

March 20, 2009

Career Day

Sponsored by The Future is Mine (412) 464-3600

The Future Is Mine (TFIM) is the Consortium for Public Education's initiative that reaches into high schools, middle schools and elementary schools to connect students to authentic career awareness experiences. TFIM helps students focus on learning how to drive their careers, from accessing appropriate academic opportunities to packaging skills and talents to navigating the world of work. Its goal is to help all students find their passion and pursue their dreams' but in an informed way that will lead to future success.



Special Interest Articles:

- Dan Horgan Biography
- Pamelyn McMahon Biography
- Andy Leopold Biography

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A special thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this event a success! It wouldn't have been possible without you!

Sincerely,
Ryan Dunmire and
Rusty Firestone

Our Goal:

This year's event is a collaborative effort between the Business and Social Studies departments. The goal for this year's program is to expose our high school students to various careers and work experiences and to introduce them to notable community members, distinguished alumni, and professionals within the Pittsburgh Region. This initiative is designed to spotlight the impact that corporations and businesses have on local schools as well as establish pride in the local community in which we live.

The Career Day will include a wide range of local professionals and community

members/ alumni to allow students the opportunity to learn about certain career fields and job skills. This day will also give the students a chance to network with possible mentors in the community. Reinforcing Pennsylvania's Career Education and Work Standards, the activities scheduled for the Career Day will give each student the chance to grow and to achieve in a 21st Century work environment.

Today's Agenda

Business Presentations 7:45- 12:20 pm

Representatives from Pittsburgh Cares, Huntington Bank, Robert Morris University, Penn State New Kensington, Century Heritage FCU, and the Anti-Defamation League will join students from grades 9-12 to discuss a variety of career related topics ranging from Budgeting to Diversity.

Alumni Panel 1:30- 2:30 pm (Auditorium)

Identified student leaders at Steel Valley High School will have the opportunity to hear from a Distinguished Panel of Steel Valley Alumni. During this Panel discussion, students will hear what these Alumni have accomplished, how they got to where they are, and where they plan to be in the future.

Presenter Biographies

Dan Horgan- Pittsburgh Cares

Daniel Horgan, 28, is a youth advocate, nonprofit executive, consultant, speaker, and servant leader from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A summa cum laude graduate of Robert Morris University with a degree in corporate communications, Horgan currently serves as the Executive Director for Pittsburgh Cares, a nonprofit organization that increases community engagement through volunteerism and enhances the impact of regional service providers.

Horgan has been recognized by President George W. Bush, Secretary of State Colin Powell, and former First Lady of Pennsylvania Michelle Ridge for his

Paul Spradley- Robert Morris University

Paul is the Assistant Director of Student Life for Multicultural Affairs. A product of public education hailing from Pittsburgh Brashear High School, Paul earned both his Masters of Science in Instructional Leadership and his Bachelors of Arts in Communications degrees from Robert Morris University in Moon Township, Pennsylvania. Paul's professional career began as TV news reporter in Steubenville, Ohio. He has since been a Public Speaking instructor at a local community college and an Area Coordinator in Residence Life at Robert Morris University.

Jim Shields- PSU: New Kensington

Jim Shields is the Career Services Coordinator at Penn State University, New Kensington Campus. For ten years at Penn State he has been helping students and graduates learn about career paths in their fields, prepare for the job search and application process, and make contact with employers for internships and jobs. Jim served as the President of the Western Pennsylvania Career Services Association (WestPACS) in 2007-08. WestPACS produces the largest annual job and internship fairs in Western PA for college students and graduates. Jim has a master's degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Indiana University of PA.

commitment to youth and civic leadership both locally and nationally. Horgan was elected at the age of 21 to serve as one of the youngest Directors on the national Board of America's Promise where served two consecutive terms. He also assisted in launching the America's Promise national Youth Partnership Team giving youth a stronger voice in the national alliance.

Stacey Edmond Tunie- Century Heritage FCU

Stacey is a graduate of Steel Valley High School and currently employed at Century Heritage Federal Credit Union as the Human Resources and Education Manager. She received her BS in Human Resources Mgt and MS in Organizational Leadership from Geneva College. Stacey sits on several committees in the Mon Valley such as the Working Group for Employment and Training as well as the MON YOUGH JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT DISTRICT COUNCIL. She volunteers for Junior Achievement teaching middle grade classes at several schools in the Mon-Valley.

Holly McGraw- Pittsburgh Cares

Holly M. McGraw is the Director of the Pittsburgh Young Leaders Academy at Pittsburgh Cares. PYLA operates at 5 of Pittsburgh Public High Schools. Holly absolutely loves working with youth, finding and creating ways to help youth be the best that they can be. Being the Director of PYLA poses many challenges and allows her to express creativity, which is very exciting. Holly was born in McKeesport, and raised in Port Vue. She graduated from South Allegheny High School and then went on to receive a Bachelors of Science degree in Business, Computers, and Information Technology Education from Robert Morris University.

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Dina Clark- Anti- Defamation League

Dina Clark is the Regional Project Director for the Anti-Defamation League's A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE Institute, which serves Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, Kentucky and West Virginia. In this capacity she works to provide educational resources and anti-bias training for college-age students, and Pre K-12 school administrators, teachers and students. She has a strong training background, with a special interest in anti-bias/diversity topics, student leadership initiatives, community empowerment, domestic violence, which focused on domestic violence issues and their impact on children.

Dina has conducted several

Justin Portis- Pittsburgh Cares

Justin Portis is a graduate of Duquesne University where he studied music performance as a trumpet player and business management. After Justin graduated from university he moved to New York City where he played trumpet in several Broadway shows and worked as a studio musician. After spending roughly four years in New York he felt compelled to return to Pittsburgh and apply to graduate programs seeking to feed his passion to teach youth.

Currently Justin is working at Pittsburgh Cares as Program Assistant of the Youth Engaged in Service program where he works with schools and youth

Cheryl Kubitz- Huntington National Bank

Ms. Cheryl Kubitz is currently the Banking Office Manager for Huntington National Bank located in McKeesport, PA. Ms. Kubitz has worked in the financial / banking field for over 32 years. She has been a very active community volunteer for the last twenty years. As a result of her volunteerism, she has won the Susan C. Lewis Award from Penn State Greater Allegheny Commission for Women, was one of fifty 2008 Community Champion Award winners in Western PA and one of seven 2008 Jefferson Award winners! Ms. Kubitz teaches financial literacy classes from 4th through 12th

presentations nationwide including workshops for the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Family Communications Inc/Producers of Mr. Rogers Neighborhood, Vassar College, University of Michigan, Case Western Reserve, New York State Center for School Safety, University of Pittsburgh - Office of Child Development SELS Initiative, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Magnet Schools of New York, and the New York State Department of Health.

In 2006 Dina was accepted as fellow with the Children's Defense Fund and was named as one of Pittsburgh's 40 under 40 leaders. She was recently appointed to the Mayor's Youth Commission for the City of Pittsburgh.

groups customizing service projects and facilitating leadership development trainings through (PYLA) Pittsburgh Young Leaders Academy.

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Ms. Kubitz is a board member for the following organizations: the YMCA McKeesport, LaRosa Boys and Girls Club, the Downtown McKeesport Association and the Consortium for Public Education.

Pat Yeschenko- Century Heritage FCU

Pat Yeschenko, is a Financial Counselor for Century Heritage Federal Credit Union. She currently lives in West Mifflin and has been working at the Credit Union for the past 10 years and had previously worked at National City Bank for 15 years.

She enjoys working in the financial field and helping people. As a financial counselor, Pat helps people who are

"In 2006 Dina Clark was named as one of Pittsburgh's 40 under 40 leaders."

ALUMNI

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<http://www.svsd.k12.pa.us/>

Pamelyn McMahon

Pamelyn McMahon graduated from Steel Valley High School in 1996. She attended Duquesne University where she participated in a 5 year joint degree program receiving her Bachelors Degree in Corporate Communications and her Masters Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing and Management. While pursuing her Masters Degree, Pamelyn began her career at Station Square as their Marketing Coordinator. After completing her MBA program, she accepted a job in Communications with the corporate headquarters of American Eagle Outfitters. From there she moved on to become a Buyer for the May Company and Kaufmann's Department Stores. The company moved to Boston and Pamelyn decided to head West to San Diego where she accepted a job as the Director of Marketing for Creative Management International, a New York Sports Agency and Management Firm.

Pamelyn returned to Pittsburgh almost 6 years ago and started working for the Soffer Organization, the owner and developer of SouthSide Works. She is currently the Director of Marketing for SouthSide Works and handles all public relations, advertising, events, and community relations for the 34 acre lifestyle center. In February 2006, Pamelyn opened a smoothie bar and tanning salon in SouthSide and recently sold the business to concentrate on her own marketing consulting company, Exposed Communications, which she started in September 2007.

Marty Connelly

Marty Connelly is the Managing Partner for AEC Group, Inc. (AEC) where he is responsible for the Technology Solutions Division (TSG). AEC works closely with several IT strategic partners in delivering best of breed hardware and software solutions to public and corporate customers throughout the North East Region. Marty is a partner/owner of AEC, where he has been since selling his company Structure Solutions, LLP. in 2002. Prior to joining AEC, Marty gained experience in the Technology Solutions field at Stargate.net, serving as a Director of Data Center and xSP Solutions from 1999 to 2001. While with Stargate.net, Marty experienced the quick rise and dramatic fall of a technology based "dot com" company – From the peak of over (400) employees in early 2000 to the final bankruptcy and sell off of assets less than two year later...

From 1996 to 1999, Marty served as a Senior Consultant for Deloitte Consulting, LLP., where he was a member of the Technology Infrastructure Practice and continually led all practitioners in billable hours.

Marty graduated with honors from Duquesne University with a Master of Business Administration in 2006 and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Washington and Jefferson College in 1994. Marty is a 1989 graduate of Steel Valley High School and was a member of the WPIAL Championship Football team his Senior Season. Marty currently resides in South Fayette.

Matthew Bovee

Matthew Bovee is a 1998 graduate of Steel Valley High School. He earned his first professional degree in architecture from Carnegie Mellon in 2003. His professional experience began with one of the nation's top Urban Planning firms, Urban Design Associates, in Pittsburgh, Pa. In addition to the experience gained at UDA, and the knowledge gained through the architecture program at Carnegie Mellon, his other studies, focused in entrepreneurship, inspired the inception of Infinity Construction, a full service residential and commercial construction company. As a resident of Munhall, he participates in volunteer organizations, and hold strong convictions toward the future of the Steel Valley. His dedication to community service has been recognized by commendations and awards from the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Homestead Economic Revitalization Corporation, and Mon-Valley Initiative.

Andrew Leopold

Mr. Andrew Leopold is currently the Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education in the Hempfield Area School District. Mr. Leopold has served in public education for seventeen years as a teacher, assistant principal, principal and now in central administration.

Andy is originally from Homestead and attended Steel Valley High School. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Education at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and began his career at Indiana Senior High School teaching social studies. He also taught social studies at Gateway Middle School in Monroeville, and during that time obtained his Master's Degree in Secondary School Administration from Duquesne University. Andy received his Superintendent's Letter of Eligibility in 2007 and is now in the process of completing his dissertation to earn his doctorate degree through the University of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Leopold's responsibilities include overseeing Hempfield's three middle schools, Crossroads Alternative Education Program grades 7-12, Hempfield Area High School and all aspects of professional development and training, and also the curriculum and educational programs grades six through twelve.

Orlando Dulin

Orlando is a 1990 Graduate of Steel Valley High School. As a standout athlete on the football team, Orlando was part of 2 consecutive WPIAL championship team. For the past 10 years he has been employed by UPMC working with the home population in the Pittsburgh Region. As a community advocate, Orlando is currently developing a mentoring program for At Risk Athletes in the Mon Valley.

Lauren Simko

Lauren Simko grew up in Munhall, PA and attended school at St. Therese of Lisieux on Main St. from Kindergarten through 8th grade. Lauren attended Steel Valley High School and graduated Valedictorian in 1994. She graduated with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Duquesne University in 2000. While in school, she worked as a cashier/pharmacy associate for Thrift Drug (in Duquesne, PA across from Kennywood). Lauren became an intern in 1997 and continued to work for Thrift Drug, which later became Eckerd Drug.

In July of 2007 she was promoted to a Pharmacy District Manager (PDM) with Rite Aid (previously Eckerd Drug). As a PDM, she supervises her pharmacy teams and is responsible for maintaining accurate payroll, inventory, running

RJ Hixon

RJ Hixon is a 2003 graduate from Steel Valley High School and a 2007 graduate from the University of Pittsburgh. His best memories at Steel Valley include playing on the soccer team and A.P. Chemistry class. At Pitt, RJ earned a bachelors degree in Chemical Engineering and minors in Chemistry and BioEngineering. Currently, RJ works for Elliott Company in Jeannette, PA as a Field Service Engineer in the turbomachinery industry.

JB Dindak

JB Dindak graduated from Steel Valley in 2003 where he was actively involved in academics, student organizations, and athletics. He graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, and a minor in Entrepreneurship. While at Penn State JB was the Vice-President of several organizations including engineering, leadership, entrepreneurship and was in charge of Penn State's engineering mentoring program. JB was also highly involved with THON, the largest student-run philanthropic organization in the world. In his senior year, over \$6.6 million dollars was raised for *childhood cancer patients at Hershey Medical Center*.

JB has completed several work rotations within the following industries; architectural, civil, steel, aerospace, diesel, automotive and an international technical experience in Warsaw, Poland that focused on product design. Currently, he is in the process of accepting a job offer from DCK Worldwide and will be enrolled in their engineering leadership development program. JB is still locally involved with the community and has been a firefighter for the West