**Within Our REACH**

*Outstanding REACH4Work Graduates Honored at May 15, 2014 Advisory Board Meeting*

Seven former students were named “Outstanding REACH4Work Graduate” and recognized at the REACH/REACH4Work Spring Advisory Board Meeting and Award Luncheon. Each honoree was selected because of his or her demonstrated ability and excellence in overcoming obstacles to achieve career and employment goals.

In a commitment to help raise awareness of the value of the REACH and REACH4Work training programs, Tara Bodine, Donna Parker, Lydia Hickerson, and Buronica Beaver shared their touching stories of how REACH4Work participation contributed to their perseverance and current accomplishments.

These graduates are true “beacons of light” for other students’ success!

*Angela Barnes*, the REACH and REACH4Work Program Coordinator, was among the 10-year award recipients honored at an awards banquet on April 25, 2014, during which OSU-Oklahoma City recognized faculty and staff for service to our students, community and OSU family. Congratulations, Ms. Barnes!

“The only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary.” Vidal Sassoon

**REACH Staff**
- Coordinator: Angela Barnes
- Business Computer Skills Instructor: Blake Sullivan
- Career Development Specialist: Chesley Stiggers
- Secretary: Kenna Davis

**REACH4Work Staff**
- Coordinator: Angela Barnes
- Job Readiness Instructor: Ed Foust
- Job Coach: Martha Holland
- Secretary & Newsletter Editor: Venita Johnson
Kristi John

When students first come to REACH they have many questions ... What can I expect? Will I fail or succeed? Will this help me and my family? Will I have a career once I finish? REACH graduate, Kristi John had these same questions, but through her family and support system of fellow REACH students she was able to succeed and attain so much more.

Kristi started REACH in 1994. At first, she found herself overwhelmed as she didn’t know how to operate a computer or the different programs. However, she tackled this new challenge with a positive attitude, and was committed to learning the knowledge to make her life better. As time passed, Kristi became more comfortable with computers, even mastered the machine, and helped her classmates.

Kristi’s growth soared to new heights. The REACH coordinator noticed Kristi’s progress and loved her outgoing personality so much so that she asked her to serve as the Public Relations Chair for REACH. In this role, Kristi marketed REACH to the different departments on campus. This gave her the opportunity to meet other staff and faculty. After completing the REACH program, she enrolled in OSU-OKC to earn an Associate’s degree in Computer Networking. She has worked in many departments on campus over the years and now serves as the Process Improvement & Data Coordinator for the University.

Kristi’s journey at OSU-OKC began with one decision. Twenty years later, she still believes it was one of the best decisions she ever made.

Currently REACH has two college students:

- **Kitt Dixon** is majoring in **Nurse Science** and is taking two courses over the summer: Basic Comp & Reading for College.
- **Lori Jobe** is majoring in **Alcohol & Substance Abuse Counseling** and is taking one OSU-OKC course, Intro to Sociology, and just completed the Integrative Mental Health certification utilizing the OSU-OKC ED2GO course.

Other REACH student achievements in July include 36 REACH program certifications:

- **Brittany German**: Outlook, Windows 7
- **Camille Wallace**: Windows 7
- **Karaan Shaw**: Business Writing 4, Word, Outlook, Excel, Alpha Indexing, Windows 7, 10-Key, Keyboarding, Applied Mathematics 7, Locating Information 5
- **Lori Jobe**: General Administrative Skills, Keyboarding, Excel, Advanced Customer Service
- **Mary Mitchell**: Reading for Information 6, Windows 7, Alpha Indexing, Applied Mathematics 4, Locating Information 5
- **Meghan Roper**: General Administrative Skills, Advanced Customer Service
- **Sherree Moore**: Outlook, Keyboarding, 10-Key, Windows 7, Applied Mathematics 4, Reading for Information 6, Locating Information 4
- **Ashley Edmonson**: Locating Information 4, Reading for Information 5, Windows 7
- **Elke Kane**: Reading for Information 6
- **Angela Aunquoe**: Full Medical Office Assistant Certification
Lisa Holbrook

I remember when I was at DHS making my first decision as to what program I wanted to complete my training through. I chose Oklahoma State University – Oklahoma City because I knew the name alone might help me in obtaining a better career. Until my day of orientation, I was still unsure which course I wanted to take. I decided to pursue the Medical Office Assistant specializing in Coding and Billing.

I enjoyed the first part of my training, and had previously taken classes and learned different skills to make me more employable. I was challenged because my work history and skills were in a lot of different areas; I wanted to focus on completing training in a specific area and build a career. The Medical Office Assistant training tied together the skills I already had with new ones. Through this combination it looked as though I might have a pretty good future.

During Fall Break I did an internship at the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic. My mentor there introduced me to medical coding, the ICD 9 -- which is the coder's bible, and she gave me some practice sheets for these books. I began reading the manual and started to get a feel for the coding. Although it was challenging at times, I liked it and couldn't wait to return to class to finish my training!

After completing my classroom training, I was very fortunate to return to the OKC Indian Clinic for my 30-day internship. My mentor and co-workers were always helpful and willing to teach me new skills. They gave me the opportunity to apply training to everyday scenarios. I had the best training there is! It is an awesome accomplishment that I can list on my resume.

One of the best parts of the REACH program is the workshops we get to attend. They are very valuable in teaching us how to market ourselves and showcase our abilities and professionalism. REACH prepares you to walk a step ahead of the rest for real-world employment. I would recommend this program to anyone who is serious about finding a great job and having a solid future. It may seem demanding, but it is all for a great cause. If you follow the program it will work for you. I am living proof!

**REACH4Work Student Spotlight**

Congratulations to Darshley Daw on her employment opportunity!

Darshley entered the REACH4Work program with a positive attitude and a determination to have a better life. She made maximum use of the resources available to her both in and out of the classroom.

Within two weeks, she had landed a position at a retail establishment near her home. She attained full-time employment with minimal daily commuting distance and time. Go Darshley!
**DIY Memory Makers**

Capture summer memories in these mini time capsules.

**Sand and Shore Souvenir**
Beach weekend? Shoot a photo of the kids splashing in the sea or building sand castles, then print and size the shot to line the back curve of a jar, facing in. Have your kids scour the sand for small shells, stones and other items, add dry sand to the bottom of the jar, and arrange the items on top to create a beach scene with the photo. Decorate the lid with shells and raffia, and label the inside with the visit location and date.

**Birthday Keepsake**
To remember your child’s summer birthday, print a picture of him blowing out the candles and fit it to line the back curve of a jar. Have him fill the bottom of the jar with streamers, deflated balloons and small favors. Glue a birthday candle in front of the picture to make it look like he is blowing it out. Decorate the jar’s lid with party ribbons and a gift bow, then write or paint your child’s age on the jar.

**Amusement Park Memento**
Re-create a theme-park visit by placing ticket stubs and a park map inside a jar and adding buttons or stickers collected from the information desk. Have the kids write a list of top rides and attractions, and place it inside along with a photo of them with a park mascot or on a thrilling ride.

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**Career Word Search**

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ASKFWBLRTSFFESK
AMERAYEGRSZRDS SU
VHENEHBITEORGP
CYSCLCNABHCUWE
MEZASRCAOUCTNGV
RAEVEETDIITOXMI
UNTNVNETOURXOS
BWAGUNJGPXBUXO
ORGOSCIENIISTR
YBCFQEDECRQZMJV
LCVHDWREIGNMEN
A PAINTERRTSITRA
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ACCOUNTANT  ARTIST  BANKER
BUTCHER      CHEF    CLERK
DOCTOR       ENGINEER  MANAGER
MESSENGER    NURSE   PAINTER
RECEPTIONIST SCIENTIST SECRETARY
SUPERVISOR   TEACHER

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**Volume 1, Issue 4**
The Oklahoma Career and Technical Educators Equity Council honored 19 community college and CareerTech students, educators, businesses and community partners at the Annual Making It Work Day at the State Capitol on April 24, 2014.

“Making It Work Day at the Capitol” recognizes individuals who are committed to removing barriers to success for families in poverty by providing educational experiences for students beyond the classroom. Special recognition is also given to people who received acknowledgment for their efforts on a national level.
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Free Resume Templates are available to download for free and are in Word format.
REACH and REACH4Work are located on the 2nd floor of the Learning Resource Center on the OSU-Oklahoma City campus. The campus is west of the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds and is easily accessible from I-44. The Oklahoma City Metro Transit has a bus stop across the street from campus.

REACH4Work New Student Orientation is held on Monday mornings at 8:30 a.m.

New Student Orientation for REACH is held on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

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