



## PATHWAYS

Serving Blytheville, Burdette, Leachville, Osceola and Paragould

Your Path To A Brighter Future

**All Smiles**  
Page 2 & 3

**Men in white**  
Page 1

**Saying Goodbye**  
Page 1 & 2

**Career Pathways**  
Your Education and Employment Resource

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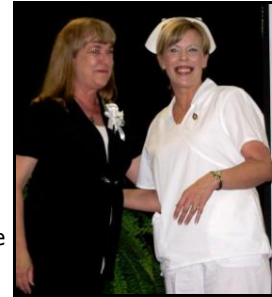


**Congratulations Santiago!**



### Best Wishes to Our Friend, Paula!

It is both a happy and sad time for the Career Pathways staff. Our friend and coworker Paula Keane has completed her nursing training to become a registered nurse, and will be leaving us sometime this summer. During her tenure as Administrative Assistant for the Advancement Division, Paula has been responsible for maintaining operational documentation for the Career Pathways Initiative, ArWorks Career Coaches, Carl Perkins, and the Adult Education grant programs. These various grants have provided over 2 million dollars worth



**Paula – continued on page 2**

### Meeting employers' needs

The 2011 CPI sponsored Job Fair was a great opportunity for our students to shine with employers. Pictured is Arkansas Northeastern College President, Dr. Robert Myers discussing with CPI student, Ratasha Whaley what job opportunities she had found. **Congratulations CPI students** we had the highest number of completers (193) in the state for 2009-2010 year! The best part, 65% of you are working in the state of Arkansas. A challenge is made to the 2010-2011 graduates to increase that number! If you need assistance with employment contact your Counselors or Pauline Linam, CSSF, at 740-9315.

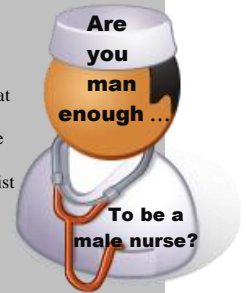


### With an education, especially in nursing YOU can expect a higher salary and the ability to care for your family." Santiago Vasquez

Men who choose nursing are dynamic, self-confident, self-motivated achievers who are compassionate and committed to caring for others. Santiago Vasquez is an excellent example of the dynamic male nurse. Vasquez, a recent CPI graduate, knew he would be a good nurse. In fact, his mother and sister are nurses. However, obtaining his Associate of Applied Science in Nursing degree wasn't an easy

path for him. He had thought about several career paths including being an architectural engineer and even a doctor. "Like most folks I really didn't know what I wanted to do," he explained. "I started school before, but lost a scholarship and school was put on hold." However, Vasquez doesn't focus on the past. "I wouldn't trade my past experiences, but I'm glad I had the chance to go

back to school." He learned about Career Pathways, which is a program that helps individuals with children under the age of 21, and found he would now be able to reach his dream. Pathways was able to assist in many areas including testing fees and gas cards. CPI services eases the burden of some of the financial aspects non-traditional students face when returning to **Male Nurse – continued page 4**



**Another successful year! Congratulations to all of our CPI Students and their Families**



**Congratulations Mary Gaston, CPI Counselor, on completing your Masters in Education We are proud of you!**

### Economic Advancement

CPI staff, Pauline Linam and Barbara Baker, recently presented at the UALR Workforce Forum held in Little Rock. The focus was "Career Pathways: A link between Education, Employment, and Economic Development." Dr. Karon Rosa, CPI Director was on hand along with area businesses and industry leaders. Representing Mississippi County was Dwayne Mays, Human Resources Representative, Evonik Cyro in Osceola. During the program, Mays had the responsibility of a caregiver in the Bridges Out of Poverty simulation.





**Visit Career Pathways at any of the following ANC campuses: Blytheville, Burdette, Leachville, Osceola and Paragould or call 762-1020 and ask for a Career Pathways Representative.**



**Paula, continued from page 1**



of resources annually to the college and to its' students. Paula's job has been both time consuming and detail oriented, and one that she has performed with an ease that many others would find hard to exhibit.

Of course Paula has been a tremendous help to our Pathways program, but more than that, she illustrates our core philosophy. Our philosophy is that the opportunity for educational growth never ends. Like many of our Career Pathways participants, Paula's educational pathway has been made up of many starts and stops. All of her efforts have now culminated in a high-wage, high-demand career that will give her job security and financial independence.

Paula began her post-secondary education after high school with a one-year technical certificate in office technology. Completion of that certificate helped Paula to gain her first office job as an assistant in the business department. Once hired at the college, Paula managed to continue her education part-time by taking classes to work on her general education requirements for a two year degree. As she pursued her classes, Paula also gained valuable work experience which helped her achieve several promotions at the college. But Paula was not content with her career. She desired to achieve more, and so she decided to enroll in the Associate Degree Nursing program. One of the most challenging programs of study at ANC, Paula managed to pursue the RN degree and maintain her full-time job working a flexible schedule for 18 months. It was a tremendous challenge to balance the demands of both her job and her education for that time period. In addition to managing her professional responsibilities, Paula also continued to be a devoted wife and a loving mother of two daughters ages 12 and 16. Needless to say, like many adult college students, Paula had her hands full with many responsibilities, yet she managed to maintain a 3.95 GPA.

Fortunately, Paula is one of the most organized, bright, and efficient individuals you could possibly know. Given a task, she will arrange, sort, and systematize it until every detail is aligned to allow the fewest possible chances for errors and the clearest picture of the job at hand. She probably missed her calling not being an efficiency expert somewhere! What a valuable employee some lucky health care facility will gain by employing Paula. More than all these wonderful qualities, Paula is a great friend! All of us at Pathways will miss Paula as she begins the next phase in her life. We wish only the best for her in her new career. As she continues to grow and challenge herself in her new career pathway, we know that she will be a wonderful nurse and great asset to all those who work with her.



**For additional pictures of graduation join  
Arkansas Career Pathways Facebook page**

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



Congratulations to all of our graduates! We are truly excited to have such a large number of students completing their course of study and entering the workforce. Most important, our Pathways staff wants our graduates to remember, we are available to help in finding employment both now and in the future should it be necessary to find another job. Pathways goal is to help parents find careers that are rewarding and lead to financial security for their families.

This year brought several changes for Pathways. A new lab is now conveniently located in the B wing at the Blytheville Campus. Students have access to our CPI instructor, a counselor, and our Career Support Service Facilitator (CSSF) -- all in close proximity. Additionally, we have extra support this summer with two lab facilitators Robin Rodgers and Heather Smith. Both of these individuals are Pathways students, and they are a great addition to our staff while other members are away on leave.

Summer is a busy time for our staff as we want our students to be academically and personally prepared for the new school year. Pathways is an initiative to help parents, whether single, married, or divorced. Being a student and a parent brings on special challenges. By bridging new students in the summer, Pathways individuals become familiar with the supports we offer as well as with their responsibilities for receiving services. In addition to assisting our students with tuition, books, & fees, and counseling, many students need financial help with day care and help with transportation, which we give in the form of gas vouchers. Fortunately, Pathways can assist students with these barriers that often have kept parents from returning to school.

Pathways looks forward to the 2011-12 school year! We have already had many applications and inquiries about our program, and we hope to continue this trend. Our participants, who are both students and parents, face a difficult task. Our job is to help these individuals be successful in completing school & finding employment.



**Community Partners**

Area representatives were on hand at the DWS TEA Regional meeting to gain knowledge of how the TOOLS (Teaching Ourselves Options for Living Successfully) is working to increase educational levels and employment among TEA participants. Greene County and Mississippi County DWS Workforce Specialists have worked closely with the CPI staff to make the program a huge success.



The **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Job Fair** sponsored by **Career Pathways** was a huge success! Over **50 businesses** participated in the event and over **600 people** attended.



**Arkansas Career Development Association**

recently held its first annual conference. Representing Career Pathways at the CPI booth were Barbara Baker, Pauline Linam and Rebecca Martin from the North Arkansas College campus.



**Community Service – Safety Baby Shower**

Students and faculty at Arkansas Northeastern College had the opportunity to learn new ways to reduce the risk of injury and death to infants and children at home. Kim McCray, Public Health Educator for the AR Department of Health, said Arkansas has one of the highest child injury rates in the nation. The event was co-sponsored by Career Pathways. Several area community representatives were on hand to participate in the event.



**Male Nurse continued from page 1**

school. He states he has learned the importance of doing something that you truly enjoy.

Vasquez credits the atmosphere and people at Career Pathways and Arkansas Northeastern College. He explained "the total experience made me want to thrive to make better grades."

Vasquez and his wife, Sheena, and children Jonathan, Drinnon and Ian currently reside in Jonesboro. He is now a Registered Nurse in Kennett, Mo. Vasquez was one of 33 males enrolled in Career Pathways.

Career Pathways is here to help you and your family, call 762-1020 or 239-3200.