work.

The job fairs will be held from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Tables will be set up forming a "path to employment". Participants will be able to talk to employers and OVR representatives. They will also receive resume assistance as well as information on benefits and ticket to work. Incentives for visiting all the booths will be available and a complimentary lunch will be provided. An Employer Panel and informational speakers discussing PASS plans will be provided during lunch.

The four job fairs are scheduled as follows:

- **Carl Perkins Vocational Training Center- August 17, 2010**
- **Hazard at the Hazard Community College- September 14, 2010**
- **Harlan at the Harlan Center- September 28, 2010**
- **Ashland at the Ashland Community College- October 19, 2010**



Pictured, from the left, Lillian Wheeler, Bradley Moses, David Hynes, Robert Hamilton, Chrissy Shimfessel, and Erin Whitaker.

CDPVTC Students Join in Annual Community Cleanup

On Tuesday, April 20th, the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center students and staff took "pride" in their Thelma community by picking up trash along roadsides. Over 60 students participated in the annual cleanup in coordination with Johnson County's PRIDE coordinator, Lillian Wheeler. Over 100 bags of trash were collected. For their efforts, participants were treated to a cookout on the April 23rd.

MORE NEWS BITS

Bloodworth Honored for Outstanding Service in the Community



Mona Bloodworth, Employment Specialist/PACE Coordinator for the Henderson OVR office, was presented with the President's Award for Outstanding Service for the Henderson Rotary Club. This citation is a means for Rotary Clubs to personally recognize one club member for outstanding efforts in the five Avenues of Service. To receive this award a Rotary member must have demonstrated support of the Object of Rotary through active participation in

each of the five "Avenues of Service": Club, Vocational, Community, International and New Generations. Nominees must be an active Rotarian and can only receive the award once in a life time. Mona has been an active member of the Henderson Chapter of the Rotary Club since 2001. She was the president of the Henderson Rotary Club during Rotary Year 2007-2008

Mona has been an employee with the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation since August, 1984. She has received several awards for her achievements while working with individuals with disabilities. These awards include an Excellence Award for her accomplishments working with individuals with disabilities. That award was given to her by the OVR Executive Leadership Team in 2001. She also received the KRA Janet B. Gold Award for excellence in Job Placement and Development in 2007.

Mona feels that one of the best ways to advocate for individuals with disabilities is to be active in community clubs and organizations where you can meet business and community leaders to market OVR services and consumers.

OVR Participates in Lexington Mayor's Disability Expo

On April 22, Lexington held the Second Annual Celebration of Disability Expo at the Lexington Center. The Expo is a project of Lexington Mayor Jim Newberry's Commission for Citizens with Disabilities. The mission of the group is to promote the inclusion and empowerment of people with disabilities inside the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Community, and to advise the Mayor and Urban County Council on issues that impact persons with disabilities.

This year's event also featured a Medicaid Waiver Fair where consumers were able to meet face-to-face with officials representing the various Medicaid Waivers. The Expo was well attended by both consumers and vendors. More than 50 service providers had booth space at the event. Kevin Fitz-Gerald and Margaret Agee from the Lexington office provided information for consumers about services from OVR. The two also had several examples of assistive technology on hand and conducted demonstrations throughout the day.



Pictured, from the left, Kevin Fitz-Gerald and Margaret Agee man the OVR booth at the Lexington Mayor's Disability Expo .

Annual Institute on Assistive Technology and Transition held in Lexington

On June 10th and 11th the 7th Annual Institute on Assistive Technology & Transition was held on the University of Kentucky campus in Lexington. This year, OVR, UK Human Development Institute, Agrability, and the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation partnered to put on the event. The training is held to provide professional development opportunities for: rehabilitation technologists, professionals serving people with disabilities, and consumers and families with a focus on new technologies and applications. Eighty-five people attended the two day series of workshops on topics including augmentative communication and transition, workplace applications of assistive technology, recognizing the need for driver evaluation, and pressure mapping for

seating and mobility. This year's event included a new exhibit hall featuring nine displays from providers of assistive technology services. Participants were treated to good information, good networking, and good resources to bring back home to their consumers.



Above, Participants of the Institute enjoy a lunch buffet during a break between sessions. Right, OVR Administrator Charles Puckett looks at an equipment demonstration by Agrability .



Job Placement Month 2010 *(continued from cover)*

“Activities Across State Recognize Partnership between Business and OVR”

within the district in order to better serve consumers with criminal backgrounds.

Danville celebrated by hosting an outdoor Job Placement Career Fair. OVR staff provided job leads and career information as well as food and clothing to approximately 75 consumers and other visitors.

Florence and Ft. Wright combined for a webinar training. The event also featured VR Job Placement staff facilitating a discussion and sharing job development techniques used in N. KY.

Bluegrass/Lexington hosted an employer recognition breakfast. The breakfast was held to recognize employers in the area who personified a strong partnership with OVR in assisting individuals obtain employment. Five businesses were honored at the breakfast.

Ashland/West Liberty met in Ashland’s Central Park for a day of activities. State Representative Rocky Adkins gave words of praise and encouragement to OVR staff for their hard work and dedication to consumers with disabilities. A former consumer also spoke about her history with her full rehabilitation and reentry into the workforce.

Whitesburg had a Job Fair at Union College. Counselors from the Middlesboro and Corbin office set up a display board and passed out OVR information to all students attending. The Corbin office participated in a “Lobby Make-over” which included the hanging of five additional bulletin boards, posters, and a decorative display board.

Harlan participated in a career fair hosted by Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation (MCHC) at the Harlan Clinic. The counselors and assistants learned about many different types of resources that are available in the community to assist consumers. Many booths, including OVR, were set up for the event.

Whitesburg staff participated in two local inter-agency staff meetings. Branch Manager Viva Anderson, and Counselor Keith Banks presented information regarding services our agency provides to individuals which assist them with employment. Counselor Rick Jones presented at the area Work Incentives Planning and Assistance

(WIPA) event.

Finally the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center held several job placement activities for its students during May. The month kicked off with a series of outdoor activities held on the campus grounds. Students participated in a variety of fun-filled events that emphasized team-building, problem-solving, cooperation, listening skills, and leadership. Students had a wonderful afternoon to unleash some energy while learning some valuable skills at the same time. A Kool-Aid stand located next to the event kept students and staff going strong into the afternoon.

On May 13, students receiving Social Security benefits attended an informative training program conducted by Pat Allen and Donna Osburn. The two provided information to students on changes in the law that enables persons receiving Social Security to work and still keep their benefits.

During week three, Center students had the opportunity to observe how not to provide customer service when the “Krusty Krab Café” opened for business on May 20th and 21st in the cafeteria. Students in each of the Center’s training programs had the opportunity to visit the “Krusty Krab” for lunch during one of the two days of operation. The menu included the usual bill-of-fare for Sponge Bob’s favorite diner that included “Krabby Patties”, “Seaweed Fries”, and “Kelp Shakes”.

The activities for the month concluded with a job fair held on campus. Students were dismissed from their afternoon classes to attend the job fair. Students had the opportunity to ask about available jobs and how to apply for jobs.

For a more detailed report on all the activities across the state and lists of the businesses that were honored go to our website <http://www.ovr.ky.gov/programservices/jobplacement/> and click on the Job Placement Month 2010 link located on the right just below the picture of Robin Ritter and the resources box.

The OVR Review is a publication of the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

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(Jason Jones - Editor)

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