Career ready

Work-based learning opportunities prepare students for real-world success

Inside: Community partners provide valuable experiences
The sweet smell of success

PALS students Meghan Cooley (above) and Kenny Kenyon (right) find satisfaction working in the grocery industry, providing valuable services in their respective departments at Price Chopper Supermarkets in Binghamton. Whether preparing delicious baked items or arranging that perfect floral bouquet, both are learning the basic skills and attitudes required to compete in the modern labor market.
With each pass of the pruner’s saw blade, the promise and hope of spring’s pending arrival is renewed. Thinning the old to make way for new growth is just one of the many lessons PALS students such as Ashton Westergaard learn through participation in the horticulture work-experience program.
After interning as part of their studies in BOCES’ Project Search program, Michael McClure (above) and Maleeka Wood (opposite page) secured permanent jobs with Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. Both are hard-working, conscientious contributors to the success of the health care team at Lourdes.
Amid the towering racks and ever-present whine of electric forklift trucks, Paige Millen carefully identifies and records inventory inside the giant warehouse operated by Willow Run Foods in Kirkwood. Placed through BOCES’ Youth Apprenticeship program, the Windsor senior is gaining valuable insight into the workings of the food services industry.

A warehouse full of know-how
Technology drives skill demand

As the backyard mechanics slowly succumb to the sophisticated technology that governs nearly every aspect of the modern automobile, job-ready people such as Ricky Powell (above right) are in high demand at repair shops and dealerships throughout the country. With a classroom located just down the hall from the service facility at Gault Toyota, students in BOCES’ automotive technology program have the rare opportunity to learn and work side-by-side with highly trained professionals.
Learning life skills
Is there a real-world task more universal than doing laundry? OakTree student Alex Hayes (top) and PALS student Michael Andrus (below left) learn basic work skills while building self-confidence and poise as they go about their daily laundry service deliveries to classrooms and programs at BOCES main campus.
Most contractors will agree that the first test of a qualify structure begins with its foundation. And so it is with education and the development of job-ready skills. As a paid intern with FE Jones Construction, William Aswad (above), a second year carpentry student, is learning the business from the bottom up. Hard work - with strict attention to detail and instruction - will pave the way for a solid career.
It’s frequently referred to as “working with your hands,” but in reality the modern auto industry demands an equal portion of “mind work.” And that is precisely what Devin Butler, an automotive technology student, is learning as an intern at Jack Sherman Toyota. Sure, there’s plenty of hands-on stuff going on, but knowing the intricate details and being able to execute proper procedures in a safety conscious way are the keys to long-term success.
There's a lot to be learned interning with an industrial world-leader, and so it's hard to overstate the educational value of the time Coy Austin spends as a youth apprentice at Raymond Corporation in Greene. Working in corporate logistics, he has a front row seat for observing how all the pieces are pulled together at a thriving international business.

Reaching high
In a highly competitive business, customer service is critical to lasting success. That patient, attentive, knowledgeable person on the phone or corporate keyboard provides an important connection between the company and its clients. Emma Scoville is learning those skills working at Willow Run Foods through BOCES’ youth apprenticeship program.

Experience at the hub
Community partners are key to success
Too many to list here, the local organizations and businesses that support our programs are integral to the many successes our students earn and enjoy. Those featured in this edition of “BOCES Life” include: