

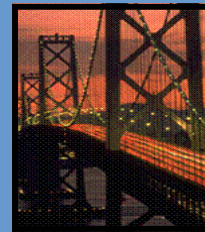
March 2010

*Winter/Spring
Issue*

www.eri-va.com

Building Bridges...

*for youth and young adults through
education and employment training.*



Spring Calendar

April 2

School Early Dismissal
Spring Break

April 5-9

School/Offices Closed
Spring Break Week

May 12

School Early Dismissal
Teacher Work Day

May 28

School Early Dismissal
Memorial Day Holiday

May 31

School/Offices Closed
Memorial Day Holiday

June 16-18

School Early Dismissal
Final Exam Week

June 18

Last Day of School
Report Cards

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The *Building Bridges* newsletter is produced three times per year by Employment Resources Incorporated to inform our clients, students, parents, community partners and the public about our educational, employment and transition programs and services. For more information call 540-372-6710, or visit our web site at:

www.eri-va.com

Employment Resources Incorporated

Fredericksburg • Warsaw

ERI Partners with Local Community Foundation and Agencies

In our fall issue of the *Building Bridges* newsletter, Employment Resources Incorporated (ERI) introduced our new online *High School Diploma Program*. The program is one of many educational and employment training programs and services that ERI provides to local residents, organizations, government agencies and businesses.

Students participate in the 15-week long *High School Diploma Program* put in 90-hours of direct classroom instruction and study online at home. Some students can complete the program in less time depending on their subject knowledge.



At our first *High School Diploma Program Graduation Ceremony* on December 4, 2009, thirteen individuals received their high school diplomas. The ceremony was attended by several family members and friends of the graduates. Mr. Michael Fidgeon, President of the Eastern Division of Providence Service Corporation in Fredericksburg was the graduation Keynote Speaker. A reception followed the ceremony at ERI offices to celebrate this great accomplishment of the graduates.

To help defray some of the cost of the program for low income individuals, ERI is pursuing various forms of funding assistance. We are proud to announce a new partnership with the Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region in 2010. In December, ERI received a grant from the Foundation to support our *High School Diploma Program*. "We are so excited about the new partnership with the Community Foundation," said Joan McLaughlin, ERI President. "The funds will help us provide scholarships to needy students."



ERI is also partnering with local agencies to provide the *High School Diploma Program* to their clients and the agencies even pay all or some of the costs. Currently, ERI is working with Orange County and Caroline County Departments of Social Services and the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services in Fredericksburg and Culpeper County.

To further enhance our funding efforts for the *High School Diploma Program*, ERI will begin conducting an *Annual Fund Drive* in 2010. We will be asking individuals, organizations and companies to financially support our mission and make donations to ERI to fund scholarships and help us serve more people who need their diplomas. Union First Market Bank is the first company to partner with ERI and make a donation to the scholarship program.



For more information on the *High School Diploma Program* and other educational and employment training programs and services at Employment Resources, contact us at 1-888-371-0597, or visit our web site.

ERI Helps Community During Economic Downturn



Joan P. McLaughlin
President
Employment Resources Inc.

For the past 20 years, ERI's mission has been to provide individuals the education and employment skills they need to become successfully employed, self-sufficient and contributing members of our community.

Whether it is through educating our children at *The Gladys H. Oberle School*, or providing employment and educational training programs and services for adults and youth, ERI has always been there to help.

With our economy in a downturn, and people and businesses facing employment challenges and staffing issues, ERI continues to develop new and innovative programs to make our clients more competitive.

We are helping employers by providing quality employment training programs and services to the local workforce. For example, ERI's *Certification in Customer Service* program, which is accredited by the National Retail Federation, prepares individuals to develop exceptional people skills allowing them to provide excellent customer service for businesses.

Our week-long *Job Readiness Training Class* gives people the soft skills and knowledge they need to prepare for, obtain and keep good jobs. The class provides well-trained employees for the employer. Between December 2009 and March 2010, 17 adults graduated from three *Job*

Readiness Training Classes sponsored by Hanover County Department of Social Services. In Fauquier County, nine Seniors at Southeastern Alternative School are enrolled in a *Job Readiness Training Class* to prepare them for the workforce when they graduate in June.

Having a high school education is not only important, it is becoming mandatory by many employers. That's one reason why ERI started its online *High School Diploma Program* for adults in 2009. In the last year, ERI in partnership with Continental Academy, helped thirteen people get their *High School Diploma*. In the first quarter of 2010, 15 adults are already enrolled in the program in Fredericksburg, Orange County and Caroline County with more classes scheduled throughout the year.



Fredericksburg class.

During economic hard times, people aren't always sure what type of job or profession they should prepare or train for. That's why Employment Resources' *Transitional Training Program* is a great option for people to consider. Through this program, individuals can explore different careers and gain job-seeking skills while learning and practicing appropriate work behavior in an on-the-job work experience.

While our economy slowly recovers, please know that ERI will continue to prepare individuals for the workforce by helping them improve their education and employment skills through professional trainings, seminars and workshops. ERI...*Preparing Tomorrow's Workforce...Today.*

Oberle Students Visit U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

On January 19, 2010, nine students who are studying Virginia and US History at the Gladys H. Oberle School visited the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Finegan, Ms. Ferguson and Ms. St. Clair chaperoned the group. Ms. Ferguson, who has a history degree, served as narrator and explained a lot of the exhibits, videos and photos of the events that took place during the Holocaust.



The next morning, Mrs. McCarthy and Mrs. Finegan held a meeting with all of the students. "They were asked to share their thoughts and feelings about their experience at the museum," said Mrs. Finegan. Many of the students commented on the piles of shoes and how they felt about the people who wore them. "It was an amazing trip and it taught me all the things my ancestors had to do," said Niki Lehmann, a Senior at Oberle. "I definitely wouldn't have survived back then," added Lehmann. Some students were reluctant and did not want to share their feelings.

All of the students were given play dough and asked to express their feelings through art. "Some expressed love with a heart, sad and angry faces, and even a blank face for not knowing how they really felt after experiencing the museum," Finegan said.



One of the more solemn moments was when students were given Identification Cards that told the story of a real Jewish person who endured the Holocaust. The cards gave the person's name, date of birth, and history of what happened to them.

During the visit to Washington, students were given a special experience and were allowed to order hot dogs, drinks and snacks from one of DC's famous street vendors. "I think the students really enjoyed the experience of ordering food from the street vendors," said Finegan.



For more information on the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, visit their web site at www.ushmm.org.

The Gladys H. Oberle School



David R. McLaughlin
1942-2009

The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires. ~William Arthur Ward

...and what an inspiration Mr. McLaughlin was to all who knew him.

The staff and students greatly miss our dear friend and teacher, Mr. David McLaughlin, who passed away on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 after a courageous battle with cancer. The Gladys H. Oberle School was indeed blessed to have such a dedicated, warm, and caring man to touch the lives of both students and staff alike.

David graduated in 1966 from Northeastern University in Boston. He retired from The American Land Title Association as vice president of finance in 2001 and decided to begin a new career as a teacher. He graduated from Old Dominion University with his teaching degree in special education and taught at The Gladys H. Oberle School from 2001 to 2009.

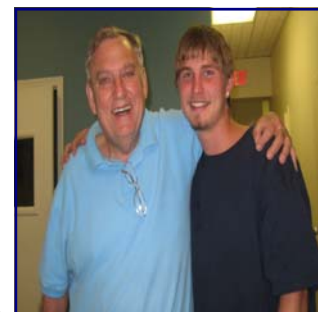
During his tenure as a teacher, Mr. McLaughlin greatly impacted the lives of many students not only through his vast knowledge of history and math but also with his caring nature, his genuine concern, and his pleasant personality. His infectious laughter, extreme patience, and positive attitude spread good cheer throughout the building on a daily basis.

The following excerpts from student writings epitomize the magic that was David McLaughlin:

“You were the best teacher in the world and I miss you very much.” -- David

“Mr. McLaughlin was a great teacher and the kind of man who always thought about others before himself. We will always cherish the memory of Mr. McLaughlin.”-- Shaquan

“Mr. McLaughlin had an upbeat personality and was very funny. I’ve been in school for about 13 years, and he is the only teacher who made me want to learn and look forward to coming to school. I came to The Gladys H. Oberle School feeling shy and alone but when I entered his class, I could be myself. He was not only a teacher to me, he was a friend. It took me only one day to know he was the most caring, loving and fun teacher I had ever met.” --Brandon



“Mr. McLaughlin was a great teacher. I would look forward to sitting in his class more than others because we had fun conversations that were related to the lesson. He made learning easy. His overall character lit up the day no matter how crappy the day was. I can honestly say it was an honor being his student and I thank him for opening my eyes to a bigger picture of the world.” --Ivan

David McLaughlin was a special man, teacher, colleague, and friend. We miss his piercing blue eyes, jolly smile, great sense of humor, and joyous laughter. Our days here at the Oberle School are just a little less bright without him.

Oberle School Holds First Annual Holiday Program at Library

Students, family members, faculty and staff participated in the *First Annual Gladys H. Oberle School Holiday Program* on December 10, 2009. The event was held in the theatre room at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library in Fredericksburg. The theme for the program was “*Winter Wonderland*.”

“We were so excited to conduct our First Annual Holiday Program at the Oberle School,” said Rossana Finegan, event coordinator.

Students worked hard for weeks preparing for an exciting program. Mrs. Finegan’s Virginia and US History class performed a song called *The President’s Rap* and Mrs. Mark’s Art class displayed their holiday art



work for guests to enjoy. Mr. Magin’s Learn & Serve students (pictured right) demonstrated how to make homemade Christmas cards.

Ms. St. Clair’s Science class presented the History of the Christmas Tree and twelve Oberle students performed the Twelve Days of Christmas song. Mrs. McMahon’s English class read their “*I am*” poems they wrote.

The *Holiday Program* concluded with a Sing-A-Long that included participation from the audience. A reception with holiday cookies and punch followed the conclusion of the program.



Building Bridges...

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ERI Warsaw Campus & Office

ERI's Mission

Employment Resources Incorporated's mission is to provide youth with the education and skills they need to become successfully employed, self-sufficient and contributing members of their community.

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