



October E-Newsletter

## Job/Career Fair

Inside this issue:

Work Certified Class 2

Consortia Updates 2

LPN Program Grows 3

New EOC Counselor 3

Workforce Forum Update 3

Environmental Learning Center 4

Educational Links 4

The Armstrong County Board of Commissioners is sponsoring a **Job/Career Fair** on Thursday, **October 25, 2007** from **11:00 AM to 5:00 PM** at the **PA CareerLink Armstrong County** and the **Armstrong Educational Trust**.

Participating employers will include members of the Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium, the Armstrong County Health Care Consortium, and the Tri-County

Technology Consortium as well as other employers in the region.

Educational providers also will participate with information on programs and service available to individuals interested in building skills or exploring new careers.

For more information, contact PA CareerLink Armstrong County at **(724) 548-5693** or the Trust at **(724) 543-2599**.

## New Choices/New Options Class Forming

**New Choices/New Options**, a program designed to connect individuals seeking a career change, single parents/displaced homemakers, unemployed/underemployed, low income individuals, and individuals exploring non-traditional technologies or trades to the world

of work, is preparing for a new class to begin in October.

The program includes job search skills, personal development, career assessments, and much more.

For more information, contact the New Choices/New Options program at **(800) 830-3248**.





## Work Certified Class a Success

The first offering of the **Work Certified** work readiness program was a success, with all six participants mastering all 50 required competencies and passing the comprehensive exam with at least an 80% score.

At the conclusion of the program, a “*reverse job fair*” was held to bring together the program graduates and employers. Employers were impressed with the graduates’ success in the program.

The next **Work Certified** class is scheduled to begin **October 1** in Butler.

For more information, contact the PA CareerLink Armstrong County at (724) 548-5693, the PA CareerLink Butler County at (724) 431-4030, the PA CareerLink Indiana County at (724) 471-7220, or the Trust at (724) 543-2599.

## Consortia Updates



*The Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium* welcomed the Director of the Armstrong County Department of Planning and Development as the speaker at their September meeting.

During September, the president of the consortium has been visiting members to gather feedback on consortium initiatives and share information on opportunities. The speaker for the October meeting will be a representative from the **Challenge Program** who will describe ways to provide incentives for enhancing student performance.

*The Armstrong County Health Care Consortium* is beginning preparations for the annual **Health Careers Awareness Week** to be held in early

November. Members are finalizing preparations for status as a 501 (c) (3) organization. The chairs of the three county consortia will be meeting soon to continue the strategic planning process for health care in Armstrong, Butler, and Indiana Counties.

*The Tri-County Technology Consortium* is putting the finishing touches on a consortium website. The consortium is continuing to recruit new members, and the group is hoping to participate in a few additional employer events during the fall in Butler County. The strategic planning process is continuing as well.

For more information on any of the industry cluster consortia, contact **Armstrong Educational Trust** at (724) 543-2599 or [davidaet@alltel.net](mailto:davidaet@alltel.net).



## Lenape Practical Nursing Program Grows

With the increased space available due to the move of the PA Career-Link Armstrong County next door to the Trust, the **Lenape Practical Nursing** program is aiming for enrollment growth over the coming years.

A new full-time class of nearly 30 students began their studies in early September, and applications are being processed now for the next class

which will begin in early 2008. graduates of the program pass the licensing exam at a consistently high rate, and employers give excellent marks to the graduates they have hired to work in their facilities.

For more information, contact the **Lenape Practical Nursing** office at (724) 545-7311.



**LenapeTech**  
Education at Work

## New Educational Opportunity Centers Counselor

The **Educational Opportunity Centers of Southwestern Pennsylvania** is pleased to welcome **Joseph Reiber** as Educational Counselor.

Joe has begun working with clients over the summer months by providing assistance with post-secondary admissions, career

guidance, and financial aid questions and issues. He will have appointment times available both at the PA CareerLink Armstrong County and the Trust.

To make an appointment, contact the **EOC Office** at (800) 378-6230 or the **Trust** at (724) 543-2599.



## Workforce Forum Update

The Steering Committee of the **Armstrong County Forum for Workforce Excellence** is preparing for the opportunities to take students and educators to employers' workplaces during the 2007-2008 school year.

In addition, the group is exploring dates and arrangements in preparation for hosting a county-wide event with

a keynote speaker who will share information on jobs, skills, and education of the future.

Employers interested in participating in the county-wide event and in hosting students and/or educators for tours, job shadowing, review of production or process, or other activities should contact the Trust at (724) 543-2599 or [davidaet@alltel.net](mailto:davidaet@alltel.net).



going strong 



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For more information  
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Outside, you can walk down the Discovery Trail or watch the many birds and wildlife that inhabit the area.

**Information is also available online at  
[www.crookedcreekelc.org](http://www.crookedcreekelc.org)**



## Educational Links



[www.pheaa.org](http://www.pheaa.org)

This is one of the first steps PA residents should make. This site offers information on the PA State Grant Program, PA loan forgiveness programs, and other PA award programs.

[www.educationplanner.org](http://www.educationplanner.org)

Your free, interactive career and college planning Website which provides comprehensive resources for developing your postsecondary education plans. This site provides 24-hour access to self-assessment and career development tools.

[www.furtheryoureducation.org](http://www.furtheryoureducation.org)

Developed to help guide non-traditional students through the transfer process from a community college or 2-year school to a 4-year school.

[www.stats.bls.gov/home.htm](http://www.stats.bls.gov/home.htm)

Information about careers

[www.upromise.com](http://www.upromise.com)

Discover a new way to save for college

**[NewChoices/New Options](#)** Career Development Services **1-800-830-3248**  
Career & Personal Development **FREE** Course, Provides career assessments & job search strategies, communication and goal-setting skills, interview preparation. Indiana and Kittanning locations.



[www.armstrongedutrust.org](http://www.armstrongedutrust.org)

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## **AET Mission Statement**

To strengthen and promote career awareness, post-secondary continuing education, occupational training, workforce development, and certification programs on a timely basis for business, industry, and general economic development in Armstrong County and surrounding areas.

## **AET Vision Statement**

To prepare a world-class workforce to meet the evolving economic development needs of the community by:

- developing a skilled workforce for existing businesses and new emerging industries
- improving workplace skills of incumbent workers
- increasing environmental and conservation knowledge and education.
- improving literacy rates in Armstrong County
- promoting life-long learning
- increasing professional development opportunities locally
- providing funding for education and training opportunities
- brokering and promoting post secondary education
- increasing knowledge and participation in community development
- promoting career development and providing career development services