



## Piedmont Futures Newsletter Summer 2009

### Summer 2009 Career Academies

*Health Technologies and Computer Technologies Camps offered*

"Awesome!" was the comment of one camper about the new Summer Career Academies.

The Summer Career Academies were launched June 15th when twenty-six 7th, 8th and 9th grade students arrived at Piedmont Virginia Community College ready to explore possible careers during the four-day camp. The Academies focused on hands-on experience in health care and computer technologies, combining visits to local businesses with enthusiastic classroom presentations. According to one parent, her son "learned a great deal, and had a terrific time."

Designed to teach about the varied careers available in the healthcare field, the Health Technologies campers visited a hospital, the rescue squad and earned CPR/AED certification. The campers used the "jaws of life" at the Charlottesville-Albemarle Rescue Squad to break into a car and rescue a mannequin trapped underneath a generator. They learned team work, using life saving skills on the mannequin. The crew of Pegasus, the U. Va. medical helicopter, strapped a student to a backboard while other campers took vital signs. Campers also were introduced to nursing, surgery technology and medical coding programs at PVCC.

Learning about jobs in technology was the goal of the Computer Technologies Career Academy. Campers recorded "commercials" at the Music Resource Center and attended a live broadcast at NBC29. Staff from Computers 4 Kids and C-ville Podcasting, along with Computer Science faculty from



**Students control a robot in the Computer Technologies Career Academy**



**Students in the Health Technologies Academy, give CPR to a mannequin.**

U.Va and PVCC, showed campers the world of wikis, blogs, social networks, JavaScript programming, web page design and graphics.

For each academy, a PVCC student and a career coach served as camp counselors throughout the week. "This is a great concept, and in the whole, it was a great four days," according to Don Goldman, camp counselor. The Summer Career Academies was funded by a grant from the Carl D. Perkins Vocational-Technical Education Act.

See more photos of campers in the Photo Gallery link at [www.pvcc.edu/futures](http://www.pvcc.edu/futures).

## Summer Hire Education Job Fair



**Students watch while employers conduct a mock interview.**

High School juniors and seniors from Charlottesville, Albemarle and Fluvanna high schools, as well as students enrolled in the WIA Youth Program, learned the do's and don'ts of job interviewing at Piedmont Virginia Community College's 25th Annual Job Fair held at the college March 18. Prior to the fair, students attended workshops in résumé writing, dressing for success, and job interviewing skills taught by career coaches and career specialists. Students also witnessed a mock interview and learned what skills and personal qualities employers seek in applicants for entry-level positions.

The students were part of the Summer Hire Education Program, a collaboration between PIEDMONT FUTURES, PVCC's Employer Services, eight Career Coaches and school Career Specialists, the WIA Youth Program, and the Departments of Rehabilitative Services. The program, designed to help students gain confidence and skills in navigating the job market, encourages students to get their

### Thanks to the following businesses and individuals for their help in making Summer 2009 Career Academies a success:

Jason Lawrence, Mark Sherriff & Mary Lou Soffa, U. Va. Computer Science faculty

Tim Hnat & Tamim Sookoor, U. Va Computer Science graduate students

Dolly Joseph, Computers 4 Kids

Sean Tubbs, C-ville Podcasting

Mark Fitzgerald, Ali Bouabid & Dave Duvall-Early, PVCC faculty

Andrew Renshaw, PVCC Engineering Liaison

Damani Harrison, Music Resource Center

Shane Edinger & Dave Rogers, NBC29

Kisha Woodson, CATEC faculty

Larry Appel, Madison County Rescue Squad

John Burruss, Charlottesville-Albemarle Rescue Squad

Liz Courain, U.Va. Volunteer Services

Allen Duff, Robin Koch & Rhoda Cooper PVCC faculty

Lyn Vanderosommen, PVCC Healthcare Program Manager Blue Ridge Graphics

The Hook

Papa John's Pizza

first job.

Sixty employers and an estimated 900 job seekers attended the 25th Annual Job Fair. Students in the Summer Hire Education Program, however, held their own. "I have to say that of the students that visited my table afterwards, [the participating students] were well composed and asked really good questions," one employer said. "They really put into practice what we presented." Several students were invited for job interviews following the fair.

## **Rotary Clubs Support PIEDMONT FUTURES**

### *Blue Ridge Mountains and Albemarle Rotary Clubs Both Donate*

Blue Ridge Mountains Rotary Club president, Pam Turner, presented PIEDMONT FUTURES with a check for \$3,000 at the club's breakfast meeting on March 25th at Farmington County Club. The BRMRC has been interested in volunteerism that connects business with education. Phil Kiester, Vocational Service Chair for the club, contacted PIEDMONT FUTURES to explore a possible partnership. "Our club has been looking for a good means to make an ongoing volunteer commitment to the partnership of business and education in our community," he said.

This year, five members of the club volunteered with PIEDMONT FUTURES as Career Pathways Speakers in elementary schools, at the 10th Grade Career Day and with Commonwealth Scholars Program.

Albemarle County Rotary Club donated \$500 at the April 23th meeting at the Boar's Head Inn. Ten members of this club have generously donated their time as speakers for Commonwealth Scholars in 2008-09 and 2007-08.

Thank you to Blue Ridge Mountains and Albemarle Rotary Clubs for your donations. The funds will be used to support the Career Pathways Speaker program for elementary school students to learn about careers opportunities by speaking with representatives from the business community.

## 10th Grade Career Day a Success

PIEDMONT FUTURES thanks all of the volunteers from the business community who made the 10th Grade Career Day a success. Held on March 12th and 13th at Piedmont Virginia Community College, the event was organized by the school systems of the City of Charlottesville and the Counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, and Nelson, with support from the Central Virginia Career Pathways Consortium.

"I had a great time doing this. Thanks so much for the opportunity to share with the youth," said musician Lorie Jean Strother. Guy Babineau, engineer with Sperry Marine had more praise: "The 10th grade career day was a valuable and enjoyable experience. The event was also well organized for the volunteers."

The 145 presenters enjoyed the event as much as the students. Over the two days, 1800 students filled the halls at PVCC. Authentic stories from career professionals give students guidance and career options as they undergo the process of choosing a career path. Again, thank you to the Business Community for stepping forward to share your career with our youth.

## Expanding Commonwealth Scholars

PIEDMONT FUTURES will administer Commonwealth Scholars for Virginia by sharing the model developed by PVCC and the regional school districts. Thanks to a grant from the Virginia Community College System, other community colleges are submitting competitive proposals to start the Commonwealth Scholars program in their service regions. PIEDMONT FUTURES will train the award recipients to work with their school districts to provide Commonwealth Scholars speakers in 8th grade classrooms. The Commonwealth Scholars program encourages students to take challenging classes in high school to equip them to be more successful both in the workplace and in postsecondary studies.



**Dr. John Jane, Jr., from UVA  
neurology,**

**shares his expertise with  
students.**

Recruiting for speakers for middle schools starts in September. This is a great community-service project opportunity for your business or organization to support education. There is a one-hour training and a one and a half-hour time commitment in the school. This is your chance to visit an 8th grade classroom, share your wisdom and influence the student's future.

Have a great summer!

Thanks for your support,

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