



SPOTLIGHT NEWSLETTER

Fall Newsletter
2009-2010

Participating BACC High Schools:

- Bloomington
- Central Catholic
- Clinton
- El Paso-Gridley
- Fieldcrest
- Heyworth
- LeRoy
- Lexington
- Normal Community
- Normal West
- Olympia
- Ridgeview
- Tri-Valley
- U-High

BACC Computerized Architectural Design Student Participates in Extreme Home Makeover. *By Cole Ritter, Senior at Clinton High School*

Extreme Makeover Home Edition came to Central Illinois on August 18, 2009 to the Montgomery's home in Philo, IL. Brady Homes of Bloomington had my father, Roger Ritter, owner of Ritter Plumbing, Inc., head up the plumbing in this house.

On August 19, my dad and I went to Philo to shut off the water to the house to get ready for the demolition. On August 20th my parents and I participated in the commercial for volunteering with all the other builders and volunteers, along with Ty Pennington. This commercial will be aired on national TV for volunteer week. Later that night we returned to hook up the water into the house. At that time they had the foundation dug out and were pouring the footings by the time we were leaving.

Friday, all of Ritter Plumbing employees started roughing in the house, putting in the water lines and drain lines. The electricians, heating/air/sprinkler system professionals, and framers were all in the house at once. We were there from 1:30 p.m. on August 21st until 6 a.m. on the 22nd. With over 150 people it was chaotic inside the house, as we could barely move around to get our workers pipe and tools.

Around 2 a.m. I had to mix mortar and put in garden tubs for the children's bathrooms. It was very hard to maneuver around all the people and carry the 80 pound tubs with mortar up the stairs. The stairs were muddy and people were falling, but luckily no one was hurt.

On Sunday the 23rd, Ritter Plumbing returned to put in all the fixtures including the Kohler faucets and toilets. It was not as crowded so it was a breeze to get everything done. We were there from 11 a.m. till 5 p.m. All of the Brady Team was on or above schedule. The landscaping, flooring, cabinets, painting, garage doors, interior doors, lighting were all being done when we were there on Sunday. I helped the designer, Didiayer Snyder, on Sunday.

We returned Tuesday for "Move That Bus". My dad helped hang pictures and do final touches on the house and talked to Ty before the family got there. This event was exciting to be a part of. The family was overwhelmed from what they used to live in compared to this nice brand new two story home. The experience took a lot of energy from all.



The Ritter Plumbing Crew

What's Happening at the BACC

- The Army National Guard will be speaking to the Automotive program on October 5th.
- October 7th Culinary Arts will be having a speaker from Johnson & Wales University.
- On October 13th the Criminal Justice class will be visiting the Marseilles Training Center for the Illinois Army National Guard.



Before



During



After

From the BACC Director...

Hello, and welcome to the Bloomington Area Career Center (BACC). The 2009-10 school year finds us with over 385 juniors and seniors from 14 schools in our 12 different Career and Technical Education programs. The BACC has been in operation since 1968, with the objectives of providing students with experiences that teaches them technical skills, orientates students to a potential career, all while applying their academic skills.

Career and Technical Education coursework provides a strong foundation for students to build upon. These students will soon become a bigger part of the American economy. According to the Executive Office of the President's Council of Economic Advisers report, "Preparing the Workers of Today for the Jobs of Tomorrow (July, 2009), "...the fastest growth among occupations (are those) that require an associate's degrees or a post-secondary vocational award." BACC and Career and Technical Education courses are the starting point for so many of our students.

At the BACC, students are given these career exploration opportunities while becoming better prepared for college, advanced training, or the workforce. Students will also have the opportunity to build job readiness skills by attending resume and interviewing workshops. Job shadowing opportunities and membership in SkillsUSA will also be available to students. SkillsUSA is a co-curricular opportunity that allows students to compete against other students in the state in their training area, while providing students with leadership training.

Information regarding opportunities being offered at BACC will be made available to your students through their classroom teacher. In addition, our website (www.bloomingtonacc.org) also contains information about our programs and the various opportunities we offer.

I encourage you to keep in contact with us throughout the school year, especially with your son or daughter's classroom teacher. Generally, email is the easiest way to contact our teachers. Links can be found on our website for all of our instructors. In addition, you will have opportunities to visit the BACC, for events such as our Open Houses, Parent-Teacher Conferences, and for our awards ceremonies in the spring.

We look forward to providing a unique and challenging experience for your student.

- Mr. Tom Frazier

A Note From the New Career Services Coordinator...

Hello BACC parents and students. My name is Peggy Bobb and I would like to introduce myself as the new Student Services Coordinator for the BACC. There are many opportunities that await your students here at the center. Each month one second year student is selected to be the BACC Normal Rotary Student of the Month. This student attends Rotary functions and is eligible for a scholarship at the end of the year. Another opportunity for students is to be part of the National Technical Honor Society. This is an organization that honors outstanding student achievement in the career and technical educational fields. Students are nominated by their BACC teachers and then evaluated by a membership panel. Inductions take place second semester.

I also oversee the management of IEP's at the center. If students need help in their program or with their accommodations, I will work with the instructors and home schools to meet those needs.

Please feel free to contact me during your student's training at the Bloomington Area Career Center to further your student's success at (309) 829-8671 x5183 or by email bobbp@district87.org.

3rd Annual Career & Technical Education Festival

On Thursday, November 5, 2009 the Bloomington Area Career Center, in collaboration with the McLean County Community COMPACT, will host the 3rd Annual Career and Technical Education Festival from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., and the BACC Community Open House from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Interstate Center in Bloomington, IL. The purpose of this festival is to provide the 8th grade students of McLean & DeWitt County with vital career and educational information, interactive presentations, and networking opportunities with business & industry professionals. This is an effort to showcase the various career areas that are specifically designed for the students' field of interest.

The Community Open House will give high school students and parents the chance to meet and talk with the BACC teachers as well as college and business representatives. The festival will showcase all BACC career and technical educational programs with student presenters along with the BACC instructors. Approximately 2,000 people visited the festival last year. The festival also included computer giveaways, gift cards, and souvenirs during these events. For more information regarding special events & programs, please contact: Mr. Edwin "Sarge"nt, (309) 829-8671 x 5184 or by email at sargente@district87.org.



On September 17, both Culinary Arts classes traveled to Kendall College in Chicago. One of the top-rated culinary schools in the nation, Kendall offers degrees in culinary arts, hospitality management and business, with a culinary concentration. Kendall College is the sole sponsor for the SkillsUSA state culinary competition held every spring.

While on campus, BACC students toured the new facility in downtown Chicago. They were given a food demonstration and an opportunity to assist the chef. The day ended with a special meal prepared by culinary students at the culinary school. For more information about Kendall, visit www.Kendall.edu.



Students in the Employment Prep/Internship Working Hard to Secure Employment in Challenging Economic Climate

In the classroom, Employment Prep/Internship students are learning the difference between hard skills and soft skills and what those skills mean to employers. Understanding that the more skills attained translates into larger paychecks and greater economic security is something that is being emphasized.

Students need to realize that, while hard (measurable) skills are important, it is equally important to develop the traits which are described as "soft". Those include having a good attitude, being dependable, developing good communication skills, being able to sell yourself in an interview, developing a good personality, being likeable, and working with diverse populations smoothly.

So far, students are employed at Debra T. Thomas Learning Centers, Best Buy, Boys and Girls Club, and many are doing volunteer work while applying for paid jobs. Volunteer positions include youth football, BACC office, BHS office, church renovations, Planned Parenthood and home child care.

The combination of learning a tangible skill and demonstrating soft skills is one that will spell success, not just today, but in the future as well. If you are looking for willing and dependable workers who are motivated to work hard or know of anyone who is, please contact Suzanne McDowell at 309-287-3890.

Where Are They Now?

James A. Nussbaum graduated from Normal Community West High School in 1999. He attended the BACC in the Small Engines and Automotive program. James is currently working as the only BMW Master Technician in Bloomington-Normal at Bob Dennison BMW. He will continue working for Bob Dennison, but has thought about possibly teaching someday. James credits the BACC and his program instructors for giving him the opportunities that he has had.

Katie Varney graduated from Bloomington High School in 2007. She attended BACC in the Health Occupations program. Katie is currently enrolled at the Mennonite College of Nursing and is employed at Bromenn in the Mental Health Unit and Wound Center. Her future plans include receiving her Bachelor of Science degree and eventually working on her Masters of Science. Katie feels what she learned in her BACC class made nursing school much easier and put her a step ahead.

BACC STUDENTS CHOSEN FOR NORMAL ROTARY

The Normal Rotary invites the Bloomington Area Career Center to be represented as guests in their monthly luncheon meetings. The BACC students who are chosen exhibit citizenship, leadership, participation, and scholarship in their BACC program. Students chosen will represent the BACC for the months of September, 2009 through April, 2010. The student listed will represent the month of September, 2009. At the end of the school year, the Normal Rotary will choose one of the monthly representatives to receive a \$500 scholarship. This will be presented at the BACC "Evening of Recognition" to be held on Thursday, May 13, 2010.

Philip Scheets is a senior and a second year student at the BACC. Philip plans to continue his education at the University of Illinois or the University of Iowa and would like to become a Criminal Defense Attorney or an Accounting Finance major.



Philip Scheets
Criminal Justice II
Bloomington High School

BACC Calendar

- **October 12:** Columbus Day- No School
- **October 16:** Institute Day- No Students
- **October 26:** Parent/Teacher Conferences-No Students
- **November 5:** 8th Grade Career Expo and BACC Open House
- **November 26 & 27:** Thanksgiving Break-No School
- **December 23-January 5:** Winter Break-No School

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RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED**