



Continuing Education News



Respironics, Saint Vincent Health System Honored For Commitment to Workforce Development

A global provider of innovative sleep and respiratory care products and a leading local health care system have been recognized by Penn State Behrend Continuing Education for their commitment to workforce development.

Philips Respironics of Murrysville, Pa., and Erie's Saint Vincent Health System received 2009 Outstanding Workforce Development Partner Awards at a luncheon held at Penn State Behrend earlier this spring. The awards recognize a commitment by Respironics and Saint Vincent to providing employees with training and development opportunities that advance both individual job skills and organizational effectiveness.

Saint Vincent has worked with Continuing Education to offer numerous supervisory and leadership development training programs over the past several years. More recently, Respironics has begun tapping into the college's Plastics Training Academy workshops, sending nearly sixty employees in the past year alone to sessions on injection molding principles, plastic material selection, troubleshooting and other topics.

Pictured in the photo below are luncheon attendees (from left to right): Dr. William Curley, executive director of statewide continuing education, Penn State; Dr. Jack Burke, chancellor of Penn State Behrend; Jim DiPasquale, director of product development, Respironics; Jill Wiley, director of organizational learning and performance improvement, Saint Vincent Health System; Cyndy Boarts, administrative assistant, product development, Respironics; Tom Wagner, vice president and general manager, patient interface group, Respironics, and Steve Stegman, manager of product development, Respironics.

Others attending the April luncheon included Dr. John Park, associate director of management development for Penn State; Dr. Ralph Ford, director of the Penn State Behrend School of Engineering; Dr. John Magenau, director of the college's Sam and Irene Black School of Business, and Penn State Behrend faculty members who have been involved in providing training—Dr. Mike Brown, Dr. Randy Brown, and Dr. Jim Fairbank.

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From the Director's Desk

"Despite layoffs and recession-starved budgets, many employers are investing in leadership development programs, hoping not to be caught short of strong managers when the economy recovers."



Dana Mattioli, The Wall Street Journal, February 9, 2009

These are challenging times indeed for our continuing education clients and community partners, with ominous economic predictions and financial downturns. Despite cutbacks, however, Penn State Behrend Continuing Education is discovering—true to the quote above—that area companies and organizations are investing more seriously in workforce development than ever before.

One factor influencing this trend is the availability of state funding to support training, the goal of which is to ensure our region has a qualified workforce and a strong educational infrastructure for new businesses wanting to relocate here. My hope too is that the growing demand for the programming we offer is a reflection of the return our clients are realizing in terms of improved employee and organizational performance as a result of training.

Regards,

Peggy McCarthy

STEM: An Acronym for Economic Success

Nearly 200 educators, workforce and economic development professionals, parents and others gathered recently in Erie to examine opportunities for promoting science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in northwestern Pennsylvania. Continuing Education Director Peggy McCarthy, who served as the conference co-chair, is a member of the Northwest Pennsylvania STEM Steering Committee, which organized the conference.

The committee, made up of regional organizations and employers, is working to identify and implement strategies for preparing K-12 students as well as adult workers for STEM careers, now and in the future. The success of the region's economy in large part depends on having a skilled and competitive workforce, and the STEM initiative is exploring how to achieve that goal and secure the resources to do it.

Penn State Behrend Continuing Education contributes to these efforts through outreach programs designed to encourage youth to pursue STEM careers and through STEM professional development courses for teachers.



Among the STEM-focused youth programs offered by Penn State Behrend is Math Options designed to spur seventh and eighth grade girls' interest in science, technology, engineering, and math fields. Here, students from Roosevelt Middle School worked to create a parachute from coffee filters and straws that would carry a ping-pong ball to a soft, safe landing.

Going Online to Improve the Bottom Line

Cattron Group International didn't have to be convinced of the value of training its engineers in project management techniques to improve business efficiencies. The question was how to bring those engineers—from two states and three countries—together in an affordable, efficient way.

The answer proved to be online. Using GoToMeeting technology, Dr. Jeffrey Pinto, professor of management in the Sam and Irene Black School of Business at Penn State Behrend, delivered a 24-hour course on project management to Cattron engineers in the United States, Canada and Germany. Participating employees were joined in live-time sessions, viewing course presentations and engaging in dialogue with Dr. Pinto via their computers.

Based in Sharpville, Pa., Cattron is a global supplier of remote control products and aftermarket services for industrial, mining, rail, and other applications. The project management training program was funded in part by the Northwest Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center.



The online course for Cattron engineers was taught by Dr. Jeffrey Pinto. An internationally recognized expert on project management, Dr. Pinto holds the Andrew Morrow and Elizabeth Lee Black Chair in the Management of Technology at Penn State Behrend. He has written or edited 23 books and more than 120 papers. He has consulted widely, both domestically and internationally.

Faculty Spotlight: Brian Young

Brian Young, assistant professor of engineering at Penn State Behrend, has taught in the plastics engineering technology program for more than a decade, having begun as a part-time instructor, moving to full-time in 2000. In addition to teaching undergraduates in the plastics program, Brian also conducts workshops for the Plastics Training Academy, sponsored by Continuing Education.

Brian's background includes sixteen years of industry experience as a processing/project engineer for Omni Plastics, Inc. His primary area of expertise is processing of thermoplastic materials, and his research interests center on sustainability issues (recycling, biomaterials) and injection molding orientation issues. He holds a bachelor's degree in plastics engineering technology from Penn State and completed his master's in manufacturing engineering in 2005.



Erie City Managers Take Part in Leadership Development



Thirty two City of Erie management employees participated in a customized leadership development training program offered through Penn State Behrend Continuing Education. The 16-hour program has a supervisory leadership focus and provides information about understanding the supervisor's role, managing performance, communication and decision making, and building a positive work environment.

The program was designed and presented by Dr. Mike Brown, associate professor of management in the Sam and Irene Black School of Business at Penn State Behrend. It is a continuation of the training the college provided to twenty-six members of the city's executive leadership team in 2007.

The goal of the training is to build on a foundation of team building and strategic planning, to provide facets of managerial training and skill enhancement opportunities for all city employees, and to develop a more integrated management team. According to Erie Mayor Joe Sinnott, "There has been a measurable difference in the executive team since the 2007 training, and now we are striving to broaden the skills of the management group."

Fundamentals of Fundraising Certificate: Learn more about a top field in today's market

Fundraising is one of the top career fields today, according to *U.S. News & World Report*, which gives the profession an "A" grade in all criteria, including job market outlook, job satisfaction, and prestige.

For those who want to develop or advance their skills in the field, Penn State Behrend Continuing Education will be offering a 12-session program leading to a fundraising certificate for participants beginning September 2009.

Classes will be held from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Mondays, from September 14 through November 30 at Penn State Behrend. The course will also be available via videoconference at Penn State DuBois.

Developed in collaboration with the Northwestern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), *Fundamentals of Fundraising* is designed for nonprofit administrators, working fundraising professionals, volunteers with fundraising responsibility, or anyone who wants to broaden their knowledge about the development profession. For more information, visit behrend.psu.edu/cde



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Customized Contract Training
 Plastics Workshops and Seminars
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A Clean Approach to Writing

Employees of EmeryCare Inc., a northwestern Pennsylvania ambulance service, have been honing their report writing skills using the **SOAPIER** tool for narrative reporting, which provides a systematic way to write reports.

Attributed to the Laurel Rescue Organization, the approach emphasizes **S**ubjective and **O**bjective evaluations, **A**ssessment, **P**rotocols Implementation, **E**valuation, and **R**evisions to protocol. More than 120 EmeryCare employees attended four-hour day or evening classes in Erie and Corry taught by Lisa Walters, Ph.D. The techniques are expected to improve the quality of patient reports EmeryCare field staff provide to area hospitals.

Tools to Build a Strong Foundation

Member companies of the Great Lakes Building and Construction Trades Industry Partnership participated in three programs at Penn State Behrend to improve effectiveness and efficiency in managing and supporting complex building projects.

The classes included: Microsoft Project, a tool to support project management activities; topographical blueprint reading, which gave operating engineers an understanding of print reading features specific to construction, and AutoCAD, which instructed users on applications of CAD and surveying software for laptops. In all, 51 participants attended the training, which was supported by a Labor and Industry training grant through the Northwest Center for Workforce Excellence.

Plastics Training Academy

Upcoming Workshops/Seminars

Aug. 5-6
 The Science of Mold and Part Design Optimization

Aug. 10-12
 Injection Molding Principles

Aug. 12-14
 Injection Molding Troubleshooting

Sept. 15-17
 Plastic Material Selection and Troubleshooting

Oct. 14-15 **NEW!**
 Color, Color Science, and the Coloring of Plastics

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.
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