JPR Team Readies for the Workplace

On January 28, five Shelton High School special needs students attended the SkillsUSA Job Placement Readiness (JPR) Competition. This event is designed to evaluate student readiness when applying for employment in chosen occupational areas and understanding of the process and procedures required. Just as in a job interview competition, these students are evaluated on completing a résumé, filling out an application for employment, interview skills and a portfolio.

SHS’s JPR team members are a part of a joint venture with Olympic College’s eleven year old Life Learning Program, which prepares students ages 18-21 with developmental disabilities for transition from the school environment to the community at large. Team Leaders Gar Thornton and Donna Lantz have done a remarkable job of preparing their students for the workforce. Many of their students are already in the community on the job with work-study positions.

We are proud to announce that students Leroy Parker, Robert Lowery, Seth Draves, and Josh Guynes-Champney all successfully qualified for the Regional SkillsUSA competition, scheduled for February 21 in Bremerton. Student Nathaniel Jay will be attending as an alternate. “I was so impressed by our students’ ability to step up to this challenge,” said Donna Lantz. “The skills they are learning by being a part of SkillsUSA will be valuable in the future to themselves and to their future employers.”
From the Director’s Desk

Hello again and welcome to the 08-09 winter edition of the Shelton School District CTE newsletter. Twice a year, we hope to bring you the latest successes of our students, teachers and programs. In this issue you will find wonderful stories of student leadership, community service, special accomplishments and miscellaneous career activities.

Registration for 2009-10 is approaching quickly! This is a very important time and we need to pay close attention to our individual role as we work with students on registration. We have valuable resources that can provide relevant information to make choices that will better prepare students for their post-secondary experiences. These resources can be helpful to students planning to attend a four-year university, community college, technical college, apprenticeship or students wishing to get a job. You have access to knowledgeable staff, online and hard copy materials that provide outstanding information able to educate a student and/or their family on what course of study makes the best sense for the balance of a student’s high school career.

We are fortunate to have high quality staff throughout the district. Our counselors, career center staff and instructors are all trained and experienced in educational guidance in one form or another. Particularly important are staff that sit with students as they select classes. During this time it’s very important to understand all the resources you have available and know how to use them. Online at www.sheltonschools.org you will find links to our schools and links to course descriptions. The course catalog for each building is another great source. There you will find graduation requirements, career cluster information and connections to outside resources such as www.workforceexplorer.com I encourage all of us to use resources to their fullest extent.

Sincerely,
Pat Cusack

For more information about Career and Technical Education programs in the Shelton School District, contact Pat Cusack:
pcusack@sheltonschools.org

Shelton School District welcomes our newest Career and Technical Education teachers! At Shelton High School, Phil Thomas leads the Automotive program, Janet Toney joins the Family and Consumer Sciences team, Kasey Robbins teaches Sports Medicine and Gina Capsel teaches American Sign Language. Roy Conover is now the Natural Resources instructor at Oakland Bay Junior High School.
Construction Team Builds Skills for the Future

On October 8, Shelton High School’s SkillsUSA Construction Team attended the Construction Career Day at the Enumclaw County Fair and Expo Center. This free event was part of a national endeavor to educate high school students about careers in the construction industry.

Participants had the opportunity to network with local industry professionals while participating in hands-on activities with construction equipment such as cranes, road equipment, electrical trucks and survey equipment. Indoor displays were varied; building with brick and mortar was just one of the presentations offered. Students were also educated about high voltage line workers. Representatives of apprenticeship programs addressed the students about labor shortages in the future and the need for younger skilled workers to enter the workforce.

SkillsUSA Team Leaders at Shelton High School are Charles Hegsted (Welding), Phil Cooper (Computer Repair), Gina Capsel (American Sign Language), Keith Thomas (Photography), Roger McCausland (Construction), and Gar Thornton and Donna Lantz (Job Placement Readiness.) For more information, contact the SkillsUSA chapter advisor, Julia Kleutsch: jkleutsch@sheltonschools.org.

Construction Career Day is hosted by Washington Women in Trades, an organization whose goal is to educate, promote and celebrate women in non-traditional careers. Shelton High School students Katrina Luna and Ashlynn Miller took advantage of the outing and gained exposure to opportunities in construction for young women.

The Construction Team is presently gearing up for the SkillsUSA Regional Skills Competition to be held on February 19. The Pacific Mountain Alliance in Satsop hosts the event. We wish continued success to the Construction Team!

Katrina Luna is pictured above with a Seattle City Light journeyman.

“I got to actually operate the heavy machinery and do on-the-job types of industry activities.”

~ Don Chappell, SHS student and Construction Career Day participant

Women in Welding

Are you an undiscovered welding diva? Come and light your fire at this intensive welding workshop. Get your hands on the tools of the trade; learn thermal cutting and gas oxyacetylene welding, safely and expertly.

Two workshops are available: 9 a.m.—3 p.m., at the Olympic College Shelton Weld Shop on HWY 101, 50 W Fredson Road on Saturday, April 18, and Saturday, May 9.

For additional information and registration, contact Olympic College Shelton, (360) 432-5400.

Workshop is supported through: Workforce Development and Carl Perkins funds
To learn more about DECA or Marketing classes at Shelton High School, contact Jane Mahony:

jmahony@sheltonschools.org

DECA News

Shelton High School’s DECA Chapter has had a busy year. October 26 - 28, advisor Jane Mahony, twenty-five students and two chaperones attended the Fall Leadership Conference in Bellevue. The students attended leadership classes and break-out sessions and listened to keynote speakers.

On January 14, twelve DECA students competed in role play scenarios at DECA Area Competition in Olympia. Jacob Myers and Andrea Gonzalez qualified at the competition and they will join Jared Ibarra, Oak Schuetz, Arturo Martinez, Molly Mahony, Katie Enslow, Becca Huisman, Ashley Hoskins and Marissa Hubble at the State DECA Competition in March.

First Tech Challenge

On December 14, Shelton High School instructor Phil Cooper accompanied Principals of Engineering students Arhyel Christopher, Kris Maiava, Jesse Evans, Robert LeBleue and James Goin to Bellevue for The First Tech Challenge robotics competition. For five weeks prior to the event, the teens designed, constructed and tested their robots.

The young engineers were able to participate with assistance from the Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council (PMWDC), who contributed funds available through a grant from the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED), a United States government organization. The grant covered registration for two teams from Shelton High School and materials to build two robots, including hardware and software. Transportation costs to the challenge were also provided.

Due to adverse weather conditions, some teams were unable to make it to the event. For those who did, including Shelton’s Ticklebots and Beelzebots teams, it was a worthwhile endeavor. Teams from different schools helped each other to ready their robots for the ring, sharing solutions to problems and demonstrating great team spirit and effort. Because of the weather circumstances and the inability of some teams to attend, the contest was not scored; there will be another opportunity to place for national competition later this year.

The First Tech Challenge proved to be a productive learning experience for the Shelton High School students involved. Congratulations on a fine engineering feat!
The students at CHOICE Alternative High School have been active in community service again this school year.

They have continued their stewardship at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Island Lake Public Access. Students in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Introduction to Natural Resources class have been busy at the lake picking up trash, removing graffiti, and doing light grounds maintenance, sometimes in inclement weather. On most visits the students remove about 100 lbs. of garbage from the site, which is designed as a pack-it-in, pack-it-out facility, with no garbage collection available. This is the third year of participation in the Adopt-an-Access program, which has been a valuable opportunity to learn natural resource job skills, while benefiting the community.

The students have also been policing litter at the City of Shelton’s Huff and Puff Trail. “This trail is a phenomenal resource, a real sweet spot to walk and run, right in the center of the community,” says John Johnson, Natural Resources Teacher at CHOICE. “Litter becomes a real eyesore, particularly in the parking lot, and we can usually fill several large bags in one visit to the park.”

Of particular value to the Natural Resources students at CHOICE is the ongoing relationship they enjoy with the Mason Conservation District. Last spring, CHOICE CTE students removed invasive weeds and planted hundreds of native plants at the Shelton Creek/Highway 3 restoration site. The students continued their work this fall at the site of Turning Point’s new shelter on Goldsborough Creek in downtown Shelton. Students again removed weeds and planted native trees and shrubs in the riparian area adjacent to the new shelter.

“Engaging in service learning projects like this one on Goldsborough has been a particularly effective strategy for teaching our kids watershed science,” says Johnson. The CHOICE Natural Resources students are looking forward to continuing their work in the community this spring, with more propagation and planting of native plants.

Shelton High School’s SkillsUSA Photography Team made a strong showing at the Regional Skills Competition at Aberdeen High School on January 31.

In the print division, Julia Berglund’s Black & White placed first, Danielle Wing’s abstract, Egg, was awarded second place and Rachael Hargraves’ Pink Flowers received third place.

In the field shoot category, students were given one-and-a-half hours to take pictures on the theme A Day in the Life of a Student. Next, they each selected their top thirty pictures and printed out a proof sheet for judging. Competitors were then critiqued on their camera skills and photo selection; Shelton High’s Chelsea Smith took second place in this event. For the software test, students used Adobe Photoshop to design and create a poster on the theme, using only images from their contact sheets. Again, Shelton took top honors: Julia Berglund placed first, Chelsea Smith was second and Danielle Wing captured third place.

Components of the all-around competition included a written photography knowledge test, résumé review and a knowledge test on the SkillsUSA organization. When the final results were tallied, the outstanding Photography Team placed as follows: Julia Berglund, first; Danielle Wing, second; Chelsea Smith, fourth; Rachael Hargraves, eighth.

Congratulations, Photo Team!
FCCLA Attends Regional Fall Meeting

The Shelton High School Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) student leadership organization enthusiastically participated in the Washington State Region 1 Fall Meeting. The Shelton High School chapter came home with the spirit award and received recognition for attending their first regional meeting. Erika Shantz received first place in the culinary competition.

FCCLA is part of the Family and Consumer Sciences education program. It is a way for students to turn classroom topics into real-world, youth-directed leadership action projects. Through FCCLA membership, students experience personal growth, leadership development, career preparation and teamwork while working with other students throughout the state of Washington.

Pictured above, left to right, are Shelton High School FCCLA members Rachel Haskell, Erica Shantz, Alycia Pearson, Marissa Davidson and Hailey Holmes.

On January 15, Central Kitsap High School hosted the SkillsUSA Regional Skills Contest. Shelton High School’s Computer Repair Team of Tyler Arnold, Marie Zambrano, Cody McCarthy and Michael Osberg competed; they returned with smiles on their faces.

Instructor Phil Cooper prepared these students to demonstrate various repair techniques, including installing hardware, diagnosing problems, identifying different components, and on the skills involved with installing, configuring, optimizing and upgrading computer devices.

Although results will not be revealed until early March, the team is confidently looking forward to the SkillsUSA Washington State Leadership and Skills Competitions coming up in April.

To learn more about the SkillsUSA Computer Repair Team at Shelton High School, please contact Phil Cooper: pcooper@sheltonschools.org

Cody McCarthy concentrates as he repairs a computer at the recent SkillsUSA Regional Skills Contest.
Natalie’s Senior Project Spans the Seasons

Last school year, as a junior at Shelton High School, Natalie Hobson considered topics for the compulsory senior project. Her desire for a meaningful, lasting contribution to her hometown ultimately led to Natalie’s decision to create a community garden. Having taken a horticulture class offered through the Shelton School District Career and Technical Education Department, Miss Hobson had the knowledge she needed to begin the task; her ambition has carried it through to success.

In the fall of her junior year, Natalie began by securing a site for the garden. She met with Bracken Budge, the principal at Oakland Bay Junior High School, and Ken Brown, horticulture teacher at OBJH and Shelton High School. Once the location near OBJH was approved, the hard work began. Natalie consulted area food bank directors to assess their needs, then drafted a map of the planned garden.

The following winter, Natalie created a brochure detailing the required tools and materials for the garden and donations were solicited from local businesses. She met with her project mentors, Kirsten Workman and Paul Feenan, to conceive ideas for how to encourage others to volunteer in the garden. Preliminary work began: weeds were pulled, amendments improved the soil.

Spring found Natalie with a group of willing volunteers to prepare and plant the garden. The workforce was recruited from among Natalie’s schoolmates, clubs, school staff members, master gardeners and community citizens. These same industrious gardeners maintained, weeded and watered the garden throughout the summer. Their labor yielded fresh produce, much welcomed by local food banks.

While it began as merely an idea, the Community Garden has become a valued community resource. In this, her senior year, it is Miss Hobson’s hope that the garden continues to flourish after she leaves Shelton to attend college. Come on, Natalie got the garden growing … who will take up the trowel?

Would you like to volunteer at the Community Garden? Contact Ken Brown: kbrown@sheltonschools.org

Natalie wishes to thank the following for their contributions to the Community Garden:

Sharon’s Garden Center, Lynch Creek Farms, Pettyjohn Enterprises, Del’s Farm Supply, PUD #3, Kennedy Creek Quarry, Lost Lake Nursery and others.

Photo courtesy of Natalie Hobson

Community Garden harvest donated to The Saints’ Pantry: peas, green beans, carrots, cabbage, beets, mixed greens, broccoli, cauliflower, tomatoes, green onions, summer squash and zucchini.

Twenty vases of cut flowers were given to Shelton Health and Rehabilitation Center and Fir Lane Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Among the many tireless Community Garden volunteers are Devin Woerner, Sade Patterson, Aaron Sloan, Rachel Fennel, Lex Opfer, Sam Opfer, Erin Ranney, Kelsy Hopkins, Katie Gunter, Shenelle King, Martin Strand, Megan Ranney, Kaley Mackie, Storm Woodyard, Jacob Cook, Collette Kinder, Carla Trotegaga, Ronald Yates, Laura Stevens, CHOICE Alternative High School CAT Club, John Johnson, Mike Kuhns and Natalie Hobson. Thanks to all of these energetic gardeners!
FFA NEWS

The Shelton High School chapter of the FFA had a big presence at the Mason County Fair this past July. Ninety-seven members participated, winning two hundred blue ribbons and twenty red ribbons. Winners included: Jarrold Norsworthy (Champion Poster), Gracee Hanna (Champion Tri Fold), Colby Henson (Reserve Champion Tri Fold) and the Shelton FFA Chapter (Champion Chapter for Educational Materials, Champion Chapter in Horticulture and in Landscaping.) In addition, the chapter brought home the Best of Show award for Landscaping.

Amanda Lewis received Champion FFA Senior Fitting and Showing Beef, Champion Angus Female, Champion FFA Pinzgauer Female, Champion FFA Pinzgauer Male, Champion FFA Steer, and Best of Show FFA Beef Male.

At the Southwest Washington Fair, the Judging team of Shontay Blair, Cody Wilkes, Colby Henson, Matt Lloyd and Tanner Waggley placed fourth in Poultry Judging. The group earned a fifth place in the Sweepstakes, which is based on overall placing in livestock, dairy and poultry judging. In the individual Poultry Judging competition, Matt Lloyd received fourth place.

During the recent State FFA Exhibition at the Puyallup Fair, one hundred ten of the Shelton High School FFA members entered educational materials; the group received a combined eighty-seven blue and twenty-three red ribbons. In the animal division, Amanda Lewis, Raven Riley, Nick Hensley, and Cody Steel showed beef animals. Amanda received Grand Champion Pinzgauer Female, and a blue ribbon in Fitting and Showing, as well as ten more blue ribbons. Raven Riley received Champion Novice Beef Fitting and Showing, in addition to claiming two more blue ribbons.

In October, Shelton's FFA organization was highly involved with the West Central District Leadership Camp held at Panhandle Lake Camp. District officers Erin Raney and Amanda Lewis were responsible for the many workshops offered to those who attended the camp. Six other FFA members participated in the leadership camp: Evonne Huff, Billy Martin, Leah Langdon, Katie Gunter, Nick Hensley, and Cody Steel. Besides enjoying themselves, FFA members honed their leadership skills.

Many thanks to Ken Brown, FFA advisor, for leading this terrific group. Great job!

At the State FFA Exhibition, Raven Riley was recognized as the Champion Novice Showman.

Above, James Nguyen and Amanda Lewis display prize-winning landscaping techniques.

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