



Career Guidance Newsletter

What's Going On!

Classes have resumed at the Lowndes County Career Technical Center, with a new director and instructor on board. We'd like to extend a special welcome to Ms. Staci Pierce, Technical Instructor and Mr. Kenneth Fair, Director to the Center. The Career Tech Family is looking forward to embracing them both as we embark on another prosperous school year!

Students at the Center have been participating in the CareerScope Assessment. CareerScope is a Career Assessment that measures both aptitude and interest of an individual. The interest inventory measures and identifies an individual's attraction to careers that correspond to

the U.S. Department of Labor's Interest Areas.

Students will be begin participating in another interest inventory, Kuder. This interest inventory will provide the same kind of results as Kuder, but students will have access to other resources through this program that provide useful information regarding scholarships, colleges and universities, job opportunities, job descriptions, resume building, and career portfolio. We are excited at the Center to provide this resource to our students.

Once the inventories are conducted, the results are compiled into a comprehensive Individual Profile Analysis, providing students with career recommenda-

tions correlated with their individual interests.

These results will be valuable to students when making course selections, planning out careers, and researching career possibilities. A copy of the assessment data will be given to each student as well as placed in the students' career portfolios in the Guidance Office. I strongly encourage each of you to share this document with your parents and then place it in a secure location. The data collected through the assessment will be useful to you each year!



Tonya Coker, Counselor

Why Should I Take Courses at the Lowndes County Career Tech Center?

Interesting question that's asked by many students today. So, I'll do my best in answering it to your satisfaction.

Hopefully, at this point in your life, you've established some goals for yourself. Most goals set at this point are short term goals, which are quick achievable goals. However, it's time now to set realistic long term goals for yourself, of which should impact what you will do for the rest of your life. Notice I used the word realistic when

dealing with goals. This is very important because goals that are set by individuals that are not realistic are rarely achieved. Therefore, we must think about everything involved when deciding what we want to accomplish in our lives.

With that said, if your goals focus on your interests, where you want to be in 10 years, and how you are going to get there, then Career Tech can help you with reaching those goals. By the time you arrive at your sen-

ior year, you should have industry-recognized credentials and be prepared for advanced study or employment. Therefore, all students can benefit from the services provided at the Center. If you are truly preparing for life beyond high school, then there's no reason why you shouldn't take courses at the Lowndes County Career Tech Center! Our courses can prepare you for your future, whether it be post-secondary training or entering the workforce, and assist you with meeting your lifetime goals.

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Quote of the Month

"An education isn't how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you do know and what you don't."

Anatole France

Welcome to the Class of 2011!

On behalf of the entire Career Tech family, the Guidance Department would like to welcome all 9th grade students to the Lowndes County Career Technical Center. I look forward to serving you this school year and hope that you will have a successful freshman year!

There are many great opportunities available to you at the Center so I encourage all ninth grade students to come be apart of our family! When taking courses at the Center, please make certain that your high school counselors are aware of the program that your interested in so that your schedules will reflect your interest. This will become important to you as you draw near to the end of your high school career.

Another opportunity available to our

students is the involvement in Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs). These organizations provide students with great opportunities to enhance leadership and citizenship skills, knowledge and understanding of an ever-changing society, and volunteerism through community service projects. Not to mention that your involvement in these organizations will be extremely beneficial to you as you begin completing resumes for college entrance and scholarships and/or the workforce. Please ask your instructors for further information regarding the their CTSO.

Remember that during your freshman year you lay the foundation for your future academic, career and personal growth. My goal as a counselor is to

assist you in this process and to offer you a variety of options in helping you realize your goals. I encourage each of you to come into the Career Tech guidance office with any concerns you might have. My door is always open and no question or problem is too trivial. I hope that this newsletter will offer you important information that will help your transition into high school be a smooth one.

I hope that you have a great school year. Please contact me, Mrs. Coker, if I can provide assistance to you in any way.



Welcome Back Sophomores and Juniors!

The end of summer signals remembrances of enjoyable past times ... favorite vacation spots, hobbies pursued and summer jobs experienced. Now, as your focus is redirected to returning to high school, you must have many thoughts and questions about these very important years. Juniors, this year is a pivotal one in which your academic talents will be challenged and your achievement scrutinized for post-secondary consideration.

If you haven't already, begin taking

your academics seriously and get yourself involved in after school activities, work experiences, and community service projects. These will assist you with whatever endeavor lies ahead!

For those of you who have plans for college, please begin preparing to take the ACT (the Spring of your Junior year is recommended for the first time) . You may want to visit the ACT website for practice questions to help you prepare. If you are a first time taker and qualify

for free/reduced lunch, see your high school counselors for a fee waiver (qualifying students may receive 2 fee waivers this year). You may register for ACT, which is given on Central and Calhoun's campuses, online at www.actstudent.org. If I can be of assistance to you, please let me know.

Registration Fees

ACT (No Writing) .. \$30.00
ACT Plus Writing ...\$44.50

Students who qualify for free/reduced lunch should see the high school counselors for information regarding testing fee waivers.

ACT Testing Dates

October 27, 2007
December 8, 2007
February 9, 2008
April 12, 2008
June 14, 2008

It's Finally Here—Your Senior Year!

THIS IS IT!! Your senior year is something you've thought about for many years—you've finally made it!! The senior year is one of transition—an ending of your high school years and a beginning step toward your future. As you stretch the remaining days of your vacation, begin to plan for your year ahead. There are many exciting things going on—enjoy them!

It's time to start putting the finishing

touches on your high school days. During your last year, think about the legacy you leave behind and ask yourself, "Is this how I want to be remembered on my 10th year class reunion?" If not, begin repairing the damage and branding in the minds of the underclassman a person who they would strive to imitate. If your satisfied with who you've been over the last 3 years, then move forward and work hard to continue to display the character

you have thus far. Others are looking up to you, whether your ready for this challenge or not. So, I ask you this final year to become a stepping stone to others instead of a stumbling block!



Career Focus—The Amazing World of Manufacturing

Advanced Manufacturing invents and creates the products people need and want. Whether it is clothing, cell phones, computers or automobiles, CDs and DVDs, food and drink, athletic gear, medicine or cosmetics, virtually everything we use on a daily basis is manufactured. These and many other products are part of everyday life because advanced manufacturing techniques make them reliable, affordable and available.

What makes manufacturing so versatile is technology. Advanced manufacturing applies cutting edge concepts in electronics, computers, software and automation to improve production. In the past 10 years, the use of computer systems and software to monitor and control processes in large and small plants has led to

increased product quality and productivity. Communications technology has increased the ability of engineers and plant managers to check on operations—even if it's halfway around the world.

A recent study released by the National Association of Manufacturers and the Manufacturing Institute, reports that 81% of American manufacturers say their biggest problem is finding qualified workers. If this problem isn't fixed, the report states it will impact our nation's economic well-being.

The Manufacturing Institute recommends that students take math and science courses starting in middle school as manufacturing is technologically driven. Computer programming skills should be studied as well due to the importance of

computer-aided design.

Advanced manufacturing creates some of the highest-paying, skilled jobs in the workforce. Take a look at some of the average annual salaries for advanced manufacturing staff:

- Assembler \$32,900
- Avionics Technician \$46,570
- Chemical Engineer \$78,030
- Plant Manager \$109,090
- Welder \$31,430
- Painter \$36,980
- Electrician \$41,760
- Inspector \$31,590

Salaries were taken from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.



What's New in Lowndes County?

As you are all aware, the automotive manufacturing industry has taken off in Lowndes County and surrounding areas. There is a great need for qualified, dedicated, and skilled workers in the workforce today, but especially in the automotive manufacturing industry. Businesses are desperately looking for individuals to fill positions in their place of work. That's where you come into the picture!

The Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce has partnered with area businesses, Trenholm Technical College, the U.S. Department of Labor through the Alabama Department of Economic Community Affairs Workforce Development, and the Alabama Office of Workforce Development to implement a program that will prepare high school Seniors for employment in the manufacturing industry. This program will target students in the 12th grade who demonstrate a desire for full time employment in the manufacturing industry. The participating students will be chosen from schools in Montgomery, Lowndes, Autauga, and Elmore Counties. Chosen students will have the opportunity to participate in training courses outside of the high school setting. Students will enroll in

courses needed for graduation at their local high schools and then take the remaining courses at Trenholm's Automotive Manufacturing Training Center (AMTC).

Once students have graduated from high school, they will be given the opportunity to further their training and complete an Associate's Degree at Trenholm State Technical College in either Automotive Manufacturing Technology or earn a Certificate in Industrial Maintenance Technology. This training can take place in lieu of or in conjunction with employment at the company. For those students interested in full-time employment following high school graduation, if a student has successfully completed all the requirements of the training program, and is 18 years of age, the candidate may at that time be hired by the participating companies.

Sounds great, doesn't it? Well, During the month of November, representatives will visit Calhoun and Central to share further information regarding this program. Students who are currently in the 11th grade will be eligible to participate in the program for the 2008—2009

school year, so the presentations will be given to only Juniors.

Lowndes County had three students to participate in the 2007 Manufacture Your Future Summer Series this past summer. I'm sure they have great reviews about the program and would be more than happy to share with you their experiences. The participants were: Jeremy Gordon, Central High, Samantha Gordon, Central High, Bradley Patterson, Central High, and Ashley Johnson, Calhoun High.

I hope this information will help you better understand the program so that you can be an **active** participant during the presentation—who knows, your future may depend on it!



"Destiny is not matter of chance. It is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved."

William Jennings Bryan

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**Meeting the needs of the
21st Century global
marketplace!**

Mr. Kenneth Fair, Director
Mrs. Tonya Coker, Counselor

Guidance and Counseling Department

The school counseling and guidance department at the LCCTC is an integral part of the total educational process and is accessible to all students. The primary focus at this level is to assist students in becoming responsible adults who can develop realistic life plans and fulfill those life plans based on a clear understanding of themselves and their needs. Through doing this, the counselor works in collaboration with teachers to see that students are administered a career interest inventory. Information derived from this assessment and others are kept in a four year plan for all students enrolled in courses at the Center. These plans are useful to students as they transition from high school to advanced study at the college level or entry into the workforce.

Programs Offered and Instructors

Agriscience—Mr. Jasper Lambert & Mr. James Walker

Business—Mrs. Stacey Woodley, Mrs. Susan Coleman & Mrs. Delois Whiting

HealthScience—Mrs. Kim Mixon-Carter

Masonry—Mr. Johnny Packer

Technical—Ms. Staci Pierce

8th Grade Business—Mrs. Mary Bibb



Something To Think About!

You sow, you reap!

This is life itself! It gives you back everything you say or do. Our life is simply a reflection of our actions. If you want more love in the world, create more love in your heart. Life will give you back everything you have given to it!

We've all heard that saying ... "You are what you eat" ... well, the same applies to the mind— "You are what you continually think". Everything you allow into your mind, positively or negatively, will affect your actions. When our attitude is positive we entertain pleasant feelings and constructive images, and see in our mind's eye what we really want to happen. This brings brightness to the eyes, more energy and happiness. The whole being broadcasts good will, happiness and success.

Positive and negative thinking are both contagious. All of us affect, in one way or another, the people we meet. This happens instinctively and on a subcon-

scious level, through thoughts and feelings transferred and through body language. You become who you think you are and the people you associate with can influence how you choose to act. Therefore, always surround yourself with positive "can do" people. Negative people with negative thoughts, words and attitude bring up negative and unhappy moods and actions. When the mind is negative, poisons are released into the blood, which cause more unhappiness and negativity. This is the way to failure, frustration and disappointment.

In order to turn the mind toward the positive, inner work and training are required. **Attitude and thoughts do not change overnight!**

Try these practical suggestions when working on your positive attitude:

- Always visualize only favorable and beneficial situations and use positive words in you inner dialogues or when talking with others.

- Once a negative thought enters your mind, you have to be aware of it and attempt to replace it with a constructive one.
- No matter what your circumstances are at the present moment you must think positively and expect only favorable results.

Let's all work to turn our negative thoughts and actions into positive ones— it might be difficult, but not impossible!



A strong positive mental attitude will create more miracles than any wonder drug.

Patricia Neal