

Living Classroom Project Begins



Tim Spanos and volunteers prepare house for use as a living classroom.

house. The interior of the building was nothing but bare studs when the first classes began to meet there this spring.

Tim Spanos' advanced electrical wiring class was the first group to use this "Living Classroom." Some of the other classes that will participate in the restoration include blueprint reading, heating and air conditioning, plumbing, carpentry, drywall, kitchen and bath remodeling, deck building and staircase making.

Tim, who is acting as one of the co-ordinators on the project, sees this as "a unique opportunity for anyone interested

in these classes to get real-life, hands-on experience. This is so real that we can't anticipate all the problems we might encounter before we are finished."

Steve Jakima and Ermilo Ducret are two of the many JobLink students who helped with the Christmas in April project. Steve feels that the Living Classroom Project "gives us a chance to actually take book work and apply it to real hands-on tasks. There is no substitute for the real thing." Ermilo, who has taken many classes at JobLink, said "Besides taking advantage of

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Students Seek Master's from DePaul

By Joe Zaragoza

Three years ago a group of lifelong learners at JobLink finished the Degree Completion Program and received Bachelor's degrees. They immediately started to search for a Master's Program that would meet their diverse needs. With the assistance of the Institute for Career Development, they evaluated several programs, and DePaul University's School for New Learning was the clear winner.

This school is designed for non-traditional students who are pursuing graduate level studies. It provides an MA degree in Integrated Professional Studies, with a focus ranging from education to computer networking. Students will use their degree as part of their new credentials for enhancing their



Participants in DePaul's program are: Standing - Corrine Benedetto (instructor) Joe Zaragoza, Randy Taylor, Bill Robinson. Seated - Barry Kekelik, Joe Santino.

skills at Inland, as well as their retirement opportunities.

There are nine students from JobLink and five others from Midwest Steel's learning program who have successfully completed three quarters of the

eight quarters of study required by the program at DePaul. Barry Kekelik from Ispat Inland said, "I want to further my background and career. I would

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From Diane's Desk

by Diane Lentz, JobLink Coordinator

thank you for the "heartwarming" comments you took the time to write. Your positive statements give meaning to our jobs and are wonderfully motivating. Listed below are the results to the questions that measured the impact JobLink has had on the respondents' lives. Those who answered "yes" were asked how by checking as many items as applied:

Has your outlook on education changed since enrolling in JobLink classes?

85% answered yes—

57% -have less fear of returning back to school

47% -have better communication skills

46% -have better team-work skills

75% -have more confidence about learning

54% -have better self-esteem

46% -have less fear of failure

30% -have better time-management skills

Has JobLink improved your ability to work with others?

81% answered yes—

62% - I am more likely to help my co-workers learn new skills

54% -I have better communication with my co-workers

45% -I value my co-workers' skills more now that I have taken classes with them

32% -I have better communication with my supervisor

...Viewpoints...

By J. Larry Rodimel ISPAT Inland Representative

JobLink is a successful program. In fact, some people say it's the best program of its type in the steel industry. No one knows that better than the several thousand people who've taken JobLink classes since the program began nine years ago.

JobLink's successful because it's built on a solid foundation that's dedicated to furthering peoples' knowledge and skills. It's successful because, in its classes, people learn things that are important to them, and that they can use to make their work lives and non-work lives more productive and enjoyable. Classes are made possible by the dedicated, friendly JobLink staff and instructors.

But behind the scenes are others, like the Institute for Career Development, which was established by the International Union and the participating companies to provide direction to JobLink and the other local programs. Its main purpose is to help us stay focused on the number one reason JobLink exists - to help people grow in



By Steve Wagner Local 1010 Representative

Why do we resist change? Unfortunately, it is human nature for us to try to postpone or avoid the inevitable – **CHANGE**. While change can be difficult, we know that many times it is for the better. I feel that JobLink is an evolution of education, which is guided by our ever-changing needs and interests. Many JobLink participants have stated that learning is power. Power allows us to have the confidence to participate and react to changes at work and in our personal lives. Be prepared for future challenges by signing up for classes at JobLink, maybe then, we will be able to embrace



knowledge and skills. While their policies and rules might not always be popular, they are necessary to help ensure that JobLink remains the BEST. If you've been thinking about signing up for a class, do it at your next opportunity. You won't regret it!

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Can You Make The Grade? ...A+ Certification

By Mike Mysliwiec

Do you like working on personal computers? Maybe you're even considering it as a profession. If so, someone is sure to ask about your credentials, "Are you A+ certified?"

In case you don't know, A+ Certification is a testing program sponsored by the Computer Technology Industry Association (Comp TIA) that certifies the competency of entry-level service

technicians in the computer industry. If you look for a job, your prospective employer may use A+ Certification as a condition for employment.

To become A+ certified you must pass a two-part test consisting of a "Core" (hardware) portion and a "Dos/Windows" (software) portion. Both sections require a detailed and comprehensive knowledge of personal computers.

The test isn't easy but JobLink can

help. Steve Nowacki (an A+ certified instructor) is conducting a class that can help you prepare for the test. The A+ Certification class meets for two and one-half hours, once a week for ten weeks. Students in class learn how to install, configure, troubleshoot, and upgrade the hardware and software appropriate to various personal computers. Obtaining A+ Certification requires intensive study, but the rewards will be worth the effort.

Staff News

Who's Doing What At JobLink?

By Joe Woessner

JobLink welcomes two new members to its staff, Leticia Cavazos and Doug Chapman. Leticia became a full-time secretary at JobLink in March. One of her duties here is to handle tuition assistance and other customized classes. She previously attended Purdue University, and on May 23rd she graduated, along with her son, Jaime. Now there's a family that sticks together!

Leticia was born in Mexico City, Mexico and now resides in Hammond with her husband, Tino, and their son. When asked what she liked best about working at JobLink, Leticia replied, "I enjoy the challenge of a changing environment. I finally have been able to apply what I have learned. The staff has been great!"

Doug Chapman commutes from St. Joseph, Michigan to teach computer classes at JobLink. He is also the owner of a company that provides solutions for businesses and consumers of computer related



New Staffers, Leticia Cavazos and Doug Chapman, get acquainted.

products.

Doug attended the DeVry Institute of Technology in Decatur, Georgia. What Doug enjoys most about teaching at JobLink is "being able to create new classes and offer continuing learning for students." Doug has three very serious hobbies: "golf, golf and golf." Stop by JobLink and say hello to Leticia and Doug. While you're there, sign up for a class.

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this realistic learning environment, I can feel pride in helping the community."

When the work on the house is completed, it will be sold by the city of East Chicago to help stabilize the neighborhood. The money earned will be used to fund next year's Christmas in April project.

Tim Spanos feels that although they have a one year timetable, it may be possible to get the work done sooner. Anyone interested in finding out more about these classes should come into JobLink as soon as possible. This is one "Christmas in April" that will last all year!

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recommend this program to others interested in pursuing a Master's Degree."

Other participants were just as enthusiastic. "I am fulfilling a

lifelong goal," stated Randy Taylor. Joe Santino also praised the program saying, "It's an opportunity that could not be passed up, a career enhancement."

JobLink 2000

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JobLink Subcommittee: Diane Lentz, Larry Rodimel, Steve Wagner

JobLink 2000

**Our Thanks to All the
Christmas in April Volunteers**

Some of the Local 1010 Helpers

Michael Anderson, Steven Babick, John Barenie, Marco Benavides, David Bogolia, Leonides Bonilla, Scott Brum, James Carpenter, Calven Clark, Jose Delgado, Ermilo Ducret, Patrick Fleener, Gilbert Garcia, Jose Garcia, Ron Haughton, Steven Jakima, Daryl Johnson, Michael Jones, John Kolada, Eloisa Martinez, Kevin McGing, Daniel Moore, Joseph Perez, Eddie Pimpton, Jeffrey Provo, Daniel Rios, Jesse Rivera, Abelardo Rodriguez, Harry Seth, Grady Smith, Rafael Solis, Charles Stroud, Ramon Valladolid, Ramiro Villarreal, Lester A. Weigly, and Alonzo Welford

