

MORE THAN ONE ROAD TO SUCCESS

By Deb Miller, EFE Executive Director

Headlines all over the country are crying out the need for highly-skilled/middle-skilled workers. Plumbers, electricians, health care workers, legal assistants, machinists, and police officers are some of the careers having difficulty meeting workforce needs. Such jobs require significant education and training, but not necessarily a four-year degree. They make up roughly half of all employment today, and the demand for middle-skilled workers is expected to continue to climb despite the economic downturn.

Right now, American manufacturing is struggling to fill 200,000 vacant positions globally. There are also 450,000 openings in trades, transportation, and utilities. The skills gap is real, and it is getting wider. Job growth is most robust among students with associate's degrees and certificated training in areas such as applied engineering, health care technology, business and computer science.

Preparing all students for college based on the belief that a four-year degree guarantees a passport into a well paid career can be misleading. One would do well to remember that the route to a four-year college degree is littered with dropouts and

that many college graduates find themselves mired in debt, underemployed, and earning less than those with middle skills. Indeed, for many students a two-year degree or occupational certification, especially in high-demand 21st century technologies, may provide a better chance of securing rewarding work and providing their families with financial security.



Education for Employment is dedicated to preparing students for today's and tomorrow's careers. Our EFE programs will prepare your student for life with real world 21st century skills and technologies. For more information on the career and technical education programs EFE offers, please visit kresa.org/efe.

NEW CLASS! ✨ *Out of the Wild* ✨ NEW CLASS!

By Debra Kolberg

EFE has teamed up with the Kalamazoo Nature Center and is pleased to announce an exciting new opportunity for students who are looking for a way to contribute to conservation of our wildlife and precious natural resources.



Juniors and seniors in Kalamazoo County may now start down the road to becoming an arborist, a biologist, a conservation officer, a microbiologist, or other exciting and rewarding careers by taking this laboratory/field based course. They will have direct contact with natural resource conservationists and wildlife biologists in their work, gaining hands-on experience which

allows them to attain skills necessary to obtain employment in various careers in Natural Resource Conservation and Wildlife Biology.

Lauren Dahl, a wildlife biologist, had this to say about Out of the Wild: *"Along my path to becoming a wildlife biologist, I started with a strong education base in science and math continuing on to a college degree in Wildlife Sciences. I collected as many field work experiences as possible and I took every opportunity to learn about the tools of the trade. This program is a great way to jumpstart your career experience and build the skills that will help you become a stronger candidate in this profession. I wish I had had a class like this when I was in high school."*



EDUCATION FOR EMPLOYMENT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

WINNING EXPERIENCE FOR EFE CULINARY ARTS STUDENTS

Seven EFE Culinary Arts students participated in this year's Fair Food Food Fair held in November, and found themselves on the winning team as they assisted Chef Jared Dellario in winning the Golden Ladle award. The Golden Ladle is given to the chef whose dish gets the most votes for favorite dish of the night. Their winning entry was a Michigan apple, cheddar and squash soup

topped with bacon, white sharp cheddar, along with several other ingredients. Chef Dellario said that he chose to make the soup because it was seasonal and incorporated local produce.

The happy EFE students commented that it felt "amazing" to be involved.

When asked how it felt to help Chef Dellario win the Golden Ladle, students replied, "It was amazing!"



EFE's Culinary Arts is a year-long program, meets at the Maple Street Magnet School and is taught by Kharen Warfield-Shelton.

Chef Dellario is the executive chef at Casa Bolero and serves as a guest chef teaching knife skills for the Culinary Arts program. He also

serves on our EFE program Advisory Committee for Hospitality & Culinary Arts and has always been very involved with the students and the program. EFE is grateful to our business partners for their continual involvement in our programs.

EDUCATION FOR EMPLOYMENT



KALAMAZOO AREA COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK

HELP FOR COLLEGE BOUND SENIORS

Doors are opening for many seniors in the Kalamazoo County high schools because of the work of an agency named KACAN and Brenda Pickett, its coordinator. The Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) pays for two years of college tuition for qualifying young people in Michigan, but it has not been widely publicized or used until now.

Ms. Pickett systematically obtains the names of all the high school seniors and submits them to the state to find out exactly which students are eligible to receive tuition help. She then visits each one, helping them do what is necessary to obtain this scholarship. She and the agency also schedule and run community events to help



Brenda Pickett

parents of seniors complete the FAFSA document (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to obtain other types of financial aid. KACAN has already identified over 200 students in the outlying areas of Kalamazoo County and expects the numbers of students eligible to soar once the largely populated urban schools are included.

KACAN, Kalamazoo Area College Access Network, has also been working with the Kalamazoo Community Foundation and the Learning Network to join forces to open even more doors for the young people of Kalamazoo County. For more information, please call 269.250.9313.





BITS AND PIECES

WIND ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

By Rebecca Pierce

Learn how to harness the wind and find a green-collar career with a great future.

This premiere Education For Employment program, offered at Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Michigan Technical Education Center

(M-TEC) is taught by Tom Sutton, KVCC Wind Energy Center's associate director. If you love being outdoors, have hands-on technical skill and a flare for problem-solving, consider this class to discover a variety of new opportunities that tap into one of the most environmentally friendly sources of power generation: The Wind.

The course examines the role of wind energy in creating a diverse, renewable energy portfolio; meteorology; characteristics of wind and issues pertaining to sites for wind turbines; identification of the primary electrical, electronic, and mechanical systems within a wind turbine; fundamental knowledge of how each system operates; basic electrical concept; overview of maintenance requirements for each component; and essential safety practices. This course includes work in the classroom as well as the opportunity to work in the lab.

The U.S. Department of Labor reports that the wind energy industry has experienced rapid growth in the past decade.

"Wind-generating capacity in the United States grew 39 percent per year from 2004 to 2009, and is expected to grow more rapidly as demand for renewable energy increases," wrote James Hamilton and Drew Liming in an article for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. "As the wind energy industry continues to grow, it will provide many opportunities for workers in search of new careers."



Wind turbine in MI.

WELCOME NEW EFE TEACHERS

BMA and Marketing

Cheryl Schmitt, Parchment High School

BMA

Stephanie Reed, Portage Central

Computer Tech

Mark Dersch, Portage Central

Cosmetology

Peggy DeAnda, Wright Beauty Academy

Cosmetology

Bethanne Shanahan, W. MI. College of Barbering and Beauty

Dental Assisting

Mary Anderson, KVCC

Digital Video Production

Matt Perigo, Public Media Network

Emergency Medical Technician

Bryan Harmer, KVCC

Energy Industry Technology

Chuck Ammond, KVCC M-TEC

Teacher Education/K-12

Denise Rice, Gull Lake

Wind Energy

Tom Sutton, KVCC M-TEC



Please help the EFE staff to warmly welcome these teachers.

DID YOU KNOW...

- ...EFE students received 73 scholarships through the annual EFE Outstanding Senior Awards?
- ...EFE awarded over \$60,000 to students last year?
- ...41 local business and industry donors contributed to the EFE Outstanding Seniors scholarship fund in the 2011-2012 school year?
- ...you can contribute too? To donate to this scholarship fund, please contact Kathy Spackman @ 269-250-9300.



EFA/EFE OPEN HOUSE

Save the date! *Wednesday, February 6, 2013,* the Air Zoo will host our annual EFA/EFE Open House gala from 6pm to 8pm. During this event, students and their parents will have the ability to interact with EFA/EFE teachers and their programs to investigate their career interests and have their questions about programs and opportunities answered. Be sure not to miss it! Students may win an iPad!

(In case of cancellation due to weather, the Open House will be rescheduled for Thursday, February 7, 2013 at the same times.)

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION: It is the policy of Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency that no discriminating practices based on gender/sex, sexual orientation, race, religion, height, weight, color, age, national origin, disability or any other status covered by federal, state or local law be allowed during any program, activity, service or in employment. The following positions at Kalamazoo RESA have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy: Human Resources Administrator, Tom Zahrt; Assistant Superintendents, Margaret McGlinchey & Laurie Montgomery. Contact information: 269-250-9200, 1819 E. Milham Ave, Portage, MI 49002.

CO-OP CENTER

Work-based learning is for everyone!

Our EFE Co-op Program has students working in all career pathways at various businesses throughout Kalamazoo County. Our program has been partnering with businesses for over 25 years and has developed many strong relationships. Some examples of companies we are currently working with are:

- Abella Salon
- Asthma & Allergy Center
- BASIC
- Consumers Energy
- Family Doctors of Vicksburg
- Flowserve Corporation
- Kalamazoo County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Kalamazoo RESA
- Landmark Farms
- Parker Hannifin Corporation
- Public Media Network
- Stryker Instruments
- Vicksburg Chrysler

For more information about the EFE co-op program please contact your designated EFE Co-op Coordinator at 269-250-9309.