



SPOTLIGHT NEWSLETTER

**Winter 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**

What's Happening at the BACC

- **January 29, Auto Tech students will be visiting Parkland to tour their auto, diesel and collision repair programs.**
- **The BACC Technical Honor Society Induction Ceremony will be held on February 23 at 6:30 p.m.**
- **The Criminal Justice program will be visiting the Bloomington Police Department on February 24.**

Interest in Cars Drives Girls to take Automotive Tech Class

The Automotive Technology I and II classes have a new look this year, as four young ladies are currently enrolled. Stephanie Aden (Normal West), Lauren Berry (Normal West), Becca Burt (Bloomington), and Shawna Sargent (LeRoy) are all active participants in the course.

"It looked like a living Pimp My Ride" were Lauren Berry's thoughts when she visited the Auto Tech lab for the first time. Her love of cars and enjoyment of technology convinced her that this would be a great choice for her since her father had recently purchased her first car. Lauren added, "Every girl should know how a car works."

Becca Burt said that her family history led her to the class, but she has learned far more. "I first became interested because my grandpa had a used car lot. It's different from what I expected. I've grown closer to the other schools and students." Becca recently brought her car in to the lab, diagnosed a water pump problem, and repaired it, with the assistance of her team.

Stephanie Aden, a self-described "Auto II Chick" echoed Becca's thoughts. When asked about the class she said, "I really like it. The class is like a family. It (the acceptance from the male students) has helped a lot.

Female students have been taking the Auto Tech class throughout past years. The course is taught by Mr. Otis Kindle. This current year has more females in the class than the recent past. Opportunities in the automotive industry for females, and males alike, are of a broad range. No longer are we in the days of exclusively males working in what have been traditionally male dominated careers. Opportunities in the field include careers as technicians, sales representatives, management, business owners, engineers, and insurance representatives.

Although the young ladies aren't sure as of yet if they will be making automotive repair a career, they share the same belief that girls should not be intimidated by their perceptions of Auto Tech and strongly recommend the class to future students. Shawna Sargent advises, "Take a chance and don't worry about it being mainly a guy's class...it's smart to take it for future knowledge." Becca Burt was more direct with her slogan "Go for it!"

New Fire Science Program Being Offered in August 2010

Bloomington Area Career Center has added Fire Science to its menu of course offerings for the 2010-2011 school year. The program has been developed in cooperation with Bloomington, Normal, and rural fire departments, Illinois Central College, and Greg Scott from the EMS system in McLean County. Six dual credit hours will be offered through Illinois Central College for students successfully completing the first year of the program. Students will also be given the opportunity to earn "First Responder" and CPR certification through training provided.

The classroom portion of the course will be held at Bloomington Area Career Center. Two to three days per week students will also be provided lab experiences, to be held at Bloomington and Normal Fire Departments, using their facilities and equipment. Students will be trained in technical and manipulative skills including, but not limited to the following areas of study: Fire Behavior, Safety, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, Turnout Gear Use, Portable Fire Extinguishers, Ladders and Ladder Use, Fire Hose and Appliances, Building Construction, Forcible Entry, Ventilation, Water Supply, Nozzles and Fire Streams, Rescue, Fire Control, and Ropes and Knots.

Forty-five million, two hundred and six thousand, six hundred and fifty-four dollars, and sixty-one cents.

That's how much the state is behind in payments to local schools. When the quarterly payments came due at the end of the year, the state again missed its categorical and grant payments to all 871 Illinois school districts.

This money is supposed to fund projects like school buses, special education, reading programs, early childhood development, **and career and technical education**. The money's not coming in, however, and instead is getting added bill by bill to an already \$4.5 billion IOU the state has for services from schools to homeless shelters.

Locally, the Bloomington Area Career Center is funded primarily through the state of Illinois Career and Technical Education Improvement (CTEI) grant. To date, only two state payments have been received (both in December), with four payments outstanding. Bloomington Area Career Center uses the state CTEI dollars to fund programs, pay salaries, purchase equipment and supplies, and fund student opportunities. The short term ramifications of not receiving the state payments include reduced travel and professional development opportunities for the BACC faculty, as well as a freeze on any discretionary spending (such as new equipment or supplies).

2010-11 school year is being planned for with the expectation that funding will be received. BACC is currently taking applications for each of our programs. Reserves that had been built up over the past several years would carry us, if needed, through the 2010-11 school year. Future years, at this point, are unknown.

All local districts are also feeling the effects of the state financial crisis. The solution is unknown and it is being stated that there is not a quick fix to this crisis. The ISBE has had preliminary budget discussions for FY2011. How these discussions will play out, and how it will affect grants such as the CTEI grant remain to be seen.

SkillsUSA Important Dates

February 19: State Qualifying Exam at Illinois Central College-leaving BACC at 4:30 p.m.

April 15-17: 46th Annual SkillsUSA Illinois Leadership and Skills Conference

February 8-12: National SkillsUSA Week

February 17: Leadership Workshop

March 17: Leadership Workshop



For more information go to: www.bloomingtonacc.org or www.illinoiskillsusa.org

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 students listed will represent the months of October, November and January. 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.

Jackie Gerig is a senior at NCHS and a second year student in the BACC Cosmetology program. Jackie plans on attending the University of North Texas where she hopes to play volleyball and major in Fashion Design. Upon graduation she plans to become a cosmetologist.

Dylan Zimmerman is a senior at Fieldcrest high school and a second year student in the BACC Culinary Arts program. Dylan is planning on attending Joliet Junior College and would like to eventually be a chef in his own restaurant.

Stephanie Aden is a senior at NCWHS and a second year student in the BACC Automotive Technology program. Stephanie is planning on attending a community college with an emphasis on Automotive and Business.



October
Jackie Gerig
Cosmetology II
NCHS



November
Dylan Zimmerman
Culinary Arts II
Fieldcrest



January
Stephanie Aden
Automotive II
NCHS

BHS

Charles Breen, Criminal Justice II
 Rebecca Burt, Automotive I
 Dominique Lockwood, Culinary Arts I
 Cynthia Price, Culinary Arts I
 David Schemerhorn, CAD
 Amber Vandermoon, Health Occupations I

Clinton

Emma Buckley, Culinary Arts II
 Jessica Tarbox, Health Occupations I

Fieldcrest

Trevor Dicks, Digital Media I
 Adrian Shan, Culinary Arts II
 Stephanie Spencer, Health Occupations I

LeRoy

Brody Cumpston, Automotive I

NCHS

Kayla Howell, Health Occupations I
 Annaliese Quistgaard, Culinary Arts I
 Maricela Rojas-Balderas, Criminal Justice I
 Matthew Smith, Automotive I
 Jaimee Yefimov, Criminal Justice I

Olympia

Seth Gibson, Automotive II
 Rodney Graf, Construction I
 Cassy Shelton, Cosmetology I

Tri-Valley

Bradley Zychowski, Civil Engineering

CCHS

Evan Ibsen, Automotive I
 Dustin Strubhart, Cisco Networking

El Paso-Gridley

Robert Dickison, Automotive I
 Christina Edens, Cosmetology I
 Brian Fisher, Automotive I
 Brandon Tracy, Automotive II

Heyworth

Kylie Day, Cosmetology I

Lexington

Ian Boyce, Automotive II
 Emily Jacobs, Digital Media I

NCWHS

Stephanie Aden, Automotive II
 Lauren Berry, Automotive I
 Tiara Farris, Cosmetology II
 Jonathan Henderson, Automotive II
 Matt Jaggard, Automotive II
 Tim Zehr, Construction I

Ridgeview

Rebecca Bradd, Health Occupations I
 Jonathon Brown, Criminal Justice I

U-High

Gary Nalefski, Automotive I
 Mikhayla Price, Health Occupations I

BACC Perfect Attendance

The BACC had 35 students that had Perfect Attendance for the 1st semester.

Good attendance is one of the most desired traits by employers of their employees. Businesses are more productive when their employees are in attendance and can be dependable to show up on a daily basis.

This is also true in school. Students learn more and are more productive when they attend school on a regular basis.

Congratulations and keep it up!!

BACC 2010-11 Enrollment Applications

Have you turned in your BACC application for the 2010-2011 school year? Reserve your spot now for next fall. Even if you are a junior in the first year of a program and plan to return for the second year, you must turn in an application to reserve your spot.

See your guidance counselor:

- If you have questions
- To pick up an application
- To turn in your application

Question about a BACC program

- Come to Student Services in Room 156
 - Come to the BACC office
 - Go to www.bloomingtonacc.org

BACC CalendarFebruary 4:

BACC Spring Open House

February 15:

Presidents Day-No
School

February 22:

P/T Conferences-No
Students

February 23:

Technical Honor Society
Induction Ceremony
6:30p.m.

**McLean-DeWitt Regional Vocational System
P.O. Box 5187
Bloomington, IL 61702-5187
Bloomington Area Career Center
RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED**