



Your Path To A Brighter Future

Serving Blytheville, Burdette, Leachville, Osceola and Paragould

Happy Holidays  
From our director **Page 2**

The voice  
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**A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Make a New Year's Resolution to yourself - **EDUCATION**

Registration Begins Jan. 4 Blytheville

## PATHWAYS

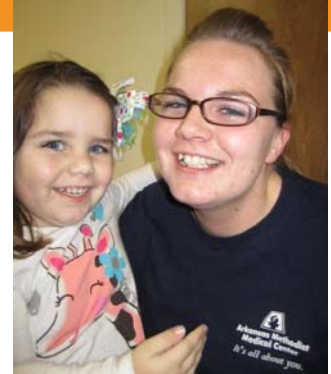


### Partnerships; Help US Help OTHERS

**E**ncouragement goes a long way as we go through various challenges in our lives.

Kristie Monroe, like so many today, has faced layoffs, firings and endless dead-end jobs. It wasn't until she enrolled in the TOOLS (Teaching Ourselves Options for Living Successfully) program that her life began to change. TOOLS is a series of career/employability workshops offered by CPI.

Kristie first came to CPI through a referral from the Paragould Department of Workforce Services. She knew her lack of employment and childcare were huge obstacles for her securing a career. "I'm not embarrassed to ask for help," she said. The TEA (Transitional Employment Assistance) program provided childcare, mileage reimbursement and funding for her Certified Nursing Assistant program. She was referred to CPI by her caseworker, Gretta "Kitty" Witcher.



Kristie with daughter, Lillie

Partnerships – continued on page 2

### Congratulations CPI RN Graduates



- Kara Baskin
  - Leslie Brown
  - Maxine Fletcher
  - Tiffany Kiech
  - Gina Krzton
  - Christy Robertson
  - Beverly Jones
- AND
- Outstanding Clinical Student Award winner, CPI Student Mae Walker

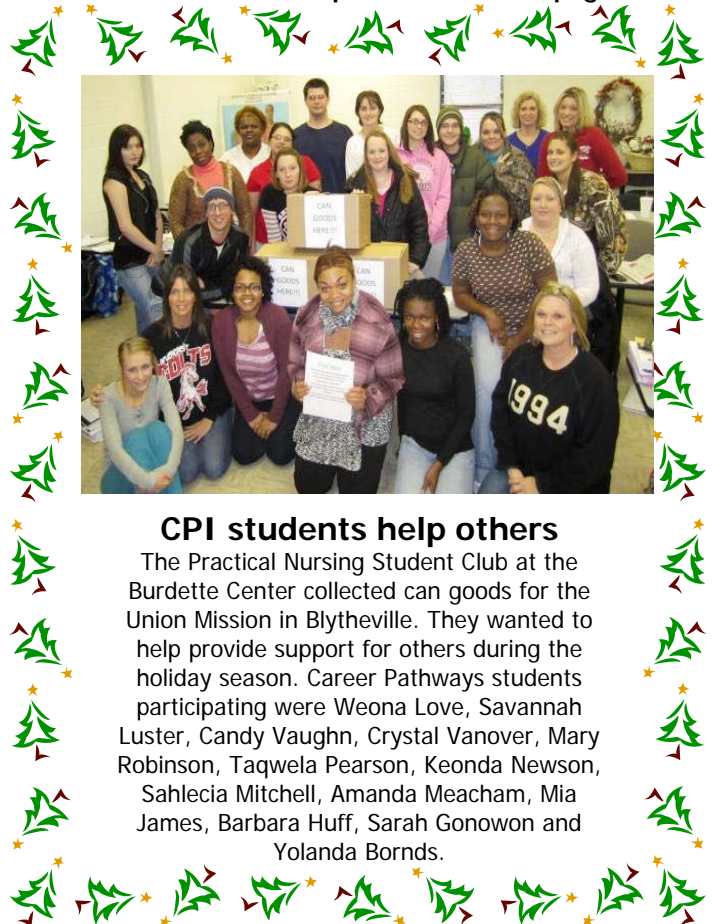
Group picture, page 4



### Collaboration breakfast

The faculty and staff of the Business and Technical Division welcomed community, business, industry and government members to the 2011 Advisory Council Breakfast.

Collaboration – continued on page 3



### CPI students help others

The Practical Nursing Student Club at the Burdette Center collected can goods for the Union Mission in Blytheville. They wanted to help provide support for others during the holiday season. Career Pathways students participating were Weona Love, Savannah Luster, Candy Vaughn, Crystal Vanover, Mary Robinson, Taqwela Pearson, Keonda Newson, Sahlecia Mitchell, Amanda Meacham, Mia James, Barbara Huff, Sarah Gonowon and Yolanda Bornds.



**Message from Ann Whitis, Director Career Pathways**



As the fall semester comes to a close, staff and students are hopefully anticipating a nice holiday season. It is time for family and friends and a little break from the stresses that come when juggling classes, homework, family, and work schedules. Our staff is so proud of those who are completing this semester and will soon be starting new careers. In turn, we want to encourage our remaining students to stay focused and continue to plan for success during the coming term.

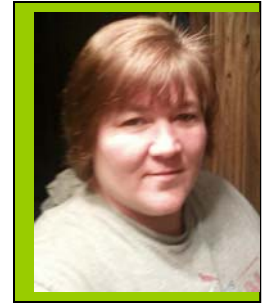
This fall, I have had more of a chance to visit with students, and it has truly been a pleasure to hear first hand how important Pathways has been to many of our students. One gentleman said that one of the most valuable Pathways' benefits to him has been the use of the Internet card. Other students said they honestly did not think they would have been able to complete the nursing program without the financial assistance Pathways has helped provide. Most important, the students have been very complimentary of their counselors and the encouragement all staff has continually provided.

Pathways' goal this semester is to help make other ANC students aware of Pathways as well as to make potential students in the community aware of our services. I am sure there are many individuals who have thought of returning to school but worried about paying for child care. Maybe some former students lost their financial assistance and are unaware that Pathways could possibly help them. Maybe there is a student in the nursing program who does not know that Pathways helps to pay for the nursing review and the board exams. Please help Pathways and these potential students by encouraging them to contact our staff about eligibility. We have room for more students, and these individuals can help us reach our enrollment goal for the year. Pathways is a program for economically disadvantaged parents—single, divorced, or married. Seeing students successfully employed in a career field where they can earn a living wage helps not only the students and their families, but it helps our entire community.

From all of the Pathways staff, we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years.



**Meet Robin Rodgers**



Robin Rodgers enrolled in the Career Pathways program at Arkansas Northeastern College in January of 2008 as a dislocated worker and grandmother with legal custody of a granddaughter. The closing of Milwaukee Tool did not dampen her determination to work and provide for her young grandchild. She quickly took advantage of the services offered to the dislocated workers of the closing plant and enrolled herself in the local WIA program, Arkansas Northeastern College and Career Pathways

December 10, 2010, Robin completed the degree requirements for the Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration. During her educational journey, she also earned a Technical Certificate in Computerized Accounting. After completing the degree requirements, Mrs. Rodgers was placed in the Career Pathways lab through the WIA Work Experience program. Rodgers punctual, self-motivated, organized and helpful personality earned her a great deal of respect from the Pathways staff at ANC and has ultimately culminated in her being offered the position of Career Pathways Lab Facilitator.

Robin credits the Career Pathways program with being her number one support in the educational setting as well as the employment preparation arena, calling CPI her extended family. Thrilled with the opportunity to "Pay it Forward", she is now mentoring current CPI participants and applying her hard earned book knowledge to real life situations. Ann Whitis, director, said "Robin's qualifications, determination, and persistence speak to the very essence of our mission and goal.

**Partnerships, continued from page 1**

Kristie said it was while she was enrolled in the TOOLS program she realized her career goal was to be a Registered Nurse. "TOOLS helped me learn what career I wanted and how to get there," she said. "It helped me understand what I needed to do to make a great resume and be able to land a good job."

Kristie is now a full-time Patient Care Tech at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould. According to Kitty, "Ms. Monroe was an easy TEA participant to work with. She used the TEA program to become self-reliant."

In fact, Kristie is featured on the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services website under TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) Success Stories.

Currently, Kristie is enrolled in nursing prerequisites and remains focused on the future. Kristie stated she loves the advice that she was always given and when she wanted to quit or just give up, "Ms. Pauline was always there with encouraging words to lift my spirits and keep me going through the challenges I faced." She added "If it wasn't for her I would have given up and quit school."

Pauline Linam-Parks is the Career Support Services Facilitator and the TOOLS instructor in Paragould. Pauline added "it helps when people are given a sense of hope in their lives when they have lost hope or find it hard to grasp."

Kristie encourages others to ask for help because without it she feels a person is not going to get anywhere in life. Help is available through Career Pathways by calling 780-1256.

**Collaboration continued from page 1**



Robin Singleton, chair, Business and Technical Division spoke to the group on how the college is committed to providing quality academic and technical programs that meet the needs of students, community, business, industry and government. The group was asked for advice and guidance to accomplish this mission. CSSF, Pauline Linam-Parks, is a member of the Office Technology advisory and she also presented a program, "SUCCESS."

The program illustrated how partnerships are vital for the student's success. The group learned about the amount of monies the Career Pathways program gives back to the community in the form of child care, transportation, tuition, testing fees, uniforms, books, software for students and internet cards all in an effort to assist a student in reaching their educational and employment goals.

**Gold, Silver, and Bronze CRCs**

Joe Franklin, from the DWS office in Little Rock recently spoke to the Mississippi County Personnel Manager Association in Blytheville. Pictured with Mr. Franklin were Dwayne Mays, President of the HR Association, and representing ANC were Pauline Linam-Parks, CPI, CSSF and Louis Parchman, ANC Placement Services. Since the Arkansas Career Readiness Certificate Program was launched in January 2008, 33,136 CRCs have been issued. Currently CPI administers the test at the college.



**LPN students at health fair**

CPI LPN students in Paragould recently participated in the Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Women's Health Fair. LPN students included Charlotte Ashcraft, Lea Beck, Renee A. Chamness, Megan Eiler, Megan Hollywood, Heidi Kriske, Samantha McKinney, Alethia Medcalf, Brittany Moffitt, LeeAnne Morphis, Dyanna Myers, Vanessa Presson, Crystal Sears, Amy Shavalia, Amanda Smith, Christina Thacker and Chassica Vandergriff. Participants were given free lab tests for glucose and cholesterol screenings, blood pressures checks, and in some cases free mammograms.





**SMART AND BEAUTIFUL!  
CONGRATULATIONS 2011 RN GRADUATES**

Recently, CSSF, Pauline Linam-Parks presented a workshop at the annual Arkansas Association of Continuing and Adult Education and Arkansas Literacy Council in Little Rock. Her topic was "Teaching Values, Morals and Ethics in School, but wait, Don't We Have Enough to Do?" Discussion centered on a teacher's role in helping a student to become a productive citizen.



**CPI student, " the voice" to many**

A telephone call is often the first real impression a potential customer has of your organization. Sure, they might be familiar with your brand name, or seen a vehicle with your company logo driving around town, but a phone call is typically the first real interaction a potential customer has with your organization. CPI student, Ratasha Whaley offers a warm, positive and memorable impression to anyone that contacts Arkansas Northeastern College.

Currently, Whaley is the part-time receptionist at ANC and anyone calling in the afternoon will hear the sincerity in her voice. Her immediate supervisor, Pacey Bowers, speaks highly of her. In fact, her supervisor said, "she's motivated, takes initiative, has an outgoing personality and possesses EXCELLENT customer service skills." Whaley, a single mom to Maliyah, Camron and Nia, is currently working on her Associate of Applied Science Degree in Office Technology. Ratasha explains, "I guess I

went about things backwards, I got my work experience first before my education." She added, "A job is good to have but a career is something you can be proud of." When her former employer in Little Rock "downsized" she came to Blytheville to "lean on her family." It was here when she heard about Pathways through a friend. She states she is thankful for the many resources (gas voucher, laptop, assessments) Career Pathways has offered to her. Above all, she told of the "personal support" she receives from her Counselor, Beverly Rogers. "Thank you, so much for not only helping me to succeed, but wanting me to succeed." Ratasha encourages others to apply with Career Pathways for services. "You really do have so many people on the Career Pathways staff, who want to see students succeed," she said. "It really makes a difference." Ratasha will graduate in May and hopes to find full-time employment in a professional work environment. Hint-hint-ANC



- ✓Contact Career Pathways, 780-1256
- ✓Receive Assistance for going to college
- ✓Focus on me and my family's future
- ✓Study
- ✓Graduate and have a Career!!!!