

JobLink Wins National Award

by Tom Zmigrocki

On November 1, JobLink 2000 was presented the 1996 AAACE Outstanding Adult Education Program Leadership Award. The award recognizes the adult education program which best follows Malcom S. Knowles' philosophy that learning should be self directed and relative to real life.

The award was received by Diane Lentz, Frank Wanderlich, and Jill Hammel, JobLink representatives, at the national fall convention of the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education in Charlotte, North Carolina.

AAACE consists of national leaders in business, industry, labor and education and includes such members as General Motors and the University of Michigan.

JobLink's achievements include its construction of a steel house for Habitat For Humanity and two community decks in East Chicago. Over 3000 students have participated in JobLink programs since its beginning.

Lentz attributes some of JobLink's huge success to the fact that "it embeds basic math skills into highly popular hands-on home improvement classes. This resulted in an 196% average gain in math skills when taught in a

direct application through hands-on-classes".

Lentz believes that the Malcom Knowles Award recognizes JobLink's efforts to assist every worker in pursuing their goals. "Our school aids workers to attain his or her full potential, both as an employee and as a human being in the competitive and challenging environment that lies ahead".

More about the Award in "From Diane's Desk" page 2

Women Change Tradition by C E Kestner



Pat Matuga checks settings on locked air saw during Deck Accessories class

It's the winter of 1995, and Coral Hamilton has arrived at the place that most of her co-workers have - she's out of a job. Inland's 76" mill, after decades of long service, has shut down permanently. Coral has been laid off.

Not being the kind of person to sit about and feel sorry for herself, Coral needed, in her words, "a challenge." She found that challenge by continuing her education in JobLink's customised classes. Attending Joblink classes almost daily, she has taken skill-enhancement courses that some consider to be non-traditional for women.

Coral has taken carpentry, cabinetmaking, deck building and deck accessories, along with computer courses. She exclaims, "I love the JobLink courses. Everyone works together. If you need help, there is always someone there for you. It's a nice environment."

Teresa Cherry, a material transporter for MMD, also found that environment helpful when she too chose a "non-traditional" course. A single mother, Teresa found JobLink's do-it-yourself course to be just what she needed. "They taught me all kinds of things that will help me maintain my home."

Pat Matuga, also an alumnus of the shuttered 76" mill, states "I've taken cabinetmaking, wiring, and many other courses since I was laid off. I sort of 'packed my day' with JobLink classes. My mom encouraged me to take some of these courses - she is an 'old construction



From Diane's Desk

by Diane Lentz, JobLink Coordinator

adult education organization. This award has a special significance to the staff at JobLink because it acknowledges that JobLink is offering classes according to the best principles of adult learning.

Those principles state that education should not occur in a box. Instead, it should reflect the real world. Learning should be the same as living. The JobLink staff tries to teach courses in a manner that makes everything learned applicable to either the workplace or personal use.

Our classes are hands-on because research has stated that we learn: 10% of what we read, 20% of what we hear, 30% of what we see, 50% of what we see and hear, 70% of what we discuss with others, 80% of what we experience personally that involves feelings and doing, and 95% of what we teach someone else. In JobLink classes, students are working together and helping each other

Examining the data from a different viewpoint, we can see that classes that have students "actively doing activities" are the most effective because they get learners to use more senses and reinforce those "neuron connections in the brain."

The Malcolm Knowles Award is significant also because it acknowledges the hard work of every JobLink staff member, as well as, the Local 1010 members who have discovered that learning can be rewarding at JobLink.

Recently JobLink 2000 was awarded the 1996 AAACE Malcolm Knowles Award for Outstanding Adult Education Program Leadership from the AAACE, a national

Steel In The Year 2000

What Will Be The Ideal Company?



By Steve Wagner

Local 1010 Representative

I was asked to comment on what employees want in a company in the year 2000. While I can't speak for all employees, I am certainly willing to share what I believe, as an individual and as a union representative.

The ideal company would offer employment security in the true sense of the word. Employees

would be reasonably assured that if they do what they understand their company expects of them on the job today, they will have a job tomorrow. As a union representative, I know that employees want to be treated with respect, dignity, and as valuable assets and not just as machines that become too expensive to maintain and keep. The ideal company would compensate employees enough to maintain their standard of living without having to work endless hours. Employees would share in the continued growth and profitability of their company. They would understand and have a say in the objectives of the company.

The ideal company's work atmosphere would be one of cooperation not confrontation, where employees are part of the solution to improving the company and are not viewed as part of the problem of the company. The bottom line is that employees want a company that makes good sound business decisions with opportunity for employee input, pays an equitable compensation, and gets out of their employees way so they can do their jobs.

Who Will Be The Ideal Worker?



By Frank Wanderlich

Inland Steel Representative

In the year 2000 companies will want highly skilled workers. As we learned from Globalnomics, the competition keeps getting tougher. Job standards are more demanding, requiring more skills.

Look around the mill today.

More computers require better reading skills. Quality efforts require statistical process control (SPC), problem-solving, and higher math skills. Team work demands good communication and interpersonal skills.

Years ago jobs were plentiful. Steel companies along with most other businesses were highly profitable. Wages kept going up. It was a snap to get a good job.

Have you seen the commercials about staying in school? I like the one that says **if you want to fry burgers at minimum wage for the rest of your life, JUST SAY NO TO LEARNING.** Good paying jobs are out there, but they require skilled people. By the year 2000 this will be even more true; the ideal worker at that time will be highly skilled.

*Links is a quarterly publication of Joblink 2000
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You Bought A Computer For Christmas...



So, you spent about \$2,000 dollars on a computer for Christmas and now you're afraid it's only going to be good for playing games. You could have bought a Nintendo game console for only about \$200. Did you just throw away \$1800? No, well, not if you go to JobLink that is.

When you spent all that money for that *thing*, you had no idea what would happen. You thought, "I'm pretty smart, I can figure it out." Now you find yourself saying things to an inanimate object that you would never say to a real live person. Well, let me say it again JobLink can help.

Joblink has classes that can teach you how to type. (Honest, you need to know how to type to get some usefulness out of that !@#\$\$%^* computer you spent all that money on.) I should point out that at JobLink they call it keyboarding because you learn more than just the typewriter keys. You learn all the keys on a computer keyboard. (Well almost all the keys, nobody knows what the scroll lock key does any more.)

Once you learn the keyboard you can learn about hardware, the physical equipment of the computer, and the programs it can run in Computer 1 and Computer 2 as well as a few basic DOS (disk operating system) commands. Then you can move up to Windows, where you learn to navigate the GUI (graphical user interface) and use the applications that come with Windows. Windows has many nice applications: like paintbrush, a drawing and paint program; windows terminal, a communications program; calculator; windows write, a small but usable word processor; and card file, a small flat file database (people mostly use card file for names and addresses).

When you bought that computer more than likely it came with a huge software package. In that software package they usually include Microsoft Works. Now Works is a very, very nice program, that includes a wordprocessor (full featured), a spreadsheet, a database, and a communications program. When you first start Works you get a screen that

has an auto start for personal files, an auto start for business, and an auto start for education. Works will also lead you through the creation of wordprocessor documents, database sets and spreadsheets. They call this feature the "Works Wizard."

Works has financial templates, but I would recommend that you use Quicken (which usually comes in your software package). Quicken will let you keep all your financial records in one place. It will also let you keep track of your taxes. All this is done very easily if you remember to take your time setting it up.

One of the most important things you can learn is how to save your work to a disk that you can put in a safe place

when you have young kids at home, or have a lot of people that use your computer. (*As you know if some- thing bad can happen it usually does.*) That way you can protect your files from getting destroyed, or from prying eyes. You'll learn to do that in Introduction to Computer 1.

Don't waste that money you spent on a computer. Come to JobLink. Best of all, all the training here is free to active local 1010 members.

Staff News

Who's Doing What At JobLink?

Two teachers joined the staff of JobLink 2000 last fall. Cynthia Vondrasek is teaching computer classes including Windows I & II, Computer I and Excel I. Cynthia has been an independent consultant for the last 15 years, working for such companies as Nipsco, Quaker Oats and Nabisco. Cynthia said that she has really enjoyed the people she has had in her classes and has been impressed by their desire to learn.

Sylvia Mora teaches Spanish, Carpentry math, and English as a second language. Sylvia is a native of East Chicago and has spent the last five years teaching math and Spanish in high school. Sylvia is currently working on her masters degree. She replaced Marcia Taylor who is presently taking graduate studies at Indiana University in Bloomington.

Guess Who?

Who is the first person you see when you walk into JobLink? Who greets you with a smile and answers all your questions courteously? Who signs you



Lisa Aleman welcomes students to the school

up for classes and helps in any way she can?

The answer of course is Lisa E. Aleman, one of JobLink's secretaries. Lisa says "there is never a dull moment at JobLink, no two days are alike. The anticipation of what lies ahead is a great feeling." Lisa thinks that being surrounded by adult students who are working 40+ hours and are determined to improve their minds and future is very motivating.

JobLink 2000

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JobLink 2000 Calendar

Some of the Upcoming classes offered by JobLink:

Airbrush Technique	Franklin Planner	Microsoft Word
Build Your Own Computer	Internet I & II	Plumbing
Cabinetmaking	Intro to Computers I & II	Residential Wiring I & II
Carpentry I	Intro to Cooking (Ivy Tech)	Residential Sheet Metal
Changing Workplaces (I.U.)	Keyboarding	Small Engine Repair (Porter Co.)
Commercial Wiring	Landscaping	Stained Glass I & II
Desktop Publishing	Lawn Installation & Maint.	Taxidermy
Domestic Refrigeration	Memory Enhancement	VCR Repair I & II
Electronic Troubleshooting	Microsoft Excel	Windows 95 I & II

All courses are offered on a first-come, first-served basis; almost all are free of charge.

Register at: Joblink 2000 Learning Center, located at 3333 Michigan Ave., East Chicago, Indiana

To continue to receive the Links newsletter, call JobLink at 399-8136