

Transition Times

Winter 2009

A Resource for Families and Students in the Transition Process

'Hey! Look at me!'

Career success follows high school transition programs

Jonathan Cooper

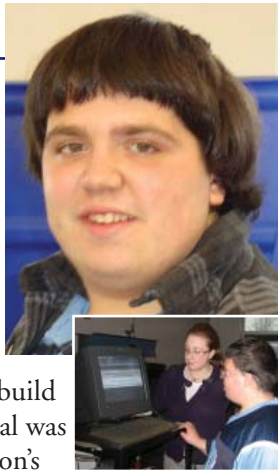
During Jon's senior year, he worked intensely with MTP staff to prepare himself for the world of work. He created his own account on nyCareerZone.com and utilized O*Net throughout the school year. He and the Youth Employment Counselor completed job applications, went on a job interview and created a resume to build his employment portfolio. A referral was made to VESID by MTP staff in Jon's senior year and upon graduation from Broadalbin-Perth High School in June 2008, he was connected with community agencies for employment support.

Throughout high school Jon participated in the HFM BOCES Work Study program, working at Broadalbin Village Market, Midway Auto, Vandeline's, The Village Café and Chelsea's. In his final two years of high school Jon completed the Vehicle Repair and Maintenance program at HFM BOCES.

Employment Resources helped Jon find a job at Goodwill Superstore in Amsterdam last July. He is well liked by his co-workers and supervisors. Jon is happy to have such a wonderful place to begin his employment career. He looks forward to one day assisting Goodwill with truck repair work.

Leahkay Sweet

Leahkay began supported employment with Employment Resources in May of 2008. Before her referral to



Employment Resources, she worked with the Youth Employment Counselor in her senior year at Gloversville High School on completing job applications and a VESID referral.

Before graduating, Leahkay participated as a childcare worker in the HFM Work Study Program. She feels very fortunate that she was able to spend an entire school year with pre-k children at Meco School.

After graduation, she began working for the YMCA after-school program. Leahkay loves her job as a childcare attendant. She is able to interact with elementary age children both before and after school. She helps them with homework as well as directs them in crafts such as finger-painting, cutting and coloring. Leahkay says she really enjoys taking her youngsters to the gym to play fun games that help them get good exercise. She is looking forward to helping them complete holiday crafts for their parents.



Calista Myers

Calista Myers, a 2007 graduate of Gloversville High School, began working with Employment Resources in April 2008, and has been employed at the Getman Memorial Home since June. She had also been completing work-study hours at the same site. Calista is finishing the Culinary Arts program at HFM BOCES, and is happy to be working in that field as a cook. Calista enjoys preparing weekend meals for the 14-17 residents at Getman Home. She is also responsible for making sure that the kitchen and dining area are well cleaned after the meals and at the end of the day.



Barnett's Auto Service

Former student gives back by putting today's students to work

The owner of Barnett's Auto Service is very familiar with the benefits of HFM BOCES Work Study program. As a student in the HFM BOCES Alternative School in the early 90s, Lymon Barnett learned much about the collision repair business at Reed's Auto Body in Broadalbin.

Today, Barnett has participated in the program from the business side for more than five years, giving students the chance to explore the world of work and learn important skills.

Custom paint and collision repair are the specialties at Barnett's, however they also perform many mechanical repairs.

"Being able to have hands on learning while still being able to earn my high school diploma was very important to me" says Barnett. "I was able to take what I learned from the School to Work program and turn it into a career. Now I just want to give back to the



Gloversville senior Alan Williams is working with Lymon Barnett as part of HFM BOCES Work Study Program this year.

program by having my business be part of the program. Hopefully I can inspire a student or two to pursue a career in the automotive field."

The support of small businesses like Barnett's and major retailers like Price Chopper, McDonald's and Pizza Hut is crucial to all school to work programs and transition services. Without the dedicated involvement of the many supervisors and small business owners, it would be impossible to have meaningful work-based learning programs.

VESID connects students with job placement agencies

VESID works with students throughout the year to connect them with local service providers that can help them get jobs.

Employment Resources and the Resource Center for Independent Living have job developers that connect students with local employers that are hiring in the student's particular area of interest. These job developers also help ensure that young people fill out applications properly, learn effective interviewing skills, and grow in their understanding about the world of work. Once a student is hired a job coach serves as a support for the student on the job. Job coaching services are available to help students to make the important transition from school to 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.

GED Tutoring Program

Where: Workforce Solutions Center

199 South Main Street, . Gloversville
RiverFront Center, Amsterdam

Who: Students 16-21 years of age

Cost: Free to youth who meet eligibility guidelines

Why:

- Help prepare for the GED exam
- A GED improves your ability to get a job
- The program can also help you work if you want a job
- If you want to go to college the GED will help you obtain admission and financial aid (for students with an IEP diploma).

Contact:

Peggy Dillenbeck – 725-6473 Ext. 205 (Fulton)

Jen Swart – 842-2240 Ext. 3022 (Montgomery)

Job tours offer up close view of work

Some students in Fulton County have been leaving their classrooms and visiting area businesses to learn first-hand about the world of work. Job tours through the Model Transition Program have helped high school students learn more about the different types of jobs available in Fulton County, how to apply for a them, and what employers look for in a good employee.

- Mayfield High School students had the opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes during a tour of Wal-Mart.
- Broadalbin Perth students were impressed with the size of Quad Graphics during a tour of that company, and learned about the job application process there.
- Nathan Littauer Hospital hosted a group of students from Johnstown who visited every department of the facility, from Administration to X-ray.



Johnstown High School students Courtney Kwiatkowski (above) and Kent Lakata (left) visit with the lab technician as part of their job tour of Nathan Littauer Hospital.

College Prep Day 2009

‘College 101’ event introduces students to the ins and outs of college life

College-bound high school seniors with disabilities can benefit from a full-day event planned just for them. On Wednesday, Jan. 14, College Prep Day 2009 will be held at Fulton-Montgomery Community College. This informative event is for any student with a disability planning on going on to college, not just those planning to attend FMCC.

Students that attend meet Robin DeVito and Ellie Fosmire, staff members from the FMCC Learning Center and the academic support services office. Robin and Ellie will discuss accommodations and how students can get the support they need on any college campus. Students are also introduced to representatives from Financial Aid, the Registrar, and VESID.

A discussion about the COMPASS placement exam, a mock college class, a tour of the campus and some quality time spent in the learning lab are highlights of the program. An emphasis on assistive technology will provide students with an opportunity to try out various assistive technology supports.

A panel of current FMCC students with disabilities will enlighten prospective students on the real transitions that occur when you start college. An open dialogue with these students will highlight any questions high school students may have.

Representatives from the University at Buffalo will lead the group in a competitive game of “College Jeopardy,” a primer of college-related information for high school students. Lunch will also be sponsored by the University at Buffalo.

For more information, speak with your teacher or transition counselor.

Navigating the path to college

It's up to you to learn how to read the map of student services

Are you considering college after graduation? If you are a student with a disability, there are a few things that you will want to know when applying to colleges.

Accommodative Services: All colleges provide accommodative services for students with documented disabilities. Contact the campus' Disability Service Office to see what types of services and accommodations they provide to their students. Unlike high school, it will be **your** responsibility to disclose your disability, provide medical documentation, and discuss accommodations that you need. The earlier you do this the better. Requests for placement test accommodations, alternate text books, and other services are accommodated best if arranged long before the start of classes

Admissions: Many colleges, such as FMCC, have open admissions. This means that students may en-

roll, or become matriculated, as a student and receive financial aid as long as they have a regular high school diploma or a GED. Students with an IEP diploma may choose to earn their GED through college credits by entering a Certificate Program. To qualify for financial aid, however, students with an IEP diploma need to pass the college's placement test with a minimum score called the ATB (Ability to Benefit Test).

Financial Assistance: In addition to applying for financial aid, you may want to discuss your vocational goals with a VESID counselor to see if additional funds may be available to you.

For more information, feel free to contact FMCC's Office of Accessibility at (518)762-4651 Ext.4760. You need not be planning to enroll at FMCC to call with questions.



**Parents, save the date
Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009**

The Next Step: Transition Services

PARENTS – come to our Transition Information Night to learn about transition services and how you and the school can work together to help prepare your child for life after high school.

Meet with other parents in the transition process and hear from Layna Maher about IEP development, the school's role in transition, and what agencies can assist you and your child.

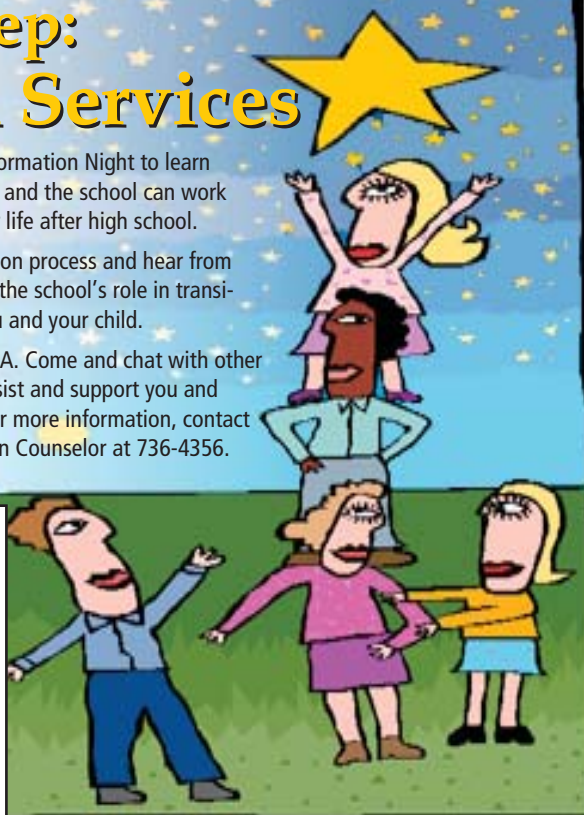
Join us in the new Fulton County YMCA. Come and chat with other parents and professionals who can assist and support you and your child in the transition process! For more information, contact Julianne Brown, HFM BOCES Transition Counselor at 736-4356.

Fulton County YMCA
HealthLink Conference Room
(Please be sure to sign in at the front desk upon arrival)

Tuesday, January 13, 2009
5:30 -7:30 p.m.

Free - Seating is limited!

Contact: Julianne Brown
736-4356 or swock@hfmboces.org



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

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- PIC Youth Employment
Connie Glover – WIB
Letah Graff – HFM Career Assessment
Tom Guiffre – VESID
Janet Kucel – Lexington
Mindy Lawrence – Northville School
Martin Luey – Work Study
Greg Melita – Career Employment Network
Ramon Rodriguez – RCiL
Joe Schifano – VESID

Few things help an individual more than to place responsibility upon him, and to let him know that you trust him.

– Booker T. Washington