

# THE YOUTH CONNECTION



**MAY 2019**

## RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENT & DEDICATION

Throughout each of our newsletters, our goal is to focus on as many different individuals, activities, programming opportunities and resources as we can. Although there are not enough pages in our newsletters to list every amazing and dedicated professional and student that we have the privilege of working with, we hope that as you read through the stories included in this edition, you too, will be in awe at the level of achievement and dedication that these individuals show in their everyday lives. This edition of the newsletter continues to highlight several outstanding youth that are part of our Southwest Training youth program and we will once again provide bios and stories of administrators, educators and counselors that work in our area's districts and Career & Technology Centers. If you have a story to tell and/or would like to see a student, or an educator, or an event highlighted, please send the information, including a picture (*with release*), if available to: [Ineil@swtraining.org](mailto:Ineil@swtraining.org).

## THE FASTEST WAY TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS

One of the most important lessons for any student, new graduate, or someone early on in their career, is to understand that success only works in a reciprocal manner. *What that means is*, our desire to succeed should truly be as great as our desire to help others reach their big goals. Once you have this purpose and vision aligned, the sky is truly the limit. The opportunities and relationships we've always dreamed of begin to come to light.

If we focus only on our path and our needs, we won't get very far. For one thing, none of us make it on our own. We need the help of others to advance our careers, as well as, our personal goals. We want to be happy. But in order for us to be both successful and happy, we have to recognize that the same people willing to help us are also looking for the exact same thing for themselves. And why wouldn't they? Isn't that what we're trying to

do? So how do we get people to take an interest in us — to help us achieve our big goals and purpose? We respond by taking an active interest in helping others back. We don't just do it as an obligation or because we think it's the right thing to do. We make an active choice to become personally invested in another individual's success and happiness. That investment of time is always time well spent — because it has a compounding effect of interest that helps elevate us in our own pursuits.

Help the people who help you — Give without expecting anything in return. Seek out your co-workers, community members and partners.

Excerpt from: [theladders.com](http://theladders.com)

*"At the end of the day, it's not about what you have or even what you have accomplished. It's about who you've lifted up. Who you have made better. It's about what you've given back."*

*~ Denzel Washington*

## SOUTHWEST TRAINING SERVICES, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020

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**“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”**

Helen Keller

**53%** of millennials use their library each year.  
That's more than any other adult generation!

GET A LIBRARY CARD!

ALA LIBRARIES TRANSFORM



## SUPPORT FROM SOUTHWEST...

Eligible youth between the ages of 14 to 24 (in-school and out-of-school) can enroll with Southwest Training and work with our staff on the following:

- ⇒ Work one-on-one with a Youth Case Manager
- ⇒ Gain Skills To Get A Job
- ⇒ Achieve a Credential
- ⇒ Get help with Job Searching
- ⇒ Learn Effective Interview Techniques
- ⇒ Academic and Occupational Skills Testing
- ⇒ Supportive Services
- ⇒ Career Awareness Activities
- ⇒ Post-Secondary Training Opportunities
- ⇒ Paid Work Experiences
- ⇒ Job Shadowing Experiences
- ⇒ Post-Secondary School Visits
- ⇒ Employer/Industry Tours
- ⇒ Career, College and Job Fairs
- ⇒ On-The-Job Training
- ... AND MUCH MORE!

**Lisa L. Neil**, President—lneil@swtraining.org

**Cynthia A. Derrico**, Vice President—cderrico@swtraining.org

**WORKFORCE**  
DEVELOPMENT

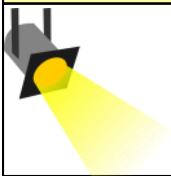
Call our Youth Staff for more information or to get involved:

**Ester Barnes**—ebarnes@swtraining.org  
Youth Program Coordinator 724-229-1350 x 241

**McKenzie Monaghan**—mmonaghan@swtraining.org  
Youth Case Manager 724-229-1350 x 275

**Maresa Hunyady**—mhunyady@swtraining.org  
Youth Case Manager 724-852-2900 x 246

**Joyce Leyda**—jleyda@swtraining.org  
Records & Retention Specialist 724-229-1350 x 231



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: AMANDA REILLY Washington High School

Amanda Reilly is a senior at Washington High School. At Wash High, she has been part of the cheerleading squad, marching band, symphonic band, steel band, jazz band, Prexie Musical Theater, Prexie Performers, Prom/Homecoming Committee and National Honor Society. She is also the school's Student Council President.

Outside of school Amanda takes part in other activities, as a dancer, at the Sandra Kay Mesler Dance Studio and performs in shows with Washington Community Theater for 9 years. Music has been a large part of her



AMANDA REILLY

life leading her into theater, dance and performing in Washington's Got Talent in groups and as a soloist.

While attending Washington High School she has taken advantage of the wonderful free Advanced Placement (AP) and College in the High School (CHS) courses allowing her to receive college credits. She has already completed three courses and will add two more by the end of her senior year.

Following graduation, Amanda plans to attend Slippery Rock University, as a member of the Honors College, under the Board of Governors Scholarship, that will provide her with full tuition.

She will be majoring in Communications, with a focus in Public Relations, hoping to pick up a Marketing major as well along the way. We have no doubt that she will succeed!

*Amanda has a bright future ahead of her!*

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## YOUTH and EMPLOYMENT STATS

Nearly all young people—98.6%—hold at least one job between the ages of 18 and 25.<sup>1</sup> The average young person holds 6.3 jobs between 18 and 25.<sup>2</sup> Some work part-time or summers only, while others see full-time permanent employment as their path to economic independence. Employment can be beneficial for youth by teaching responsibility, organization, and time management and helping to establish good work habits, experience, and financial stability.<sup>3</sup> There are many advantages to working during high school, especially for low-income youth, including higher employment rates and wages in later teen years and lower probabilities of dropping out of high school.<sup>4</sup> Knowing how to find and keep a job is not only critical for admission to the adult world but also is an important survival skill for which there is little in the way of formal, structured preparation.

1 U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2013a

2 U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2013a

3 Child Trends, 2010

4 Tienda & Ahituv, 1996



## CONNECT WITH PA CAREERLINK®

Looking for work? Interested in training? Want to attend Job Getting Workshops? Need help with your resume? Visit our local PA CareerLink® offices. Let us inform you of the many services and resources available to you!

You can also log onto: [www.pacareerlink.pa.gov](http://www.pacareerlink.pa.gov)

### PA CareerLink® Greene County

4 West High Street, Waynesburg, PA 15370

phone: 724-852-2900

### PA CareerLink® Mon Valley

570 Galiffa Drive, Donora, PA 15033

phone: 724-379-4750

### PA CareerLink® Washington County

90 West Chestnut Street, Ste. 150 LL, Washington, PA 15301

phone: 724-223-4500





## KDKA EXTRA EFFORT AWARD WINNER: JULIA CHAKOS—Trinity High School



KDKA's Bob Pompeani awarding Julia Chakos with a check for \$200.00 for receiving the Extra Effort Award

Julia Chakos is a senior at Trinity High School and a member of Southwest Training's youth program. She is involved in many clubs at school including the National Honor Society, Trinity Leadership Committee, Students Helping Others, Peer Jury, STEAM, Chick Fil A Leader Academy, and is the President of the Student Body. Julia is also the captain of her soccer, basketball, and track teams.

This year, Julia had the honor of receiving the KDKA Extra Effort Award for her work in the classroom, in the community, and in sports. Recently, KDKA's Bob Pompeani came to Trinity to award her with a check and a plaque. Each week, KDKA presents their "Extra Effort Award" to a student athlete in Western Pennsylvania who excels in academics, athletics and community service. Out of 210 applicants, the week of January 21, 2019, Trinity Senior, Julia Chakos, was selected.

After graduation, she will be attending Bucknell University to major in education and will also be part of

Bucknell's track and field team. Julia's hope is to graduate and find a job in a school, as a teacher or as a counselor, where she can work with kids. Julia loves kids and has been babysitting for several families in the area to get experience in her major.

Not only does Julia excel in academics and athletics, she also does a lot of community service through extra-curricular clubs at school and her church. Her favorite community service project was a shoe drive that she had orchestrated for less fortunate student-athletes from the area, in need of tennis shoes. She named her project "Kicks for Kids" and collected 105 pairs of shoes which were delivered to local schools. Julia is thankful for all the career and college support Southwest Training Services has given her during her senior year. She looks forward to working with them in the future.



Julia Chakos, with her parents, Jennifer and Brian Penak, as she signs on with Bucknell University

**TRINITY  
HILLERS**  
ACADEMICS • ARTS • ATHLETICS

## ALEXIS MOSS — Senior — Canon McMillan High School



At a young age my parents taught me I have to work hard for the things I want. As soon as I turned 15, I started applying for jobs and was quickly hired at Eat N' Park as a greeter. Now after being employed with them for 3 years, I am cross trained in greeting, take out, serving and cooking. My goal this summer is to move up to trainer. Some of the things that I have learned by having a job is financial independence, time management and customer service.

I have committed to Slippery Rock University to study Biology and eventually become a Physician's Assistant. The advice that I would give to younger youth is to work hard and not give up on your dreams. I have been told many times that I can't do something and it always just makes me work harder. I have many goals and I won't stop until they are all reached.

## MOCK INTERVIEWS — PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT!

Mock Interviews were the culminating activity for Washington High School Seniors, on April 29th, after a series of workshops, presented by Southwest Training Youth staff. This year's Seniors did not disappoint! We are so proud of how all of the students worked throughout the year and came in well prepared, well dressed and professional. *(Interviewers are on page 10)*



## MRS. SARA CHRISTNER - Counselor - Carmichaels Middle-Senior High School



My road to School Counseling is a little different than most; though filled with a variety of experiences, it's a road that has led me to a profession I feel very committed to and passionate about. I attended Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI, and knew that I wanted to work in a helping profession, which led me to study both Psychology and Therapeutic Recreation. I lived and worked in a few different settings before finding my way back to Calvin to work as an Admissions Counselor. I found much joy in encouraging students to find the right college fit, and through my interactions with School Counselors across the country.

After working for almost a decade in higher education, I received a Master's Degree in K-12 School Counseling from Grand Valley State University in Michigan. I felt eager and well-equipped to help build a comprehensive school counseling program in the school where I was working. In 2010, our family moved from Michigan to Pennsylvania, and I spent some time at home with our three young children. I began teaching piano lessons in our community, and spent a year as a substitute teacher before being hired, as a long-term substitute School Counselor, at Carmichaels for the 2016-2017 school year. The position became a permanent one prior to the 2017-2018 school year, and I'm grateful to be part of the fantastic team of educators at Carmichaels Area School District. Likewise, I respect and admire the group of School Counseling colleagues that I'm fortunate to partner with at the other Greene County schools.

My time at Carmichaels has been marked by many positive interactions with the staff, students, and families of our District. I find inspiration in the resiliency and spirit of perseverance that shines through many of our students. I feel motivated by a desire to speak encouragement and hope into the lives of each of our students, and to help them through the academic, social/emotional, and career aspects of their Middle and High School years. I desire to help students know and believe that they matter, always. I value the programming and opportunities that organizations like Southwest Training Services bring to our communities, for I believe that they truly help and propel students to pursue big dreams and brighter futures.



## JOB APPLICATION TIPS!



We understand that filling out a job application can be intimidating, but it doesn't have to be. Your application is where you get to convey your accomplishments, past experience and willingness to work hard to obtain the job at hand.

### General application tips

- ⇒ Include your most relevant and transferrable **skills**.
- ⇒ **List the jobs** you've held in reverse chronological order (*current job first*).
- ⇒ **Contact three professional references** and ask them if you can list them on your application. Verify their contact information and job titles.
- ⇒ If completing by hand, make sure you **write neatly**.
- ⇒ Always **be honest**. Lying on an application can result in immediate termination.
- ⇒ Make sure your application is **complete** (*there are no blanks*) and is signed.
- ⇒ **Read over** your application upon completion to make sure all information is spelled correctly and is accurate.
- ⇒ **Follow up with the employer**. If you do not hear back regarding your application after a reasonable amount of time, contact the employer and ask if they are still hiring for the position. If not, see if they keep resumes on file and if they expect to fill any other positions in the near future.

## TEC STUDENTS GET CERTIFIED

Over the past two months, 10 students at Transitional Employment Consultants, in Washington PA, have become customer service experts!



Devin Allen, Dallas Coburn, Maddie Galish, Zachary Hanna, Vaurie Litster, Sean McMillan, Jordan Pietroboni, Brent Warren, Christopher Wright and Jenna Yanosik, have been working diligently to enhance skills including attentiveness and clear communication through the **NRF Foundation Customer Services & Sales Fundamentals** curriculum. Customer Service & Sales is a classroom-based, instructor-led program. The curriculum is designed to help entry-level sales and service associates learn skills related to frontline work in retail (or any industry that values customer service and sales skills).

The students engaged in interactive trainings and completed the certification exam, which gave them a nationally recognized certificate in Customer Service. To receive this certificate, each student showed exemplary knowledge in the retail industry, customer satisfaction, and store operations.



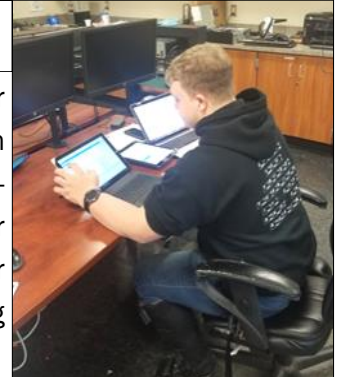
Southwest Training Services is grateful for this opportunity to work with such impassioned students who have bright, promising futures ahead of them.

## COMING SOON



## WORK EXPERIENCE IS PAYING OFF

Greene Co. Career & Technology Center computer networking students, Isack Beck (*right*) and John Evans II, have been assisting the CTC with networking issues, server connections, and any other computer issues that the school may encounter throughout the day. Both students are working though our SWTS work experience program.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: KAYLENE WILLARD - a Young Marine

My name is Kaylene Willard, a student of Faith Christian School in Washington, PA. I have been through multiple camps and programs like the Washington County Young Marines, which has given me many opportunities. Through that, I have been to the Pennsylvania State Police Youth Week twice, once as a cadet and once as a JC (Junior Counselor), Parris Island (a week of bootcamp as a unit trip), and Quantico, also as a unit trip. In this program, I am a Corporal, which is an NCO (Non-Commissioned Officer), who helps train, teach, discipline, and guide other Young Marines. I also have some



**Kaylene Willard**—supporting the laying of wreaths at the Cemeteries of the Alleghenies

experience working with children, so my senior project for school was teaching and helping in the kindergarten. I have also had the experience of working at a daycare center in

Claysville. I am also CPR/First Aid certified and I have a very high interest in psychology. I have helped many people through difficult times in their lives, which inspired my dream to become a therapist. I am not currently certified or licensed, but I have a passion for therapy and helping others and have a good understanding of therapeutics.

*Written By: Kaylene Willard*



**Kaylene** receiving her Young Marine Certificate

## THE YOUNG MARINES—PROMOTING A POSITIVE LIFESTYLE

The Young Marines is an organization that strengthens the lives of America's youth by teaching the importance of self-confidence, academic achievement, honoring our veterans, good citizenship, community service, and living a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral, and physical development of its members. The program focuses on character building and leadership and promotes a lifestyle that is conducive to being productive members of society. The Young Marines provides quality youth development programs for boys and girls that nurtures and develops its members into responsible citizens who enjoy and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

The Young Marines is open to all youth, boys and girls, ages 8 through completion of high school. The only membership requirement is that the youth must be in good standing at school.

Since the Young Marines' beginnings, in 1959, with one unit and a handful of boys, the organization has grown respectively with units throughout the country and overseas. For more information on this great organization visit: [www.youngmarines.com](http://www.youngmarines.com)





**MAKING A CAREER CONNECTION — “JOB SHADOWING”**



Washington Co. Assistant District Attorney Megan Faust (left) being interviewed by Taylor Boyd (right)

Taylor Boyd is a senior at Charleroi Area High School. She had the opportunity to participate in a job shadow at the Washington Co. District Attorney’s office with Assistant District Attorney Megan Faust. This was a great opportunity to learn first hand about a law career. Taylor is going to attend Penn State Fayette in the fall, majoring in Criminal Justice/Law. She is also being recruited to play on their softball team.



**PRINCIPAL SPOTLIGHT: MR. JASON MINNITI — Ringgold High School**



**Mr. Jason Minniti**, Principal  
Ringgold High School

Jason Minniti is the principal at Ringgold High School. For the previous five years, he was the school’s assistant principal. Mr. Minniti came to Ringgold in June 2008 with a long list of experience. Mr. Minniti is a graduate of California University of PA and the

the direction of Ringgold’s new superintendent, he is helping to implement the Universal Design for Learning framework to all teachers and students in his building. *UDL is a framework for instructional design that aims to eliminate barriers to learning and optimize each individual’s opportunity to learn.*

As an assistant principal, he helped to oversee and institute the co-teach model of inclusion education. He was also instrumental in Ringgold’s one-to-one technology based initiative, where every student has a device. This initiative has been in existence at Ringgold High School for the last six years.

University of Pittsburgh, where he received a dual certification in K-12 Principal and Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction.

He is the husband of a teacher and the father of three school-aged children. He is a lifelong resident of the Mon Valley, and has spent his career educating the youth of the Mon Valley. His experience includes twelve years teaching within the Monessen City School District, serving as the principal at Washington Park Middle School, and then as the Assistant Principal at Charleroi Area High/Middle School. While at Monessen City School District, he also served as the Athletic Director and coached various high school sports.

During Mr. Minniti’s tenure at Ringgold High School, he has accomplished a wide variety of educational strategies. Under

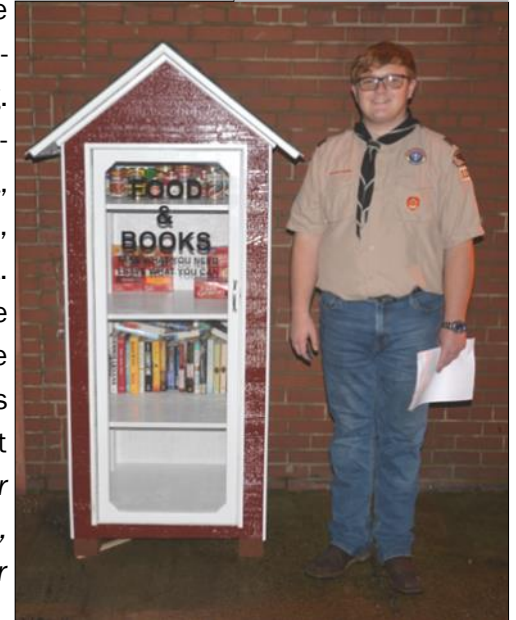
Mr. Minniti states, *“Being a parent of three allows me the unique perspective of what students of the 21<sup>st</sup> century face on a daily basis. There are so many external distractions that our students face; the task of being focused and keeping them engaged in learning is often very difficult. I am very fortunate to have a staff that builds positive relationships with their students and designs creative lessons.”*

Mr. Minniti has always operated under the philosophy that we need to make decisions that are in the best interest of students. He often tells his staff to treat their students as if they were their own children.



**CONGRATULATIONS: JOSHUA MIKLOS — EAGLE SCOUT**

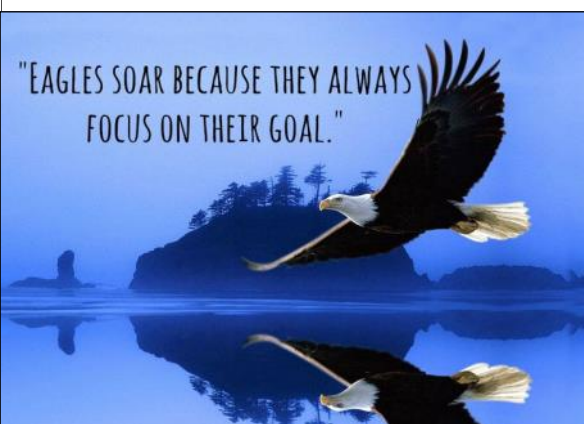
I am Joshua Miklos, a senior at Chartiers-Houston High School and Western Area Career & Technology Center. I joined Boy Scouts when I was in first grade and obtained my Arrow of Light, the highest rank you can obtain in Cub Scouts. I transitioned into Boy Scouts and through the years learned different skills to use in everyday life such as cooking, camping, managing money and swimming. As you continue in the scouting program, there are different ranks; scout, tenderfoot, second class, first class, star scout, life scout, and Eagle Scout. There are 13 merit badges that are required to obtain the rank of Eagle Scout, as well as, eight merit badges



that are not required to obtain the rank of Eagle Scout. The required merit badges are: *Camping, Personal Fitness, Personal Management, Hiking or Cycling, First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Cooking, Family Life, Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving, Environmental Science or Sustainability, and Communication.*

You also need to complete a service project approved by a court of honor board and complete the project by managing the people and building process to obtain the rank of Eagle Scout. I obtained the rank of Eagle Scout on November 14, 2018.

I will complete my senior and third year at Western Area Career & Technology Center, in the Mechatronics program, this June 2019. Thru Western Area, I have had the opportunity to participate in their Co-operative Education Program. My education site has been the Perryman Company. I started to work in their machine department on September 12<sup>th</sup>, within three months I was moved to the engineering department because of my training obtained at Western



Area. Currently I am studying to pass the state required NOCTI

exam for the Mechatronics Program. In order to get an advanced score on this test I will need a score of 83% or higher.

I am grateful for this educational opportunity at Western Area Career & Technology Center and Perryman Company. This has truly opened many doors and job opportunities for my future.

*Written By: Joshua Miklos*

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: MARIA CAMPIERI—The Challenge Program



**MARIA CAMPIERI**  
Program Development Manager

Southwest Training Services, Inc. is pleased to promote one of our partners in workforce development, **The Challenge Program, Inc.** SWTS is focused on working with others to provide the best possible programming opportunities for our area's schools and the youth we serve. Our goals for developing a skilled future workforce are the same, BUT, we recently met and have recognized that our resources vary and we look forward to future collaborations and the sharing of those resources. **Meet Maria!**

**Maria Campieri** started with The Challenge Program, Inc. in 2016. She is the Program Development Manager and is responsible for building and expanding Southwestern Pennsylvania, Northern West Virginia, and Eastern Ohio regions. Campieri, a Washington County resident, is extremely passionate about life-long learning and the value of investing in communities. She believes that building strong community relationships and motivating students to define their own success will result in positive impacts for the future workforce.



The Challenge Program, Inc. (TCP) is an educational non-profit and "Approved Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program".

TCP's mission is to build sustainable Business/Education partnerships while introducing students to careers in their communities, and motivating them to develop the solid work habits required to succeed in school and in their future careers. TCP takes an active role in workforce development responding to the growing concerns businesses are faced with: the quality of the future workforce and the availability of individuals to fill both current and future positions. With TCP, businesses have the opportunity to directly reinforce career-readiness, introduce students to regional employment opportunities, and guide their paths to the right education and/or training for these positions. Campieri says, *"The most rewarding part of our work is playing a small role in exposing high school students to diverse businesses that drive our local economy. We provide an exclusive opportunity for local businesses to highlight their industry and opportunities to the future workforce sitting in our local high school classrooms."*

There are high schools in Greene and Washington Counties requesting TCP for the 2019/2020 school year.

⇒ To learn more, contact Maria Campieri at 412-401-7843 or [campierim@tcpinc.org](mailto:campierim@tcpinc.org).

⇒ For more information on The Challenge Program, Inc. visit: [www.tcpinc.org](http://www.tcpinc.org)

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of our interviewers (below) for conducting **Senior Mock Interviews** at Wash High and for assisting in preparing our future workforce. **We appreciate you!**



### 1st row

**Treg Campbell**, Teacher;  
**Barbara Jones**, Teacher;

### 2nd Row

**Renae Jordan**, Comprehensive Health;  
**Bob Laick**, WGCJTA, Inc.;  
**Dyane Troiano**, Retired Paraprofessional;  
**Karen Sukel**, Retired Teacher;  
**John Campbell**, Retired State Employee;  
**Aujuwa Moore**, Pathways;  
**Christina Kramer**, Range Resources;  
**Charmayne Batch**, Retiree;  
**Kenneth Evans**, TRPIL;  
**McKenzie Monaghan**, SWTS, Inc;  
**Ryan Hamlin**, International Paper;  
**Deb Morrocco**, Alex Paris Contracting



## Transition Coordinator Spotlight: MRS. KATHY UNDERWOOD



**MRS. KATHY UNDERWOOD**  
Transition Coordinator  
Trinity High School

I am Kathy Underwood, the Transition Coordinator for Trinity High School. I received my Bachelors in Elementary and Special Education in 2003, from Duquesne University, and my Masters in Educational Leadership in 2013, from Carlow University. I am married to Joe, and we have two children, Emma and Miles.

As the Transition Coordinator at Trinity, I do many things, but the best part of my job is I get to interact with many students. I work closely with our Life Skills and Autistic & Emotional Support students to provide them meaningful opportunities both in school and in the community to help prepare them for life after high school. Some of these opportunities include, arranging work sites within our school building for our students, while others might go into the community to various community employers for on-the-job training.

This year, we have opened a school Café/Coffee Shop that is completely managed and run by our students. This has been a HUGE success for all of our students. I am also the liaison between students and families with community agencies that can assist with further post-secondary planning, such as Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Southwest Training Services, Inc., and many more. Watching the students grow from year to year is exciting, but when they come back from a job site smiling or in some cases are hired by the employers and are proud of what they have accomplished that makes it all worthwhile.

## CARLEY ALLEN — Washington High School's Student of the Month



**Carley Allen** receiving her Student of the Month Award from Washington High School Principal—**Mr. Chet Henderson**

My name is **Carley Allen** and I am a senior at Washington High School. Some of my biggest accomplishments so far have been achieving high honor roll status since 6<sup>th</sup> grade, participating in several clubs in high school, and most recent receiving the honor of being chosen as Student of the Month.

I am also involved in running track and playing basketball for Wash High. I recently qualified for the Round Ball Classic and achieved recognition for scoring 1,000 points in basketball. One of the proudest moments for me was being a great leader for my teammates and coming together as a family.

My future goals include attending post-secondary education with a focus on being a pediatric nurse. My role models are my parents because they have given me the tools to be successful in anything I want to achieve in life.

*Written by: Carley Allen*



**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: LUKE WEBECK – Beth Center High School****LUKE WEBECK**

Beth Center High School Senior

Like most students, I really had no idea of what I truly wanted to do after I graduate from High School, until I had the opportunity to attend a CSI Camp, at Waynesburg University, the summer before I entered my junior year. The camp introduced me to several different career options in the Criminal Justice/Forensic Science field. Each new activity awakened a new fire in my mind. The idea of finding clues, processing evidence, and helping to solve a crime that may help a family find closure was exciting and something I was completely sure that I wanted to pursue. Even knowing that the crime scenes could/would be gruesome, that didn't deter me from wanting to pursue this path.

My goal is to attend California University of PA beginning in the fall of 2019, for a Bachelor's Degree in Forensic Science/Criminal Justice, in hopes of working as a Medical Examiner or with the Coroner's office. I truly admire the men and women who work in this field and know I am more than able to be a true asset to these offices. Forensic Science requires precision, dedication, good judgment, and the ability to handle delicate/unsettling

situations, but I am confident that I am up to this challenge.

While attending Beth-Center School District, I have several accomplishments. The first was overcoming ADD. At first I had no idea why I couldn't focus and struggled, along with my parents, until my 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher helped my parents and myself talk to my doctor and begin a medication which changed my entire educational experience. I went from low B's, C's, and D's, to Honor Roll and High Honors every year since. During 8<sup>th</sup> grade, I left my comfort zone and tried baseball. No lie, I was not made for the sport, but I stuck it out and tried. In High School, I have attended Mon Valley CTC for Construction Technology and will earn a certificate through this program. While this is not what I truly wish to do as my occupation, it has been rewarding in itself and gives me valuable knowledge that I know will come in handy.

During the spring of 2018, I was inducted in the National Honor Technical Society program for Mon Valley CTC. While most students may take easy classes at CTC, I continued to challenge myself with Chemistry, Pre-Calculus, and Geometry. Through all of this, I have worked 4 days a week and maintained a 3.48 grade point average.

When I do have spare time, which is not often, I try to volunteer at Country Market, with the Washington County Food Bank, in Centerville. While there, I stock and tidy shelves, and help customers. Also, with my grandparents getting older, I spend more time helping them with yard work, errands, and odd jobs.

In closing, the thought of leaving high school and beginning college is scary, but knowing that I can make a difference in the lives of others and my goal of becoming a Coroner or Medical Examiner keeps me moving forward. Here is to new challenges and making a difference.

*Written By: Luke Webeck*



→ → → VISIT: <https://www.careeronestop.org/ExploreCareers/explore-careers.aspx>



## WHY IS WORK EXPERIENCE IMPORTANT?

You might think that having a work experience is pointless. You probably think you'll just sit there twiddling your thumbs, or be given a stack of 2,000 envelopes to stuff, stamp and send. Although some work experience does involve doing menial tasks, it can still be very important.

Some work experience placements might even give you the opportunity to take on some really interesting and challenging responsibilities. However, if you still need convincing, we present to you our top ten reasons why you should do work experience:

### ONE...

In at number one: young people are more likely to be successful in their job hunt if they have had some good work experience first. That's a Fact!

### TWO...

If you haven't got a clue what career you want to do, work experience is a perfect way to sample the career options out there. It's a way of exploring different jobs without actually committing to anything. You can dip your toe in the water without taking the full plunge.

### THREE...

It's the best way to get a real sense of your "chosen" industry. You'll get to speak to employees and ask them questions. You won't know what it's like until you get closer to the action.

### FOUR...

Doing work experience shows passion and interest. Evidence that you have done work experience shows the employer that you are motivated to get into a chosen career and that you've done your homework.

### FIVE...

If you're floundering about and frankly aren't that bothered about your career, work experience might just be the spark you need. If you do a variety of different work placements, you might find something you are passionate about and get motivated.

### SIX...

Work experience gently introduces you to the world of work. You get to learn the do's and don'ts, get work place savvy and learn to navigate your way through the jungle of office politics. Vitally, it'll give you an idea of the skills you might need to thrive in the workplace.

### SEVEN...

It'll help you identify your own skills and perhaps even highlight the areas that you might want to work on. It'll definitely give you a good understanding of your strengths and weakness.

### EIGHT...

You might wow them so much that you'll manage to wrangle yourself a job in the future!

### NINE...

It's all about networking. It'll help you build up contacts and, you never know, they might even give you a heads up about a future job or recommend you to another company.

### TEN...

And coming in at #10, yes, work experience does give you something to put on your resume!



## INTERESTED IN A SUMMER JOB???

If you, or someone you know, is between the ages of 14 and 24, and are interested in applying for a **summer work experience**, please contact our youth staff (**YOUTH STAFF CONTACT INFO is on page 2**)



## MONTELL CARLOCK—RINGGOLD HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR



My name is Montell Carlock and like many, I have dreams, goals, and desires that I hope to achieve. I was born with disabilities, but to me, they are gifts that push me to give back to those who have helped me throughout my life. Because I was born with Acid Reflux Disease and seizures, I had to go through occupational therapy until after my second birthday and spent my first two years in and out of hospitals. Altogether, I had three surgeries that were necessary to improve my life. I was finally able to come home after my second birthday but was still bound to nine different medications. This was due to being born three months premature, at nearly two pounds, and my disabilities. These caused a plethora of complications early in my life.

Despite early complications in my life that temporarily set me back, I have grown immensely. I could not control the things that happened, but through my mom and family's prayer I fought back and conquered the challenges and different obstacles I faced. I have consistently persevered and now, looking back, it has been a truly remarkable journey. These conditions have allowed me to gain strength and motivation to get through anything and everything in life. Many doctors said I would not make it but here I am living, breathing, and

achieving goals as I work towards further success. I have remained cautious and appreciative because it could be taken away just like that. I want to give as much as I can, be the best me, and contribute what I can to the world around me.

Throughout my childhood we moved many times, which forced me to attend three different schools. One place I call home was Donora. I love this community because it is a community that was once rich in companies, houses, and businesses, but suffered some tough times. Now, Donora is surrounded by areas growing continually. We may have stumbled a bit but not in spirit. The hard-working, committed spirit that lies in every person living in the community of Donora is inspiring; change is coming.

I have worked for Southwest Training Services Inc.'s Summer Work Experience Program at a community center to help youth. I realize now that my goal for the present and future is to give back to this town that I love so much. The people make the town what it is, and I want assist in reconstructing and developing Donora. I grew up with my mother, who used to tell me how Donora was blossoming with banks, candy stores, and businesses around every block. I would love to be a part of bringing that back.

*Written By: Montell Carlock—a senior at Ringgold High School. His plan is to attend post-secondary education and major in Sociology.*

## GARDENING WITH A PURPOSE—EARTH DAY

Southwest Training was pleased to assist Transitional Employment Consultants with their Earth Day Project by providing Business & Education Partnership funds to support this Building & Construction/Agriculture Project! Thank you to DRM

Landscape Creations LLC. for donating their labor and teaching the students how to create raised garden boxes. Students helped

with the construction of the garden boxes, planted various vegetables, mulched the area

around the garden beds and added a fence to keep out the animals. The food grown in the garden will be available for any student or family that wishes to use it. Now that this garden has been built, the TEC students and staff will work to maintain it.





## SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

### JR. HIGH / MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPS

- ⇒ **Exploring the Power of Social Media** @ Trinity Area High School  
June 10 -13, 2019 - 9:00am to 12:00pm
- ⇒ **Computer Networking & Gaming Camp** @ Western Area Career & Technology Center  
June 17 -21, 2019 - 9:00am to 2:00pm
- ⇒ **Video Production Camp** @ Western Area Career & Technology Center  
June 17-21, 2019 - 9:00am to 2:00pm
- ⇒ **Vo-Ag Camp** @ Trinity Area High School  
June 17-20, 2019 - 10:00am to 12:00pm
- ⇒ **FAB LAB Camp** @ Trinity Area High School  
June 24-27, 2019 - 10:00am to 1:00pm



### CAMPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

- ⇒ **CSI Camp** @ Waynesburg University  
June 16-21, 2019 - (will stay overnight on campus)  
*CSI camp provides an irreplaceable hands-on experience for high school students interested in careers in forensic science and criminal justice.*
- ⇒ **Sports Announcing @ Sports Journalism Camp**  
@ Waynesburg University  
June 17-21, 2019 - (will stay overnight on campus)  
*Hosted by Lanny Frattare, this camp offers the theories and the practical experience necessary to start a student on the road toward a career in either sports broadcasting or sports journalism.*
- ⇒ **STEAM Camp** @ Waynesburg University  
July 21-25, 2019 - (will stay overnight on campus)  
*This event promotes learning in the fields of science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics and is open to high school students.*
- ⇒ **Nurse Camp** @ Waynesburg University  
July 27-29, 2019 - (will stay overnight on campus)  
*Hosted Waynesburg University's nationally-recognized Nursing Program, Nurse Camp is for current junior and senior high school students who are interested in studying nursing.*
- ⇒ **Summer Camp—Choose Your Adventure** @ Pittsburgh Technical College  
July 29-31, 2019 (will stay two nights)  
*3 days and 2 nights—a real campus experience. Choose from: The Bake Shop; Business & Hospitality; CSI; Design Engineering Technology; Design Graphics & Video Production; Drones; Med; Trades*



**\*\*NO COST to attendees. Southwest Training will approve applications on a first come-first serve basis.\*\***

### WORK EXPERIENCE

- ⇒ **6-week work experience**—Beginning June 24 thru August 2, 2019 (ages 14 to 24)  
(Wage - \$10.35/hr. for up to 32 hours per week) Must complete an application to be considered for employment.



Youth Services are sponsored by the  
Southwest Corner Workforce Development Board and  
the Commissioners of Greene, Washington and Beaver Counties

***Recognizing the importance of  
preparing young people for  
success in the workplace.***



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