

# catalyst

Autumn 2010



## The COLOR of SUCCESS

### In This Issue

## Sherwin-Williams Hires, Gives High Grades to CVCC Grads

**A**sk Sherwin-Williams.” Here is the answer you will receive if you ask Sherwin-Williams why it hires so many Cuyahoga Valley Career Center students and graduates of the Programming & Software Development program (PSD):

“It’s the fact that CVCC yields high quality programming professionals,” says Harold “Paul” Mierop, Sherwin-Williams Team Leader of Information Technology-Change Management. “The more programming languages the students know, the more viable they are,” adds Paul, “and that’s a huge factor in what we’re looking for.”

Specifically, CVCC’s instructor in PSD, Heidi Grivas, teaches the programming languages Visual Basic, C++, C#, Java and JavaScript. Grivas, who has taught PSD since its inception in 2002, said the relationship with Sherwin-Williams started because of Will Caine, a 2004 Brecksville-Broadview Heights graduate.

“Will placed the initial call,” she said, to the well-known Cleveland paint and resins company, successfully arranging an interview for a work-study opportunity, referred to as CVCC’s “Early Placement” program.

Continued on page 2



**CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER**

- ◆ Adult Education Offers Affordable, Quality Instruction
- ◆ Evening Salon Special
- ◆ Brought to YOU by CVCC... Most Events Are Free
- ◆ It WORKS: Charting Our Improvement
- ◆ Cornell Professor to Demonstrate Forensics
- ◆ HOSA Competitors Place Nationally
- ◆ Students Participate in Extreme Makeover

**COVER PHOTO:** Left to right: Paul Meiorp, Team Leader/Information Technology-Change Management of Sherwin-Williams, with CVCC graduates and current Sherwin-Williams employees Nate Kelling, Dominic D’Aloiso, Matt Bashara, Jake Schneck and Will Caine. Missing: Alex Vastartis, who was attending a charity event on the day the photo was taken.



8001 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH 44141 440.526.5200 ◆ [www.cvccworks.com](http://www.cvccworks.com)

**facebook** [Cuyahoga Valley Career Center]; **twitter** [CVCCWorks]; and **LinkedIn** [CVCC Works]

# catalyst

## State, National Certifications Provide Employability Credentials Quality Instruction, Affordable Tuition for Adults

**N**ortheast Ohio adults have seen more than their fair share of layoffs, downsizing and career changes during the most recent economic recession. After years, sometimes decades of commitment to previous employers, many adults now find themselves at a loss as to how to support their families.

This new reality has led many community members to Cuyahoga Valley Career Center. Northeast Ohio is known for its advances in health care due in large part to the prolific health care systems in the region. Those systems abound with opportunities for the area's workforce. CVCC's Adult Education department has positioned itself to prepare candidates with the right credentials to meet this demand.

In as little as five months, CVCC Adult Education programs in health care, human services and public safety offer students the quality education

needed to gain certifications that document their efforts to obtain employability.

Taught by faculty members who possess many years of teaching experience along with current industry involvement, 238 Adult Education students earned national and state certification or licensure this past school year.

Following successful completion of academic coursework, hands-on clinical experiences, and internships, the 2009-10 pass rates on state and national certification and licensing exams were as follows:

### National Certification Programs

- ◆ Dental Assisting **100%**
- ◆ Licensed Practical Nursing **94%**
- ◆ EKG Technician **90%**
- ◆ Phlebotomy **86%**
- ◆ Registered Medical Assistant **83%**
- ◆ Emergency Medical Technician **71%**

### State Licensure Programs

- ◆ Cosmetology **100%**
- ◆ State Tested Nurse Aid **85%**

These pass rates are consistently above the state and national average and are indicative of the quality education at CVCC which provides adults an excellent employability advantage.

For more information about training for any of these high demand careers, please visit [www.cvccworks.com](http://www.cvccworks.com) or call **440.746.8230**.



### MOMS FINISHED WITH SCHOOL

Above: Kanika Davila of Cleveland graduates from The School of Nursing and is pictured with her proud family following commencement ceremonies. She was one of 74 June graduates ready to take the State Board of Nursing licensing exam, along with classmate Sarah George of Parma (pictured below with her family). Congratulations to all the nursing grads as they embark on their new careers!



## PASS RATES SPEAK VOLUMES ABOUT PROGRAM INTEGRITY



### Evening Salon Buy-One-Get-One Special

Purchase a \$20 pedicure service; get a **FREE** manicure, thru Nov. 23rd  
Evening Salon Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Call 440.746.8145 to schedule your appointment.

## CVCC SUCCESS STORY...Sherwin-Williams

Continued from page 1

Paul was so impressed with Will and subsequently the skills of other PSD students that the mutually beneficial relationship continues today. Each year, Sherwin-Williams seeks at least one student from the senior PSD class for Early Placement.

Not everyone ends up staying, Paul said, but the majority are still with the company including Caine; Jake Schneck, a 2005 graduate from North Royalton; Matt Bashara, a 2006 graduate from Brecksville-Broadview Heights; Dominic D'Aloiso, a 2009 graduate from Nordonia Hills; Alex Vastartis, a 2009 graduate from Brecksville-Broadview Heights; and Nate Kelling, a 2010 graduate from Nordonia Hills.

Jake is employed part-time and is attending college at Tri-C, along with Nate, who is a freshman. Matt graduates from The University of Akron in December. Alex is in his sophomore year at Baldwin-Wallace College and Dominic is attending The University of Akron where he is a sophomore. Will graduated cum laude from Cleveland State University in Computer Engineering and is working toward his master's degree from Cleveland State, which he plans to complete this December.

Paul also cites the pluses our students acquire from participating in the skills competitions that encourage them to match their wits against their peers.

**...They have been studying programming a half-day for one and a half years - that's so much more experience and classroom time invested as compared to some college students in the same field.**

students competed in regional and state competition and three students advanced to nationals with one placing in the top 10 for his skill set.

"No doubt," Paul said, "When CVCC students are released to participate in Early Placement, they have been studying programming a half-day for one and a half years - that's so much more experience and classroom time invested as compared to some college seniors in the same field."

Paul notes that students have to be considered top quality to be eligible for Early Placement. According to Susan Hoopes, Career Center Job Placement coordinator,

"That adds to their ability to thrive," he said.

Each year, students from several CVCC programs, including PSD, participate in regional, state and national workplace skills competitions sponsored by Business Professionals of America. This past spring, several PSD

students have to be seniors, have a at least a 3.0 grade point average at CVCC, passing grades at their home schools, have passed the Ohio Graduation Test, have a means of transportation and be able to work a minimum of 13.5 hours per week.

At Sherwin-Williams, all of the employees from CVCC contribute their skills toward Web applications and Web page programming. The company's site, [www.sherwin-williams.com](http://www.sherwin-williams.com), contains many unique and technically savvy features.

For more information about any of our 29 high school programs, please call **440.746.8286**, or visit our Web site, [www.cvccworks.com](http://www.cvccworks.com), click on "Programs and Services," then "High School."

### Staff Box

catalyst newsletters are partially funded by the Carl D. Perkins CTPD Grant

Communications Specialist:  
**Cheryl Dolego**  
Writer/Composition

Media Specialist:  
**Marcella Grande**  
Graphics/Layout

The Cuyahoga Valley Career Center affirms that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, military status, ancestry, religion, age and/or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity conducted under its auspices. This shall extend to employees therein and to admission thereto. Inquiries concerning the application of this policy may be referred to the Superintendent or designated coordinator. This policy shall prevail in all Board policies concerning school employees and students. The Board of Education has designated an administrator to carry out these policy statements and shall be responsible for compliance within these designated areas. Complaints, questions or requests for information regarding Title VI (race, color and national origin), Title IX (gender), Section 504 (disability) should be directed to: Mr. Paul Smith, Title VI Coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, Section 504 Coordinator.

# Events Brought to YOU by CVCC...Most Are

**FREE**

Providing career direction to all of **YOU** is a vital part of our role here at Cuyahoga Valley Career Center, no matter your age or circumstances. Although career-focused activities are provided to the **26,000** students and **1,600** educators in our CVCC school district, we offer a host of programs to non-students and non-educators through our Career Development, High School and Adult Education departments.



Check our Web site, [www.cvccworks.com](http://www.cvccworks.com), for more information about our services and programs. Here are highlights from last year:

- ◆ **STUDENT JOB FAIR** - Largest attendance ever in 2010, with 1,211 students, 300 parents and 42 employers participating - (Next Student Job Fair March 10, 2011.)
- ◆ **JOB-SEEKER SERIES** - Nearly 300 adults attended the Job-Seeker Series featuring résumé preparation, job-hunting skills, labor market information and networking. (Next Job-Seeker event Dec. 3, 9 a.m. to noon.)
- ◆ **ADULT HEALTH CARE JOB FAIR** - 208 people and 22 employers attended our Allied Health and Patient Care Career Fair. (Next event May 4, 2011, 3:30 to 6 p.m.)



As part of a summer career camp, students visited Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital in Copley to witness a canine surgery in progress. Shown is a sampling of some of these events held all throughout the year.

- ◆ **SUMMER CAREER CAMPS** - 311 youths entering eighth, ninth and 10th grade attended our Summer Career Camps that allowed them to experience one of 14 careers.
- ◆ **ENGINEERING EXPO** - 400 high school students and teachers attended this winter event featuring 50 engineering companies and professional organizations spanning 26 disciplines, 70 engineers and 13 colleges. (Next STEM Career Expo Feb. 5, 2011.)
- ◆ **CAREER EXPLORATION** - 2,137 middle school students and 70 teachers explored career interests through activities and assessments at CVCC during February, March and May.
- ◆ **SEMINARS FOR PARENTS** - 243 parents attended parent seminars including "College and Career Planning;" "Bully-Proof Your Child;" "Facebook.Texting.Help!;" and "College Survival Skills 101" (to be offered again April 27, 2011).
- ◆ **COLLEGE NIGHT** - Nearly 2,000 students and parents met with representatives from 135 colleges, sponsored by a consortium of 10 area high schools, including CVCC.
- ◆ **EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN** - "IT's FOR GIRLS," a forum designed to foster interest in Information Technology (IT) careers, included 64 young women and 32 professionals...(Next forum Dec. 10.) **More empowering...**68 junior and senior girls from five high schools attended the **GLASS CEILING LEADERSHIP SEMINAR**.

- ◆ **BUILDING SMALL WONDERS** - 270 Nordonia Hills first-graders built wooden take-home projects with the help of CVCC students in our Teaching Professions, Heating & Air Conditioning, Construction Trades and Machine Technology programs.
- ◆ **FOREIGN LANGUAGE LUNCHEON** - CVCC Culinary students prepared international cuisine for 180 Revere Middle School students and administrators. The foods served reflected the cultures of the languages that the Revere students learned to speak.
- ◆ **READING/PRINTING EXTRAVAGANZA** - Twinsburg and Garfield Heights third-graders participated in the Benjamin Saves the Books program, hosted by CVCC's Graphic Imaging and Teaching Professions students.
- ◆ **ELECTRONIC MEDIA and DESIGN** - 45 Independence eighth grade students and four teachers worked side by side with our students to learn about careers in Computer-Aided Design, Graphic Imaging Technology and Media Technology.
- ◆ **TEACHER EXTERNSHIPS** - Nine high school teachers job-shadowed private sector professionals to experience a week in the life of a person who applies skills taught by these nine teachers.
- ◆ **MATCHING TECHNOLOGY WITS** - 90 students from Brecksville-Broadview Heights, Independence and North Royalton tested their engineering and design skills in a Technology Competition.

## CVCC WORKS: Charting our School Improvement

Another year has passed which adds to our performance quality picture. Data collected over the last several years allow you to measure our continued success in delivering meaningful programs and services to the communities we serve.

In order to remain focused and aligned with the areas of programming and growth at CVCC, we captured your input in a long-range plan in the areas of **Community, Learning, Instruction and Communication**, giving us the **Knowledge** to position ourselves well for the future: "Education that **CLICK**'s Strategic Plan: Career & Technical Education for the 21st Century."

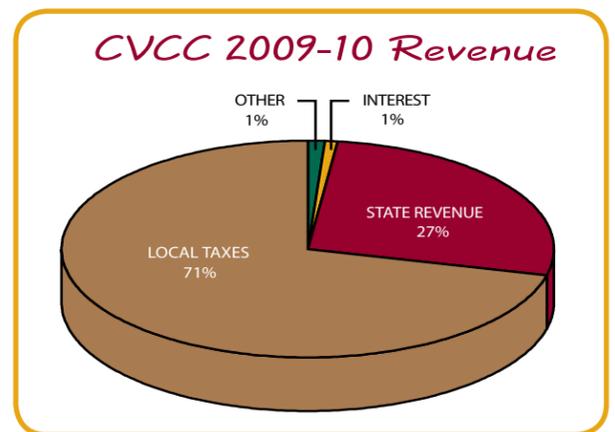
We measure ourselves against criteria established by the Ohio Department of Education, employer and student feedback, as well as our own performance measures. The charts below, left to right, indicate the following:



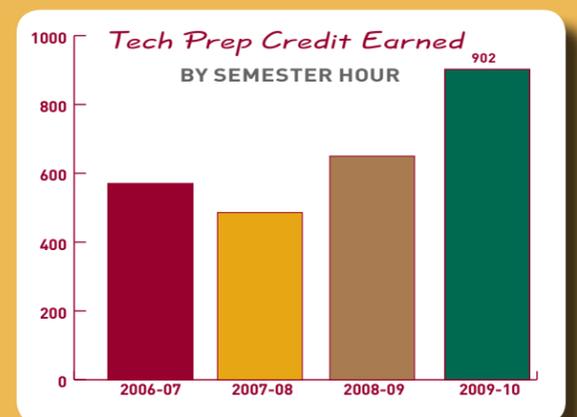
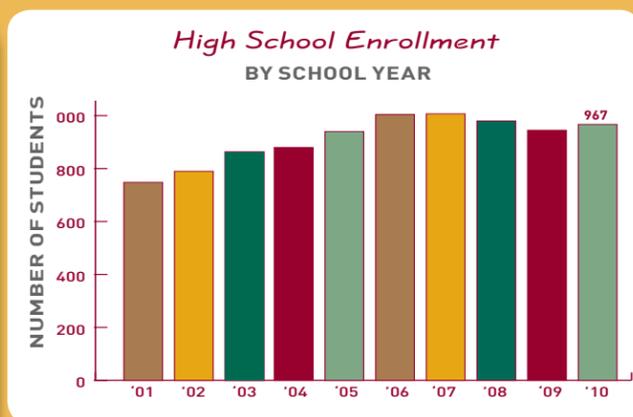
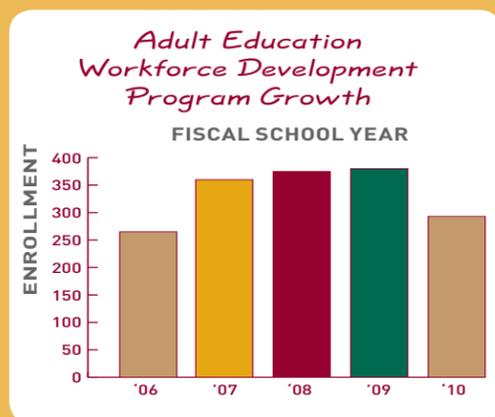
- ◆ Adult Education Workforce Development Program Student Enrollment 2005-2010 shows a decline for the first time in four years.
- ◆ High School Enrollment in Career and Technical Education Programs shows positive growth trends over 10 years, from 2001-2010.
- ◆ Employers of CVCC students and their "yes" responses to this question: "Would you rehire another CVCC student?" (Answers span seven school years, from 2003-04 to 2009-10.)  
95% 91% 96% 99% 99% 94% 91%
- ◆ Percentage of high school students who pursue higher education after completing their CVCC program has been on the rise, school year 2003-04 to 2009-10:  
49% 47% 54% 56% 59% 58% 58%
- ◆ Tech Prep (college credit) earned by our High School students (2006-2010) indicates that more students are taking advantage of this tuition-savings opportunity. The 2010 value of the 902 credits earned by CVCC students translates into a savings of \$76,273,

a tremendous increase compared to the previous year's tuition savings of \$53,237!\*

Our students succeed because we provide quality programs and instruction. We seek your input, listen and improve. Thank you for being a part of our growth, our success and our future.



\*The chart below (far right) represents the number of tuition-free college credit hours earned the last four school years. Considering the current cost of a Tri-C semester hour (\$84.56), CVCC graduates saved \$76,273 based on the 902 hours they earned in 2009-10. If a student transfers those credits to a four-year institution, such as The University of Akron which costs \$372 /credit hour, the savings becomes \$335,544. Copies of our Annual Report are available in our School Treasurer's office.



# Cornell Professor to Demonstrate Forensic Investigation



As fans of the many investigative, public safety and law dramas on television know, DNA profiling (also called DNA fingerprinting) is widely used in criminal and legal cases where DNA samples are available to determine identity or parentage. Thanks to CVCC science instructor

Sheri Zakarowsky, district students and teachers will have the unique opportunity to learn more about DNA testing from Mike D. Yerky, Ph.D., outreach coordinator for the Cornell Institute for Biology Teachers (CIBT), in November.

During this mobile experimental lab here at CVCC, students will learn that DNA may be extracted from relatively small samples of cells, such as a blood stain the size of a nickel (about two drops). When performed under properly controlled conditions and interpreted

by an experienced forensic scientist, such profiling can



Dr. Yerky demonstrates his expertise during a workshop. More information about the CIBT can be found at: <http://cibt.bio.cornell.edu/>.

link a suspect to a particular incident with compelling accuracy or completely eliminate a suspect.

This simulation activity allows students to work through the theory of DNA profiling and to grapple with some analytical and ethical questions. It can be used to reinforce basic concepts such as base pairing in DNA as well as teach the principles of

restriction enzyme digestion, gel electrophoresis, and probe hybridization.

Mrs. Zakarowsky said, "We are excited to have this opportunity to host Dr. Yerky and the CIBT. We look forward to providing an exceptional learning experience for our district students and teachers."

Dr. Yerky received his Ph.D. in physical anthropology from the University of Zurich, Switzerland. Some of his research involved observation of monkeys and apes, investigating hormones and behavior and their interrelationships. Dr. Yerky travels thousands of miles per year to bring CIBT's more sophisticated labs such as DNA Profiling or Protein Gel electrophoresis to classrooms.

## Workshop for Teachers

Secondary teachers are invited to participate in a special workshop with Dr. Yerky on Saturday, **Nov. 13**, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. There will be an hour break for lunch. To participate (**registration is limited to 24**), contact CVCC instructor Sheri Zakarowsky at: [SZakarowsky@cvccworks.com](mailto:SZakarowsky@cvccworks.com) or **440.746.8330**. This is a rare opportunity for secondary teachers to work with a Cornell University professor and pass their experience and knowledge on to their own students.



## 3 Shine at HOSA Nationals

Three CVCC students who attended national Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) competition this summer in Orlando, Florida, were among 21 students representing Ohio and 7,500 competitors from the 50 states and Puerto Rico.

Recent graduate Joseph DeCosta of Brecksville-Broadview Heights earned seventh place nationally out of more than 50 competitors in the Medical Spelling category. His Health Careers program instructor was Sherry Maier. Fellow CVCC student Alexander Phillips of North Royalton ranked 10th nationally out of 62 competitors in the Dental Assisting category. He is a recent graduate of the Dental Assisting

program taught by Lisa Theodore. His employer, an orthodontist, was so impressed with Alexander's skills that he was invited to return during his breaks from pre-dental studies at Kent State University.

Current senior Sheena Shamblin, a Health Careers student from North Royalton, is serving as the Ohio state HOSA secretary. At nationals, she presided over meetings from dawn to dusk. Most recently, Sheena, accompanied by her instructor, Diane Ellis, attended a HOSA leadership conference in Washington, D.C.



Joseph DeCosta Alexander Phillips Sheena Shamblin



## Band of Building Brothers Pitch In for Extreme Makeover Home Edition

Top: CVCC Construction Trades students, mentored by instructor Chris Stricklett (far right), volunteered a full day at the Extreme Makeover Home Edition work site at 5101 Anthony St. in Maple Heights on Oct. 1. Left to right: Seniors Cliff Schoen, Brecksville-Broadview Heights; Tyler Douglas, Revere; Kal Puening, Independence; Matt Streb, Nordonia Hills; James McManus, Cuyahoga Heights; Ethan Provateare and Chris Rozsnaki, Nordonia Hills; and Matt Badovick, Revere. Below, left: Rapper and MTV *Pimp My Ride* host Xzibit talks with Extreme show host Ty Pennington and another Browns volunteer among our students. Bottom right: Cleveland Brown Josh Cribbs with Cliff and Matt. Barring a scheduling change, the show is set to air Sunday, Dec. 5 at 8 p.m. on ABC.

**Mission:** To prepare youth and adults to enter, compete and advance in an ever-changing work world

## Coming Events

- ◆ **Valley Inn Restaurant Now Open** – Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – For reservations, call **440.746.8293**.
- ◆ **College & Career Planning Seminar for Parents** – Wednesday, Nov. 10, 7 to 9 p.m. To register, call **440.746.8115** or visit our Web site: [www.cvccworks.com](http://www.cvccworks.com).
- ◆ **Job-Seeker Series** – Saturday, Nov. 13, 9 a.m. to noon. – Get help with resumes and LinkedIn profiles, call **440.746.8233** to register. Friday, Dec. 3, 11:30 to 1 p.m. – luncheon for Job-Seeker participants in The Valley Inn and presentation on how to penetrate the job market. Reservations required (call **440.746.8127**).
- ◆ **Food Drive** – Monday, Nov. 29- Monday, Dec. 13 Bring non-perishable foods between 8 and 10:30 a.m., and noon and 2:30 p.m. weekdays for distribution to a food bank. Call **440.526.5200** for drop-off location
- ◆ **Holiday Craft Show** – Saturday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by the Dental Assisting students.
- ◆ **CVCC Cosmetology Salon** ◆ For daytime appointments, call **440.838.8954**. For evening appointments, call **440.746.8145**.
- ◆ **Blood Drive** – Friday, Dec. 3, 2010, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Student/Parent Information Night** – Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011, 7 to 9 p.m. Come and learn about our High School programs, many of which translate into college credit.

Register now to receive an electronic copy of the *catalyst*, with the goal of eventually going paperless. See our Web site, [www.cvccworks.com](http://www.cvccworks.com). Click "e-communications Now Available."



**CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER**

8001 Brecksville Rd.  
Brecksville, OH 44141-1296

### Board Members

George J. Balasko, Brecksville-Broadview Heights  
Dr. Stephen Kenzig, Cuyahoga Heights  
June Geraci, Garfield Heights  
Kathleen Kapusta, Independence  
Lynn Laski, Independence  
Betty Klingenberg, Nordonia Hills  
Cheryl Hannan, North Royalton  
Mario Bonacci, Revere  
Steve Shebeck, Twinsburg

### Administration

**Roscoe Schlachter**  
Superintendent

**Joy Clickenger**  
Treasurer

**Post Office:**  
Please deliver by November 10, 2010

Non-profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
C.V.C.C.