



The "School of Life" Newsletter

Volume x, Issue II – Spring 2019



Principal of CTE / Adult Education addresses members of the Pathways to Success Career and Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Council.

From The Principal's Desk: The Importance of Career and Technical Education

***By Susan Naber, Principal, CTE / Adult
Education***

Every February, we recognize National Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month ®. CTE Month is an annual celebration of CTE achievements and accomplishments nationwide. It was initiated by The Association for Career and Technical Education, the largest national association dedicated to the advancement of CTE.

As a school-to-work program, the Vive School/Pathways to Success places a strong emphasis on Career and Technical Education, recognizing the important role that CTE plays in preparing our students for successful, sustained employment. Therefore we develop our vocational programs (Retail Trades, Culinary Arts, Barbering, Medical Billing and Coding, Microcomputers, Facilities Management and Home Health Aide) based on our interpretation of the current trends and employment needs of the local job market.

Naturally the development of these programs could not be accomplished

without the invaluable input of our CTE Advisory Board.

Pathways to Success CTE Advisory Board

At Pathways to Success we are continually seeking to enhance our program offerings. In order to further enrich our Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses with real-world input, we recruit the participation of our partners within the business and academic communities.



Chef Edi Dedi discusses CTE with Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Superintendent of Schools, and other members of the Advisory Council.

With that goal in mind, the Vive School hosted this year's first CTE Advisory Board meeting on Thursday, November 8. The meeting provided an opportunity for leaders from business and post-secondary education to interact with our teachers, counselors, administrators and students in an informal setting which facilitated open, meaningful dialogue.

Once again, the meeting began with a hot breakfast prepared and served by our own Culinary Arts students, under the supervision of Chef Edi Dedi. As our Board Members enjoyed the food, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Yonkers City Council Majority Leader Michael Sabatino and Principal Susan Naber discussed the importance of

collaborating with our business and academic partners. Each participant was then invited to share their impressions and experiences within the job market. Among the many topics discussed were current job opportunities, vocational training, interview preparation and follow-up, industry trends, and what specific technical and "soft" skills employers are looking for in employees.

Thank you to all of the Advisory Board Members for their invaluable participation:

Michael Sabatino, Yonkers City Council Majority Leader, The City of Yonkers

Robert Cacace, Commissioner of Information Technology, The City of Yonkers

Carol Holman, The Yonkers Office of Workforce Development

Ray Miller, Levels Barbering Institute

Reeham Neshiwat, Westchester Medical Coder, Inc.

Dominique Etienne, Family Service Society of Yonkers

Joseph Talone, Five Star Premiere Residences of Yonkers

Cherise Tafe, Yonkers Public Schools Food Service Department

Nazaria Marte, United States Post Office

Jennifer Gosman, Aramark

Sterling Jasper, Express Employment

Danielle Kigler, Northwell Health

Beckie Uwadiae, White Glove Community Care

Pathways to Success Promotes Health Literacy

Health literacy is a vital component of everyday life. Individuals cannot function properly in school, the workplace or at home if they do not maintain their physical, mental and emotional well-being. However, as our student

population is comprised mainly of individuals with high poverty, limited English language proficiency and restricted access to health care, their level of health literacy is often inadequate.



Tarsha Gibbons (far right) leads students in Dr. Lara's ESOL class in fitness and movement.

As a response to the need for health literacy, Pathways to Success has partnered with Gibbons Family Fitness. Led by Owner Tarsha Gibbons, this health and fitness training organization has been working in direct collaboration with our classroom teachers to incorporate health literacy topics within all academic content areas. Using an integrated model, Gibbons has provided contextualized classroom instruction in such areas as stress management, coping skills, wellness, healthy lifestyles, nutrition, fitness, and other important topics which represent the barriers our student population faces. Learning to incorporate these skills within their daily lives has given our students a strong foundation of health literacy.

Gibbons Family Fitness conducts weekly one-hour sessions with every day class at Vive, every evening class at PEARLS and several satellite locations. They have also provided our students with valuable information regarding careers within the health and fitness field. Gibbons has

been working with our students since early December, and the response from both students and staff has been extremely positive. So positive, in fact, that Gibbons' initial contract, which ended in March, was amended and extended through the end of the school year.

Two Classes, One Book Club

Literacy is a vital component of instruction at Pathways to Success. Recently students in Ms. De la Pena's ESOL class and Ms. Tamis' Pre-TASC class had the opportunity to enhance their literacy while participating in an informative and entertaining joint activity: a Monthly Book Club, which held its first meeting on Thursday, March 7.



Ms. Tamis (left, standing) and Ms. De la Pena (right, standing) moderate Book Club.

Prior to Book Club, the two teachers offered their students a selection of books. Each student chose and read a book of interest to them. During Book Club, students got up and spoke about the books they read and whether or not they would recommend them. As a concluding activity, students had the opportunity to create their own bookmark. Each student then voted on the bookmarks from the other class.

And the Best Bookmarks winners are:
Ms. De la Pena's Class: Yolanda Cruz,
Jasmine Hernandez, Maria Ramirez
Ms. Tamis' Class: Bryant Aguirre, Maria
Garcia, Parveen Khan

The next meeting of the De la Pena/
Tamis Book Club will be Thursday, 4/4.

Student and Employee Appreciation Days

Here at the Vive School, we truly appreciate the efforts and commitment to learning which our students demonstrate on a daily basis. That commitment is particularly evident when students come to school despite the snow, ice, freezing cold and other harsh conditions of winter.



Principal Susan Naber, Assistant Principal Beverly Turner Nash and other staff serve pizza to our well-deserving students.

In order to recognize these efforts, the Vive School held its Annual Student Appreciation Day on January 31. All students in attendance that day were treated to FREE pizza.

Of course we also appreciate the hard work and dedication of our staff. Therefore, on February 28, in recognition of National Employee Appreciation Day, all staff members were treated to FREE lunch in the school cafeteria. A big Vive School "Thank You" goes out to all our wonderful students and staff!

Save the Dates!

The Annual Vive School Health & Wellness Fair has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 9:30AM-12:30PM. This informative event provides an opportunity for students to meet with professionals from community-based organizations throughout the area. The Fair is open to the general public, so please invite friends and family.

The Annual Pathways to Success End-of-Year Celebration will be taking place on Wednesday, June 5th at 6:00 PM. This year's event will be held at Saunders Trades & Technical High School, 183 Palmer Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Additional details, such as the Keynote Speaker, will be forthcoming. So mark the date on your calendar and, once again, be sure to invite your family and friends to this special celebration.

For more information on Adult Education, please contact Susan Naber, Principal, CTE/Adult Education at 914-376-8600 or snaber1@yonkerspublicschools.org



That's all for now. See you in two months!

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