

Workforce NEWS



Editor: Carmen V. Smith

Riverside Community College District

Workforce Preparation Skills Program

Bridging Today with Tomorrow

by Greg Aycock

Most students entering college need to brush up their skills in writing, reading, math, computers, and life management to be successful in future college classes and the workplace. However, it can sometimes be discouraging when a student finds out what to bring their skill levels up in these areas, it may take up to two or more semesters. What is so exciting about the WPS Program, is that you do not have to wait for the next semester to start building our skills in these important areas. Also, by getting a jump-start on building your skills, you shorten the time it takes to begin the courses for your certificate or degree. If this sounds like something you might be interested in, this is how you get started.

The WPS Program begins with a four-hour orientation and assessment that meets every Monday with sessions in either morning or evening. During this time, you will be introduced to the resources of Workforce Preparation, including the skills classes, and you will be given several career inventories and the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE). The following day you will take the RCC assessment (if you have not already done so) and you will complete some necessary paper-work. Once these steps are completed, you will begin meeting with a Workforce Preparation counselor who will use all of the information we have gathered through the assessments to create an individualized educational plan. This educational plan will outline your pathway through the

skills classes to the training program or major that is in line with your future career and life plans.



The WPS Program offers courses in English, Math, Office Administration, and Reading, and workshops in Career and Life Management. These courses and workshops are offered in a flexible and innovative manner. You begin in the subjects where you need the most help and then

progress at your own pace through various competency areas that will strengthen your skills and knowledge for future employment and college success. All of the classes are conducted by a group of very supportive faculty members who make themselves available to students through group lecture sessions or individual meetings.

If you are interested in getting more information, please call (909) 222-8648 with any questions or to reserve a seat in the next orientation. We look forward to assisting you as you continue toward success in college and the workplace.

Workforce Preparation Resources and Contacts

Shelagh Camak

Associate Dean222-8671

General Information

Riverside City Campus

Yvonne Hill.....222-8648

Moreno Valley Campus

Lynne Soules571-6154

Counseling Services

Greg Aycock222-8964

Dee Chapman571-6156

Bob McDonald.....222-8967

Anne Pattison.....222-8000,
ext. 5045

Elayne Souza222-8949

Monica Green.....222-8966

Parenting & Wellness Education

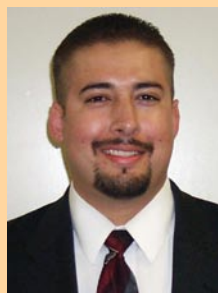
Penny Davis222-8937

CalWORKs Child Development Careers Project

Kim Metcalfe222-8079

Outreach & Recruitment Services

Carmen V. Smith222-8000,
ext. 4202



Start a New Career

If you are a Workforce Preparation student, schedule an appointment to meet with

Felix Minjarez.

GAIN Job Developer

Schedule your appointment now.

Call 909-222-8648

Moreno Valley Campus

by Dee Chapman

Finally, spring is here and summer is not far behind. At the Moreno Valley Campus, nature is emerging from its winter sleep, and students are emerging from their homes to start a new life filled with promise and self-sufficiency.

Dee Chapman is the counselor assigned at the Moreno Valley Campus and she is available four days a week. Lynne Soules is the clerical support and is the person to contact to make appointments for education plans, resume preparation, academic and career counseling. Lynne will make you feel welcome and glad to be at RCC; Lynne supports the counselors and during the rush times around Priority Registration and the beginning of a new semester.

Speaking of the GAIN counselors, the Workforce Preparation Department have great friends. From the Perris Office, Mario Muela, Bobbie Rivas, Alicia Gifford and Roxanna Sanchez take turns visiting our office and assisting students with their college needs. Mario is also able to assist with our limited English, Spanish speaking students.

From the Moreno Valley GAIN Office, Linda Kelly, Mimi Johnson, Pat Harness, Teresa Acosta and Tina Winston have all done stints helping students with paperwork, getting books, and even more, by assisting Lynne in answering phones and following up with missed appointments. These counselors care deeply about their participants and they want each and every one of our students to succeed in school, at work and in life.

If you are a Moreno Valley Campus/Workforce Preparation student, and you need assistance from a GAIN counselor, you can contact Lynne Soules at (909) 571-6154.



It's Never Too Late . . . for a New Beginning

by Monica Green

Charlene Ahumada is a single mother of three, a full-time student, an intern, and works to support her family. With Charlene's enthusiasm and warm smile, no one could fathom that just four years ago, Charlene was in a position of desperation without custody of her children, a roof over her head, and virtually no personal belongings.




Four years ago Charlene mustered the determination to pave a new road for herself and her children. Charlene began her journey by repairing her self-image, spirit, and health. Charlene became actively involved at her church and soon she began to positively impact the youth within her community.

Throughout Charlene's climb to self-sufficiency, she has utilized the many valuable resources available to her. Charlene came to RCC as an eligible participant of the Post Assistance Self Sufficiency (PASS) Program during the Summer of 2002. The PASS Program at Riverside Community College has assisted Charlene in breaking down her perceived educational barriers. She now has a firm educational goal of earning her Associate Degree. Charlene has a current GPA of 3.0 and now thinks of herself as a student with an ability to learn within a college setting. The sky is the limit for Charlene. She is no longer intimidated by the college experience and she has a vision of the opportunities ahead.

Important Dates To Remember Spring 2003

Fall Priority Registration.....	July 2-23
Holiday.....	July 4
Last day to add (evening classes).....	June 20
Last day to add (day classes)	June 27

*Note: Please see the RCC class schedule for more important dates.



"The stars exist that we might know how high our dreams can soar"

anonymous

Congratulations to Yvonne Hill, Associate of Arts Riverside Community College Class of 2003



The Parenting Corner - Child's Play

by Penny G. Davis, Parenting & Wellness Education Program



Something disturbing has happened in the world of child's play over the past 15 years. Imaginative play is very important for young children as they create, learn about the world and work through problems they may be having in real life. Many of today's most popular toys are not imaginative toys, but are instead "imitative" toys. Imaginative toys are those like building blocks and play-dough or clay that allow children to create their own play; imitative toys are those that tell children how to play, like the toys based on TV shows or movies, such as Batman, Star Wars or Power Rangers. Many of these imitative play toys are based on shows with violent themes, so the behaviors that children are imitating are violent ones. When children become dependent on toys that tell them exactly HOW to play, they are less likely to use their imagination to create, explore and resolve new problems. Over time, they find it difficult to play with more open-ended, healthier toys, with the result being that growth and learning can be affected.

Here are some questions parents should ask themselves before buying a toy for their young child:

- What will my child learn from this toy?
- Does this toy teach my child values I want to encourage?
- Does this toy promote positive, cooperative play?
- Does this toy encourage my child to use their imagination, or just imitate what they have seen on TV?



NOTE: If you have a parenting question or concern you would like to see addressed in this newsletter, please write to:

Ms. Penny Davis
 Parenting & Wellness Education Program,
 c/o RCC
 4800 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506

or email her at: Penny.Davis@rcc.edu



Mervyn's Community Closet Rolls in Again!

by Carmen V. Smith

A major hurdle for many of the students who are seeking better employment is not having the appropriate attire for job search and interviews, so it was no surprise that for the second consecutive year, a group of Workforce Preparation students were excited to learn that they had been chosen to participate in the award-winning Mervyn's Community Closet. Mervyn's provides men and women making the transition from welfare to work with new career clothes and tips on how to interview effectively. Students leave with a new set of clothes, valuable training, and most importantly, improved self-confidence.

Each year, a team of professionals from Mervyn's tour the country in a 72 foot customized "store-on-wheels." Each participant was provided their own personal stylist, who assisted with color and size selections.



One Step at a Time

By Kimberly Gilbert

Being a single mother of two young children, I was really scared for my children and I had no skills (or so I thought). I had little income and no friends. I was completely at the bottom until I found out about a program called New Visions. I graduated from that program with the help of the Workforce Preparation Department and I finally started to have some hope that things for my children and I would get better. The people I have met through the Workforce Preparation Department are the nicest and most caring people I have ever met. They really do care about you.

After the New Visions Program, I was introduced to the Child Development Careers Project Program (C.D.C.P.) and my life truly has never been the same. I have finally found something to look forward to everyday, which is moving one step closer to becoming a teacher. I want to be a Master Preschool Teacher and at the same time continue to go to school to become an Elementary School Teacher. Being in this program has allowed me to reach toward my goal, while meeting many wonderful people who are always there to help me. I am willing to help myself, but like all people, I sometimes need

guidance and assistance.

Before these programs, it was hard for me to get motivated because of the life I lived before. This year I am one year closer to my career, I have new friends, and for the first time, I won a scholastic award. Now I hold my head up high, instead of down. I know that, "yes", I can do this! I can do this because of the Child Development Careers Project (C.D.C.P.) and all the many wonderful people I have met along the way. Being in the situation that I am in (low income), it's easy to just give up, but I know that if I stay focused and surround myself with uplifting people, I will not fall. I can honestly say that I am proud of not giving into hardship. I only have but one life to live and I want to make the most of it. I will keep up with my education and willingness to never give up. If you have a dream of becoming a teacher, the C.D.C.P. program is for you!



Riverside Community College District
Workforce Preparation Department
 4800 Magnolia Avenue, Technology A
 Riverside, Ca 92506-1299
 Phone: 909-222-8648

Workforce Preparation Department
Parenting & Wellness Education Program
Workshops for Parents

Riverside Campus
 "Misbehavior Detective"
 Tuesdays, June 17th and June 24th
 6:00-8:00 p.m.
 Pilates Bldg, Rm 101
 Pre-registration is required.
 Call (909) 222-8648

Moreno Valley Campus
 Communicating with Infants & Toddlers
 Monday, June 16th
 6:30-8:00 p.m.
 HM, Rm 106

Nurturing Self-Esteem in Young Children
 Monday, June 23rd
 6:00-8:00 p.m.
 HM, Rm 106
 Pre-registration is required.
 Call (909) 571-6154