ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE

Nontraditional Students are Finalists in CATEC’s 2009 Entrepreneurship Challenge

The CATEC Entrepreneurship Challenge started at the beginning of this year with teacher Paula Pagonakis training 175 students in concept creation and business planning. Twenty student finalists will present their plans to a panel of entrepreneurs and the top four students will each receive a $500 award courtesy of the CATEC Foundation.

This project gave CATEC a great opportunity to encourage nontraditional students to expand their horizons and to publicize their achievements to the school and the community at large.

Three nontraditional students are finalists this year. Senior Daisy Dejesus is graduating from the Masonry program and will be recognized for the business plan she prepared for residential Masonry. Other nontraditional finalists are Culinary Arts senior, Kirstie Murray, who is headed to Johnson & Wales College of Culinary Arts, and Barbering senior, Amber Jackson, who is planning to open a barber shop.

A National Award for Nontraditional Programs

Programs and Practices That Work, 2009 Award

Every year an outstanding project that prepares students for nontraditional careers receives recognition from The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc), the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE), and the National Women’s Law Center (NWLC).

This year the award goes to the “Girl Tech” program at the Francis Tuttle Career Technology Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma for their work to increase the enrollment of girls in courses leading to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers.

Participants in the GirlTech program attend workshops and communicate with professional mentors about careers and coursework. GirlTech partnered with the Pre-Engineering Academy in 2006 because the school noticed that females interest in engineering appeared to be waning: During the 2006-2007 school year, enrollment in the Pre-Engineering Academy was 15.7 percent females. After implementing the GirlTech program, the program increased female enrollment to 18.8 percent in 2008-2009. Twenty-two percent of the new students currently pre-enrolled for the 2009-2010 school year are female.

Next year the winner could be YOU! If you’re proud of the work being done to promote nontraditional at your school, you should apply for the 2010 award. We would be pleased to help you prepare your application. Just email and let us know you’re interested.
Updated Employment Projections for Virginia Localities Released in March

New Occupational Employment Projections for Virginia Regions

The US Bureau of Statistics analyses occupations and employment in America to understand which jobs are growing, which ones are shrinking, and how retirement patterns and other factors influence the number of jobs that are likely to become available for new workers every year. The Virginia Employment Commission follows the Bureau of Labor Statistics model to analyze occupations in each of Virginia’s Workforce Investment Areas (see map below).

The Virginia Employment Commission’s analysis shows that almost half of the job openings in the next decade are likely to occur in Office, Sales, Food Service, Computer, and Business and Financial Occupations.

CTE professionals use the Virginia Employment Commission projections to help evaluate existing CTE programs and plan for the introduction of new ones. For example, the projected rise in demand for health and fitness related occupations is one of the factors behind the development of CTE’s new program in Sports Medicine.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupations Related to Sports Medicine</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Therapists</td>
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<tr>
<td>Athletic Trainers</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT Assistants</td>
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<td>PT Aides</td>
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<td>Fitness Trainers</td>
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The Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Virginia Employment Commission also publish other information about occupations that can help with program planning. This includes information about wages, occupational unemployment rates, education requirements, and more. Their projections show, for example, that only about one third of the job openings expected in Virginia require a bachelor’s degree.

- **Contact us** for help analyzing occupational data for your region.
- Go to the Trailblazers website to [download data for your region](#) about occupations in all sixteen career clusters or to download Excel files for each region with a full range of occupational data.
- Find extensive state-level data about occupations and clusters at [www.occsupplydemand.net](http://www.occsupplydemand.net). Call for help using this valuable but complex resource.

"What will you need to succeed in the job market of tomorrow? In an increasingly competitive world, the best advice for jobseekers is to develop new skills”

_Occupational Outlook Quarterly, Fall 2008_