

Are you a student planning to get a job, work with a job coach, or use community support?

**TRANSITION SERVICES FAIR** May 15, 2008

Hear from students and parents who have been through the transition process.

For more information, ask your teacher, or contact Julie Brown or Letah Graff at 736-4356.

4:00-7:00 PM  
HFM BOCES Center  
Cafeteria and Petit Cafe

Bring your parents and attend the Transition Service Fair on Thursday, May 15, 2008.

Learn all about the school-to-work transition process and meet agency representatives from

- Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID),
- Employment Resources,
- Career and Employment Network,
- Liberty,
- Lexington,
- The Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL),
- Private Industry Council,
- The Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD)
- College Experience Program at St. Rose.



Counselors Julianne Brown and Tanya Grant show off some of the many raffle prizes to be offered during the Transition Service Fair on May 15.



Students in HFM BOCES Foundations of Food program learn basic, entry level skills ideal for the fast food industry, institutional and supermarket settings through classroom instruction and hands-on-training. Food prepared by the Foundations of Food class will delight your appetite at the Transition Services Fair.

This newsletter is a result of the collaborative efforts of the Transition Task Force. Members include:

- Stephanie Andrews – RCiL
- Christine Belanger – Broadalbin-Perth CSD
- Ron Briggs – Employment Resources
- Julianne Brown – HFM Transition Counselor
- Linda Cole – Fort Plain High School
- Holly Dargush – Amsterdam High School
- Peggy Dillenbeck – Private Industry Council
- Robin DeVito – FMCC
- Anna Everhardt – HFM Guidance
- Ellie Fosmire – FMCC
- Tanya Grant- HFM Youth Employment
- Connie Glover – WIB
- Letah Graff – HFM Career Assessment
- Tom Guiffre – VESID
- Janet Kucel – Lexington
- Mindy Lawrence – Northville School
- Greg Melita – Career Employment Network
- Susan Naple – SETRC
- Joe Schifano – VESID

# Transition Times

Spring 2008

A Resource for Families and Students in the Transition Process

## Shadows see job duties clearly

Job-shadowing students get an up-close view at a typical day's work in their field of interest

Do you ever feel like someone is looking over your shoulder? Tanya Grant, Youth Employment Counselor for the Fulton-Montgomery-Schoharie Private Industry Council, wants more local business people to share that feeling. Grant arranges job shadowing opportunities for high school students from the five local high schools participating in the Model Transition Program (MTP).

The state-funded program helps students with disabilities make the transition from school to post-school activities leading to employment. Job shadowing is one of many coordinated activities that take into account the individual student's strengths and employment interests to help them develop goals and objectives for adult life after school.

Sixteen Gloversville High School students recently had the chance to tour the John C. Miller Auto Dealership in Gloversville, checking under the hood and kicking the



tires of the sales and service department to learn what it takes to work as an auto mechanic.

In Northville, several students are participating in individual job shadows. One student learned the day-to-day routine of an auto mechanic at Eschler's



Garage. Another student spent time at FMCC's Playmates Daycare, while others visited Klipples Kountry Korner, House of Pizza, and Midas.

Grant is arranging for 16 Johnstown students to tour Wal-Mart's Distribution Center, and has set up an arrangement for

Northville students from Mindy Lawrence's Life Skills class spend the day at FMCC's Playmates Daycare, while Gloversville students from Andrea Warner's classroom tour John C. Miller's auto dealership in Gloversville.

Brown's Ford to host job shadowing students from Broadalbin Perth.

Becky Brennan, Employment Resources job coach, is arranging for the life skills class at Mayfield High School to be visited by a veterinarian and an environmental conservation officer.

## College Prep Days familiarize students with campus

For some students, preparing for college is part of their transition plan. The Transition Task Force of Fulton County has created a College Prep Day for high school seniors to sample the process of choosing a college.

About 20 students will board a bus from their home schools and visit Fulton-Montgomery Community College. The students will tour the campus and meet staff from the Admissions, Financial Aid and Counseling Services offices. They will take a practice COMPASS™ entrance exam and hear about other available programs.

While this may seem like a typical college visit, there is something distinctive about the trip. These students also visit the Learning Center, the academic support services office at F-MCC, and meet the disability support services staff, Ellie Fosmire and Robin DeVito.

At college, students with disabilities still get the same testing modifications they had high school. While the way a test is read or how extra time is given for a test may be different at the college level, the important thing is that students who succeeded with these supports in high school can continue that success when they go to college.

Visiting students also get a chance to sit down and have lunch with current F-MCC students who share what it is like to be in college with a disability. They talk about using the available accommodations as well as



Seniors Katelyn Cooper, Christopher Clizbe and Michael Ford learn about the FMCC COMPASS™ Admission Exam during a visit to Fulton-Montgomery Community College. COMPASS is a computer-adaptive placement test that helps colleges evaluate incoming students' academic skills, place them in appropriate courses and connect them to the resources they need to achieve success.

discussing the differences between high school and college. They also answer any questions the visiting high school students may have. A representative from VESID is also there to discuss how VESID can help students with disabilities in college.

College Prep Days are scheduled annually for high school seniors. Check with your teachers or transition counselor for the next available date.

## VESID connects students with job placement agencies

Finding a job after high school can be hard work. Which local businesses are hiring? Who has an opening that is right for me? These are just two questions that can lead to frustration. For a high school student preparing to enter the working world, the prospects can be intimidating. But local help with the answers is available.

The Gloversville Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID) office helps high school students throughout the year make connections with local service providers that will assist them in finding jobs.

Job developers in Employment Resources (CEN) and the Resource Center for Independent Living know what employers in the area are hiring people with a student's particular interests and strengths. These job developers help bring employer and job seeker together, as well as assist students with properly completing applications, learning effective interviewing skills and learning about the world of work. Once a student is hired a job coach from VESID serves as a support for the student on the job. Job coaching services are available to assist students to make this important transition into work.

You can meet with Joe Schifano, VESID's youth liaison vocational counselor, at your high school, the one-stop center or the Gloversville VESID Office. Contact Joe at 773-2884, or through email at [jschifan@nysed.mail.gov](mailto:jschifan@nysed.mail.gov).

### Paid Work Study Program through VESID

For students who are working with VESID, there is now a paid work study opportunity. Work study with VESID involves:

- VESID counselor, student, and school agree on work study placement
- Student worker paid by the employer
- The employer is reimbursed wages by VESID
- Maximum 1,040 hours
- Can work up to 20 hours a week

**For more information, contact  
Joe Schifano at VESID  
(518) 773-2884**

## Work Study promotes independence

The HFM BOCES Special Education Work Study Program serves students from the 14 component school districts within BOCES. A student is referred by their home school CSE. A student's goals from his or her Individual Education Plan (IEP) are followed, and students are monitored by trained job coaches. Students range in age from 14 to 21. In order to be successful within their work study placements students must meet the following criteria:

- Regular attendance at school and work site. When absences are necessary the student will notify the coordinator and the employer.
- Comply with all reasonable requests from the employer, perform each work activity and carry out his/her job in a manner that reflects credit upon the student and program.
- Follow regulation and policies of the employer and recognize that school rules continue to be in effect on the job site.
- Dress appropriately for the position assigned.
- Seek help from the coordinator, job coach or work site supervisor and accept guidance from them.
- Students must maintain appropriate attitude, motivation and behavior at school and on the work site.

Work study students are helpful and productive workers for many types of businesses such as: grocery stores, automotive garages, day care facilities, department stores, animal clinics, farms, hospitals, nursing homes, restaurants, construction companies and others. (Individual employers may have age restrictions depending on work performed.)

The Special Education Work Study Office is located at HFM BOCES, 736-4356.

## Toy or Tool? by Ellie Fosmire, Fulton Montgomery Community College

### Digital technology converts handwritten notes into word processing files

There is a fun new technology that converts handwritten notes into computer and word processing files. This could be a real asset for those that enjoy writing instead of keyboarding their thoughts.

The FLY Fusion Pentop computer and Logitech's io2 Digital Writing System both work the same way. When you write on the special digital paper, your handwriting is automatically captured and digitized. The file can then be uploaded to your computer and converted to editable text. The result is a clean, accurate copy of what you have written on the special paper.

The FLY Fusion pen is designed with the everyday user in mind. The obvious application is for taking notes, but the since the pens are actually mini-computers, users find



some interesting capabilities at their fingertips. Math calculations are instantaneous using the FLY Fusion pen. Powerful spell-checking tools are included in the basic software. With optional software a user can write a word in English and hear it translated into French or Spanish instantly. The pen also plays MP3 tunes. Other homework and gaming software is available to download directly to the pen through your PC.

We at F-MCC looked into the pen as a way for note-takers to convert their handwritten notes into word files that we could email to students. The FLY Fusion pen costs \$80 new. Additional notebooks cost \$8. You can learn more about it at their Web site ([www.flyworld.com/howitworks/index.html](http://www.flyworld.com/howitworks/index.html)). The Logitech io2 system is more expensive when purchased new, but used systems are available on ebay at significantly reduced prices.