

***Adult Career Center  
Director, Chris Fletcher***



***October 2012***

**Promoting the JVS**

The Adult Career Center staff has been busy the past few months around Lorain County promoting the JVS. Staff manned tables and passed out JVS promotional material at the Lorain County Fair, Wellington; Oberlin Fun Fair, Oberlin; Labor Day Celebration, Lorain; Harvest of The Arts, Wellington; Fall Into Avon, Avon; Ross Environmental Family & Friends Day, Grafton; Veterans Career Day; American Legion Post 12 in Elyria and participated in the Community Day at the JVS. Also, Diana Gott gave a presentation at LCADA, Lorain about JVS opportunities.

**Students Take Advantage of New VA Approved Programs**

Five new programs at Lorain County JVS Adult Career Center were approved for VA benefits this fall, including Medical Assisting, Cooking and Food Service, Cosmetology, Dental Assisting, and Pharmacy Technician.

These newly approved programs have provided veterans with educational choices that they both deserve and desire; consequently, two veterans are registered for Cosmetology this fall, and one veteran is attending Medical Assisting.

A number of Educational Benefits exist for qualifying veterans, including the following:

- Chapter 30 Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty Educational Assistance
- Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation
- Chapter 32 Veteran's Education Assistance Program
- Chapter 33 Post 911
- Chapter 35 – Survivors 'and Dependents' Educational Assistance
- Chapter 1606 Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve Educational Assistance Program
- Chapter 1607 Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve Educational Assistance Program
- VRAP – **NEW**, unique opportunity enacted in an effort to reduce veteran unemployment; qualifying veterans who are no longer eligible for any other VA education benefit program may receive up to one year of additional Montgomery GI Bill benefits in order to receive training and certification in high demand jobs.

In order for a certified veteran to receive full VA benefits, he must be enrolled in a class that meets 22 hours per week if it is lab dominant or 18 hours per week if it is theory dominant. Students enrolled in programs that do not meet these weekly requirements will have their VA benefits prorated.

Veterans who would like to apply online or who would like more information about the benefits listed above should be directed to the website: <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.

**USS Lorain Tubular Operations Training**

Ralph Bentley, Program Developer, coordinated a Computerized Numerical Control (CNC) class for the USS Lorain Tubular Operations. John Green, high school CNC instructor, conducted the 35 hour training at the JVS and the Steel Mill. The training was developed to increase the employee knowledge of CNC and how to run and cut threads used on the Steel Mill's product.

The partnership between the Steel Mill and the JVS has been long and productive for both parties.

### **Employment netWork Assessment Contract**

For approximately 15 years, Diana Gott, Assessment Coordinator, has had a yearly contract with the Employment netWork. This contract states the Adult Career Center will proctor all Workkeys Assessment testing done at their site. The netWork uses the Workkeys Assessment to make sure their clients meet the criteria to succeed.

The Employment netWork requires the participants to take the test, along with other requirements before they are issued funding for schooling costs. The testing does not only include potential Lorain County JVS students, but also students who are attending other facilities.

### **Earning GED is Small Step Towards a Big Career for JVS Adult Student**

Small steps. . . . an appropriate pace for Molly Hogan, who dreams of becoming a preschool teacher.

“I love working with children. It’s a passion I’ve had since childhood, thanks to so many wonderful teachers that influenced me,” says Hogan. Hogan drew on that passion to carry her through some difficult times – including withdrawing from Elyria High School to raise her infant son, Jacob; and failing her first GED exam.

“I was very disappointed,” admits Hogan, who failed the GED exam by one point shortly after relocating to Jacksonville, NC in 1998. “I swept it under the rug and didn’t give it much thought.” Until she returned to Ohio several years later, working as a waitress and bartender.



“I had a friend who was studying for his GED at the JVS Adult Career Center,” Hogan recalls. “Bartending was getting old. I thought about it, and decided to give the GED exam another shot.”

Make that a blast. Hogan passed the exam just two months after enrolling in the course.

“After withdrawing from high school, I never thought I’d get another opportunity to teach,” Hogan, 32, laments. “But my JVS teachers believed in me.” “I buried my nose in my books,” she says. “I studied, studied, studied; spending hours taking practice tests and writing essays.” Which prepared her well for the two-day exam.

“Viewing my results online, seeing that I passed was exciting,” she continues. “Then holding that certificate in my hands a few days later . . . it was awesome!”

But Hogan’s journey is just beginning.

“I kept thinking about college while I was at the JVS,” she says. “My son was growing up. I wasn’t working as much. The timing was right and I enrolled in the LCCC Early Childhood Education Program immediately after getting my GED.”

Hogan’s college studies are off to a good start. She was the recipient of the Early Childhood Leadership award, which she received at the Honors and Awards Outstanding Student Convocation at LCCC. This award is presented to the student who has demonstrated excellence in leadership, scholarship, personal integrity, and community service and has unselfishly applied these skills to benefit the campus and community, according to LCCC documents. Hogan credits Dr. Kathy Head, one of her instructors at LCCC, for inspiring her to excel in her studies. If all goes right for Hogan, she will graduate with her Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education in May 2013 and eventually work toward her Bachelor’s Degree at Ashland University through the LCCC partnership.

Hogan is also honing her skills at Child Nest Day Care in Wakeman while continuing her education at LCCC. She is aware of the impact that a quality teacher will have on young children. Says Hogan: “I’m not in this for the money. My passion is for kids . . . setting them up for the next grade level. It’s what they learn now that shapes them for the rest of their lives. I can’t wait to have my own classroom!”