

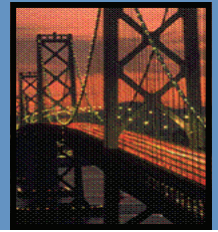
April 2011

Spring Issue

www.eri-va.com

Building Bridges...

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



Spring Calendar

April 22

School Early Dismissal
Spring Break

April 25-29

School/Offices Closed
Spring Break Week

May 10

School Early Dismissal
Teacher Work Day

May 27

School Early Dismissal
Memorial Day Holiday

May 30

School/Offices Closed
Memorial Day Holiday

June 15-17

School Early Dismissal
Final Exam Week

June 17

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 • Tappahannock

YouthBuild Program Gets New Funding, Office and Staff

Employment Resources Incorporated is pleased to announce its partnership with the Bay Consortium Workforce Invest Board (WIB) in Area XIII, Job Assistance Center, and the National Home Builders Association. The agencies have been funded to operate a proven construction training and education program called YouthBuild. The program will be operated out of a new office in Tappahannock and serve the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula regions of Virginia.

The partners will serve disadvantaged high school dropouts between the ages of 18-24 years old who reside in the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck regions. "YouthBuild is a federally funded program that provides high school diploma preparation, construction trade skills and prepares the youth for employment in the construction industry," said Joan McLaughlin, President of Employment Resources Incorporated. The agencies will operate the program under a new federal grant of \$1,069,000.00 from the Department of Labor (DOL).

Nathaniel Ferguson, currently ERI's Transition Specialist at the Virginia Workforce Center in Fredericksburg, is being promoted to Project Manager for the YouthBuild Program. Mr. Ferguson will work out of the new office in Tappahannock. "I am so excited about this opportunity and I can't wait to begin the program and start working with people in the Northern Neck region," said Ferguson.

ERI and Job Assistance Center partnered in 2004 and 2006 for two grants and provided YouthBuild program services as funded by The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the counties of the Northern Neck. This new partnership will work closely with Northern Neck-Middle Peninsula Community Services Board and The Bay Area Agency on Aging (Bay Aging) to help disabled, as well as elderly and disadvantaged seniors in need of housing repairs. Students in the YouthBuild program will be instructed and supervised by staff employed by the National Home Builders Association. The students will complete their training courses and be awarded national certifications.

In October 2007, ERI was highlighted as a Best Practice program by Heartlands International and received a written accolade from the Director of HUD's Richmond, Virginia office for excellent performance in the areas of academic and occupational skills attainment, job placement and job retention. ERI is now in the final stages of becoming an Accredited Affiliate through YouthBuild USA which is awarded to programs who meet rigorous standards. Job Assistance Center has provided workforce services in the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck regions for the past twenty years and operates a One-Stop Workforce Center in Shaklesfords, VA.

Located in Warsaw VA, The Bay Consortium Workforce Board provides supervision and fiscal oversight for numerous federally funded workforce programs throughout the Fredericksburg, Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula and Eastern Shore Counties. ERI is a partner in the Fredericksburg Workforce Center. Applications will be available after April 1, 2011 by contacting ERI at 540-372-6710; Job Assistance Center at 804-785-2470; or the Bay WIB at 800-582-7292.



Nathaniel Ferguson
YouthBuild Project Manager

ERI Facility Expansion to Include New Elementary School



Joan P. McLaughlin
President
Employment Resources Inc.

In December 2010, Employment Resources Incorporated moved into our new 12,000 square foot facility on 404 Willis Street and more than doubled our space for our special education alternative day school for middle and high school aged children. Everyone was so excited about the new and improved size of our classrooms, library, offices and the very large commons area which serves as a multi-purpose room.

After occupying the front half of the building on Willis Street, our goal was to one day expand our operation into the remaining 11,000 square feet of the building through expanding our school, adult education programs, and by providing a new vocational training facility/center that would prepare our students and adults for the workforce. However, we did not dream that goal could be realized so quickly. Due to the educational and vocational need in our community, ERI is proud to announce that we will be expanding into the back half of our building, increasing our number of middle and high school students, and opening a new elementary school wing by August 2011. We are eagerly anticipating the opening of our new elementary school and providing education for children grades 3-12 through The Gladys H. Oberle School.

Part of the new expansion project will include the construction of a vocational training facility to educate and prepare individuals for work in the region. ERI is currently in the process of identifying and determining what type of vocational training program(s) will be needed. Based on what we already know, there are three major industries that are growing rapidly which include retail, hospitality, and medical. With two new hospitals in the region, and hotels, restaurants and retail stores being built very quickly, a big part of the decision on what type of vocational training needed will be influenced by these three industries.



New 404 Willis Street Bldg.

ERI's adult education programs such as our *High School Diploma Program* and *National Professional Certification Programs* will also be expanded in the new space. Our current *High School Diploma Program* has a waiting list for new applicants. National certifications through the **National Retail Federation** in *Customer Service Training*, *Sales Training*, and *Retail Management Training* will have a new home in the vocational training facility/center.

ERI...*Preparing Tomorrow's Workforce...Today.*

ERI Partners with New Vendor and Hires New Staff

Employment Resources Incorporated hired a new teacher for The Gladys H. Oberle School in March. Ms. Christine Bounds joined Oberle's staff and teaches Science, English and Physical Education. "Ms. Bounds is a wonderful addition to our staff and we are fortunate to have her," said Pam Simms, ERI's Vice President of Educational Services.



Christine Bounds
Oberle Teacher

In February, ERI partnered with a new *High School Diploma Program* vendor, Ashworth College, who operates James Madison High School. James Madison's high school diploma program is both regionally and nationally accredited. Regional accreditation is provided by The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council (SACS) on Accreditation and School Improvement - the same organization that accredits public high schools in the southeastern part of the United States. "Having SACS accreditation for our *High School Diploma Program* is a major step forward for our program and our students," said Mrs. Simms. National accreditation is provided by the Distance Education and Training Council which is listed by the United States Department of Education as a nationally recognized accrediting agency.



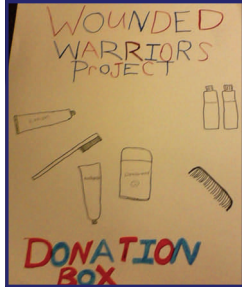
Jeanne Fraser
HSD Teacher

The *High School Diploma Program* (HSD) teaching staff has grown. "With enrollment increasing, we have hired two new teachers for our high school diploma classes," Simms added. "Ms. Jeanne Fraser teaches the daytime classes Monday through Thursday, and Mrs. Angie Apel teaches the classes on Monday and Wednesday evenings."

If anyone is interested in applying for the *High School Diploma Program*, they can do so by visiting ERI's web site at www.eri-va.com or contact Mike West at ERI's Fredericksburg office at 540-372-6710, ext 124.

The Gladys H. Oberle School

Oberle's Interact Club Assists with Wounded Warrior Project



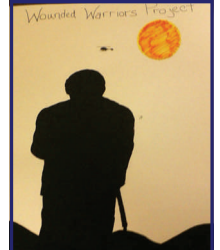
Artwork by Frank W. & Brandon S. Oberle Students

The Gladys H. Oberle School's Interact Club recently participated in the *Wounded Warriors Project*. The *Wounded Warriors project* was a service project that benefits the wounded Military service members in nearby Veteran hospitals. Over the course of one month students were asked to donate hygiene products and there was quite a successful turnout. "Donating made me feel happy because I could give to those who have served," said Frank W., President of ERI's Interact Club.

Another project the Interact Club headed-up at the Oberle School was a letter writing campaign through amillionthanks.org. The Interact Club asked all Oberle student's to write a letter or draw a picture to be sent to a military member. Vice President of the Interact club Brandon S. commented, "They have done a lot for our country and I think especially if they don't get letters from family they need to know we appreciate them".

"As the Interact Club advisor I have felt a lot of pride in the Interact student's for their interest and dedication to helping those in the United States Armed forces," said Katrina Clement. "They have such a broad range of interests in populations they wish to help, but they all came together to show support and enthusiasm for the two military projects," Mrs. Clement added.

Mrs. Clement also serves as The Gladys H. Oberle School's social worker. She began working for Employment Resources Incorporated and The Gladys H. Oberle School students in August 2010.



Artwork by Ivan A. Oberle Student



Katrina Clement
Oberle Social Worker &
Interact Club Advisor

Oberle Students Participate in Earth Day 2011

On April 14th, students from The Gladys H. Oberle School participated in Earth Day 2011 at Fort A.P. Hill in Caroline County. The Army's theme for Earth Day was *Sustaining the Environment for a Secure Future; Net Zero 2011*.

"Their goal was to offset their waste and decrease their energy and water use to achieve a zero balance," said Tricia St. Clair, Oberle teacher and coordinator for the Earth Day Project.

The students were able to visit with vendors from DGIF, VA Tech, Ducks Unlimited, USGS, Virginia State Parks, Rappahannock Electric, Sierra Club, and the Virginia Marine Police. "It was fun! I climbed in military tanks and humvees and talked with military soldiers," said Robbie W., a 6th grade student at the Oberle School. "I held a turtle, a frog, and an eel! I went fishing for plastic fish and the weather was awesome!"



The older students also had the opportunity to learn how to ride a Segway. Everyone was an active participant in Earth Day. Several students planted about 100 trees, while others went on a nature hike and learned about the local wildlife.



"Earth Day at Fort A.P Hill is everything a celebration about the Earth should be; amazing weather, beautiful scenery, and fun activities!" said Christine Bounds, an ERI teacher who assisted students and staff with the project. "It's the best way to learn more about the environment we live in." Bounds said.

The Oberle students had a great time and plans for the 2012 Earth Day are already underway. We wish to thank all the staff at Fort A.P. Hill for hosting the event this year.



Building Bridges...

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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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