

# LINKS

## *Your Link to Lifelong Learning*

Vol.13 No.2 Student Publication of the Bernard Kleiman JobLink Learning Center Dec, 2008

### Let's Make A Movie!

By Jerry Torres

Over the years JobLink has addressed the need to express the Steelworker Voice using a variety of creative avenues. Creative writing classes were the first outlets used as a few folks took pen to paper (or fingers to keyboards) and wrote stories which were eventually compiled and published in "The Heat". The success of "The Heat" spurred more writing, which led to "Out of the Heat", an audio CD of steelworker stories. More writing, then a screenplay and



the production of "Steel and Roses" which eventually took the steelworker voice to the stage in New York City.

But, how do you follow that up? Fast forward to the spring of 2008, when Marcia Taylor comes up with the idea of transmitting these steelworker stories through the radio airwaves. Marcia's idea was to structure a class that would allow JobLink students to create an audio program and try to get it aired. The foundation of this class project would be the interviews. So, a couple of professional resources, one a newspaper columnist and the other an "on-air" personality, visited the class and gave us tips on how to conduct an

interview. An H2 (not the gas-guzzling vehicle) digital audio recorder was purchased, and we set about interviewing past and present steelworkers to get their thoughts on their careers here at the mill.

Lo and behold, some of these interviews, interviewers and interviewees were tossed onto the airwaves this past summer as Steve Walsh of WBEW in Chicago, broadcast a 45 minute program that featured Little Joe Gutierrez (retired), Dan Vertucci (#3 C/S) and John Walker (#4 SP) to name a few. Steve is also the drive behind the internet sharing site, [vocalo.org](http://vocalo.org). Visit the

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### Career Development Program Earns High Marks For Recent Growth!

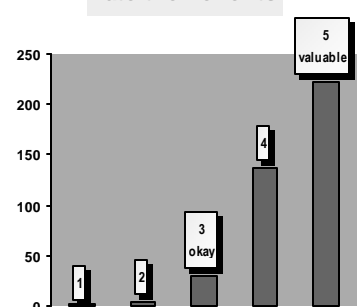
By Robert Smith

Steelworkers across the country have given very good marks to their Career Development Programs (CDP) for recent performance. Ninety percent graded the program with the equivalent of an "A" or a "B."

These grades were nearly the same as those seen via the previous comprehensive survey conducted in 1999. However, 11 significant areas of growth were seen through comparison of items administered in both surveys. Of these areas of gain, the most impressive dealt with communication. For example, when asking about the program's impact on communicating with coworkers, 60.4 percent said there is a positive effect. This was 26.9 percent more than said so in 1999. Likewise, communicating better with supervisors showed a large gain (+25.2%) and communicating better generally gained more than ten percent across the eight-year span.

Communication is not the only area that is being significantly impacted by the program. Participants also report feeling better able to cope with potential economic disruptions. 69.7% said "yes" when asked if their CDP classes will help them earn a living or find a new job in the event of dislocation. This is an 11.1% gain for the program. Other areas of growth included helping coworkers learn new skills (+24.5%), valuing coworkers' skills (+22.9%), and having closer communication with the local union (+19.8%). The survey respondents reported feeling better able to do their jobs, to start their own businesses and to enjoy their personal lives. Overall, the research strongly suggests that the CDPs across the country are addressing their mission to impact both workers' personal and work lives. Smith Educational Associates (SEA) gathered the information through a comprehensive survey conducted between November and March. JobLink was one of 24 sites involved in the survey which 529 participants completed. (See Diane's article on page 2 for detailed information about JobLink's survey results).

Rate the Benefits





## From Diane's Desk

*Diane Lentz*  
*JobLink Coordinator*

### *Looking back and Looking ahead...*

As you read Robert Smith's article about the survey he conducted for the ICD, you might be curious as to how JobLink's students were impacted. Here are the facts of what has happened at [your career development site](#). When asked:

**What has occurred because of your participation in JobLink—**

46% responded that they are able to use computers at work

**Which of the following has improved as a result of JobLink—**

52% communication 74% computer skills 50% problem solving

95% stated that JobLink courses are a good way to ease back into education

88% stated that JobLink improved the quality of their personal life.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## ...Viewpoints...

**Steve Wagner**  
**Local 1010 Representative**

### **Lets Help Ourselves!**

Now that we have ratified our new contract with ArcelorMittal, we will have additional learning opportunities available through Joblink. One of our educational objectives is to help prepare interested 1010 members to qualify for future craft vacancies. In fact, two courses that are currently being offered begin to do just that! The Electrical Principals I will help those that are interested in entering the electrical field and to prepare for the MTE Ramsey Evaluation. This introductory course provides an understanding of electrical theory, safety, schematic reading, pull and junction box sizing. Another course, Introduction to Mechanical Systems & practices: MTM will introduce the participant to common practices required to become an MTM Technician. The MTM Technician is required to have knowledge in hydraulic systems, pneumatics, mechanical drives, lubrication and fluids, bearings, pipes, valves, fasteners, cranes, rigging techniques and etc. This course provides a number of text books that can be used to prepare for the Ramsey MTM Evaluation.

I encourage anyone interested in either craft job to begin to prepare today by taking these courses! These classes are just another example of how Joblink can be used to help us reach our personal or work related goals!



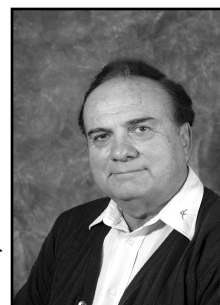
**Tim Kinach**  
**Management Representative**

### **That Certain Spark**

In all of life there is required a certain "spark" to get things going. Whether it is an actual eruption of catalytic heat, or a sudden epiphany of creative energy, a "spark" is integral to set off movement and momentum.

Now, to sustain that movement and momentum, more is needed as a follow up to that initial "spark". JobLink can provide you with both the "spark" needed, as well as the ingredients to sustain the follow up movement and momentum.

Spark: It is not unusual that employees, who take that first JobLink class, will find that the class has created a "spark" of interest in further education and learning. Especially for those people who have not taken an educational class for a long time (outside of required Company training), a desire for continuing education will occur after that first class encounter. Whether due to the gratification of completing an educational course for the first time in many years, or the satisfaction experienced by the employee in getting back into the learning stream again, JobLink classes can provide the "spark" to ignite the employee's interest in continuing further educational opportunities.



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*Links* is a student publication of the Bernard Kleiman JobLink Learning Center  
Student Editor: Tom Zmigrocki Assistant Editor: Joe Woessner Contributing Editor: Marcia L. Taylor  
**JobLink Subcommittee:** Diane Lentz, Tim Kinach, Steve Wagner

## MTM / MTE

By *Dorine Godinez*  
Union Training Coordinator

I would like to write about some Internet courses available through our Bernard Kleinman Joblink Learning Center. These courses are recommended for both craft persons and for non-craftsperson.

Diane Lentz was able to negotiate a price of \$12.00 a course. These monies come out of your Annual Tuition Assistant Fund of \$1800. You can take these courses online at home. All you need to do is go to Joblink and sign up. Each course takes between one and three hours to complete. Upon completion of each course you will be able to print out a certificate with YOUR name and the name of the course you completed. This could be utilized

for your resume or portfolio.

In the area of Instrumentation they have Automation & Control and there are 43 courses.

In the area of Electrical Maintenance there are 68 courses. In the Mechanical area Machine Technology has 24 courses, Mechanical Maintenance has 82 Courses and Predictive Maintenance has 17 courses.

I am an MTE and I took one of the Electrical courses. I found the course concepts to be both user friendly and easily understood. I believe that a person who has no background in the maintenance fields would be able to take these courses on line in their spare time and be able to comprehend the materials presented in each session.

If you would like more information, give me a call at 398-3100 X141. Or stop by Joblink and talk to Diane.

*(Continued from page 2) Tim Kinack*

**Follow up:** JobLink has numerous courses available to employees to follow up with their educational desires. A quick perusal of this years' JobLink course catalog should impress most employees with its educational diversity. The courses are well designed and taught. In addition, an employee need not have a planned course of study in mind to partake of the educational opportunities offered. Continuing education, once experienced, becomes second nature to many people. JobLink is more than able to accommodate the employee's need to follow up and continue his/her education, a need created by that first "spark".

It would benefit all employees to explore the JobLink class curriculum, and take one or more of these highly effective, adult education courses. Employees, who do so, will find that the educational "spark" created as a result will surely lead to more satisfying educational experiences well into their future.

### ***Kudos to the window box winners!***



***1st place:  
Pat Humphrey***

***2nd place:  
Christina O'Reilly***

### **Weight Watchers**

**Many JobLinkers are a lot happier than this fellow. Since we began Weight Watcher classes here in 2007, participants have lost a whopping 1,645 pounds!**



***They're looking good and feeling better.***

*(Continued from page 2) Diane Lentz*

80% stated that JobLink courses created outside opportunities to earn money, now or in the future.

87% stated that they are more likely to help co-workers learn new skills.

77% stated that they communicate better with co-workers

58% communicate better with supervisors.

75% agreed/strongly agreed that Joblink increased their ability to do household repairs

63% agreed/strongly agreed that JobLink improved chances for a secure retirement.

75% agreed/strongly agreed that JobLink increased their job knowledge.

These are great results! You have been a wonderful group to work with, and we are looking forward to finding new ways to help you reach your personal, career, and retirement goals.

**Have a safe and happy holiday season. See you in 2009.**



**Storm clouds brewing? Wondering if we have classes?**

**Call 399-8136 to find out, or tune your radio to WJOB 1230 AM.**



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## Staff News

### Who's Doing What at JobLink?

*By Eric Lambert*

Hi, friends! Eric Lambert here. I am the resident JobLink guitar teacher. I just thought that I would write and let you all know what I've been up to the past six months.

After answering a want ad on the Internet, I made the drive down to Nashville, auditioned for a great bluegrass band by the name of Valerie Smith and Liberty Pike and hopped on a tour bus. We've been traveling together internationally ever since. The tour has taken us up and down the east coast from Florida to Maine through Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin and Minnesota. We've played Missouri, Arkansas and Tennessee. We've played indoors and outdoors at festivals, theaters and concert halls. The band just finished a run out west playing shows in Wyoming, Idaho and Montana. We had a couple of days to relax and stopped in the Black Hills, toured Mt. Rushmore, hung out in Deadwood, and visited the site of Custer's Last Stand.

I've literally had the opportunity to play guitar all over the country this year. I'm a very fortunate guy! Despite everything we've done in the states, my favorite memory has got to be our trip overseas where we did

shows in England, Wales, Ireland and Germany. It was an amazing experience and the European audience treated us like rock stars.



So the tour has slowed down a bit as the U.S. season comes to a close and we're preparing for another trip to Europe. This time around the band will spend the month of December playing music in Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands. So, this year has certainly been a dream come true for me, but come January, I'll be back at JobLink teaching guitar and sharing my experiences with everyone. I look forward to seeing you all in class.

Thanks and happy guitar playing!

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### Good-bye, Bill! A Loss for All of Us

*by Diane Lentz*

Bill Cameon, who has taught at many of the Northwest Indiana career development sites in the last few years, will no longer be teaching. Bill's reason for doing this reminds us of something that is very important for all JobLink participants.

Bill has taught plumbing, home inspection, contracting your home, home evaluations, installing floors, as well as, numerous home improvement courses for JobLink. In addition, he has been the instructor for several JobLink community projects: The Gazebo at Tri City, the deck at Haven House, and the barbeque pit at East Chicago Central High School. These projects involved a great deal of behind-the-scenes work such as securing and transporting materials for each session, attending planning meetings, and working on projects along side the students, just to name a few. Bill brought a hard-work ethic, dedication, and professionalism to all of these endeavors.

Why is Bill giving up teaching? With the amount of additional hours that steelworkers are working, many of Bill's classes got cancelled because of insufficient enrollment. The cancellation of these classes was a big financial loss to Bill who had given up paying construction jobs in order to schedule the classes. Then with the classes cancelled, he lost that income. Finally, the financial losses were just too great.

We will miss Bill at JobLink. He was always there willing to help with whatever effort. However, please let Bill's departure remind us all that **if you like the classes that are offered, you have to take the classes when they are scheduled**. If classes are not attended, they will be cancelled. As in the case of this instructor, if this happens often enough, our really good instructors cannot afford to teach at JobLink. None of us want that to happen.

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*(Continued from page 1) JerryTorres*

website and search "steel workers" to listen to parts one and two of these interviews.

That class was followed up by a very interesting "project" class that ran through the summer. The premise: make a documentary video. For six weeks, students became familiar with the HD video equipment, lighting and the interview/shooting techniques that would be used for this project. Then, filming took place over a few weeks. Hours of video were then edited using Adobe Premiere Pro software. A deadline approached as students were asked to submit a film to be debuted at the ICD conference at the end of September. It was a demanding, yet fun project.

If either of these media projects interests you, an opportunity is right around the corner. The video documentary class will begin in January. (Check online registration at [bkjoblink.org](http://bkjoblink.org))

So whether your prospective subject is the local cruise night or the mating habits of the six-toed sloth, you can pursue documenting that subject through these upcoming courses at **your** Bernard Kleiman JobLink Learning Center .

## Computer Pathways



### The Ripple Effect

A success story for JobLink often means a success story for others. The following story is a terrific example of that. In the October 2008 issue of the "Cisco Networking Academy Newsletter," this international publication relates the success of former JobLink student, Bill Robinson. He is now teaching a certification program he first studied here at JobLink. This motivating story illustrates another point we believe: it really doesn't matter how old you are to learn.

"When Edgar Spikes signed up for the Cisco® Networking Academy® IT Essentials course at Purdue University Calumet in Hammond, Indiana, the 88-year-old retiree had been out of school for 69 years. The course helped Spikes discover a fascination for computers, which led him to enroll in Cisco CCNA® courses and a class focusing on AutoCAD design software.

Spikes, who retired from the Lake County Sheriff's Department in 1983, doesn't recall ever using a computer during his professional career. "I had a PC at home, but didn't really know how to operate it," he says. "Then last year I saw a flyer about a free computer program for high school seniors and graduates, and I attended that along with my grandson. The instructor told me about the IT Essentials class at Purdue University Calumet. I told him I couldn't get anybody to repair my computer, so I thought I'd take the class and learn how to do it myself.

Spikes enjoyed the IT Essential class so much that he went on to enroll in a CCNA course in the same department. "I was fortunate in having William Robinson as an instructor," he says. "He encouraged me and took the extra time to help me out. I especially enjoyed the laboratory part. The reading was sometimes difficult, but the hands-on aspect made it much easier."

As for Spikes, he has no immediate plans for a new career. He simply wants to learn more about digital technology. "I intend to go to school as long as I'm able," he says. "While you're alive you should always be doing something, shouldn't you?"

*A special thanks to Wayne Gruber from Gardens on the Prairie in Lowell, IN. Wayne has donated an oversized outdoor wreath and poinsettias to JobLink for many years. They are greatly appreciated and enjoyed.*



### *Words To Remember!*

Am I not destroying my enemies  
when I make friends of them?

Abraham Lincoln

## Streaming

by Bill Needles

The doors of some teachers' classrooms are always open. With the technology installed at the Leon Lynch and the Burns Harbor centers, we are now able to reach every ICD center site in the United States. Theoretically, we could reach the world.

The technology that allows this is traditional videoconferencing technology and internet-based videostreaming. Think youtube! Students can attend classes in person, if they live close to the centers where the teacher is teaching and recording the classes. But if they can't make the class or live too far away to ever attend, they have the "green" option of (never using their cars) watching the video online at their convenience.

Instructors Ed Guldenzopf, Marcia Taylor and Scott Williams have "streamed" their classes which have been picked up by hundreds of students at USW sites from Alabama to Illinois. Students have joined the classes by watching them online. More sites will soon be added. I will be teaching an A+ Computer Technician Certification through telecasting/streaming starting in January.

Right now teachers can call into five different sites (seven by January – see below) through videoconferencing and students have taken courses live at their centers. Spanish, How to Start and Run a Small Business, Investing in Stocks and Bonds are just some of the courses that have already run. Upcoming classes besides A+ include, Spanish II, Labor Studies through IUN, gardening classes and more small business classes.

Visit our website at [www.icdstreaming.org](http://www.icdstreaming.org) for a list of current and future classes. Telecasted classes are available at learning centers associated with:

1. Local 1010 and Local 1011 in East Chicago
2. Local 6787 in Burns Harbor
3. Local 715 near Fort Wayne
4. Local 1055 near Nashville, TN
5. Local 735 in Opelika, AL
6. Local 745 in Freeport, IL
7. Local 7367 in Hennepin, IL

## Joblink Reminder



*Happy Holidays!*  
*JobLink will be closed*  
*From December 20*  
*until January 4*



**Bernard Kleiman *JobLink* Learning Center**

ArcelorMittal Indiana Harbor  
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***JobLink Friends:***

Rick Barna	[3 C/S E 80" Tandem]
Ken Bogucki	[Utilities 5A/C]
Jaime Calderon	[#2 Cold Strip]
Tom Christman	[80" Hot Strip]
Jesse Flores	[Plt. 4 Maint.]
Linda Golden	[#1 Slab Caster]
Julian Gonzales	[MHSJ]
Bob Guevara	[Plt. 1 Galv.]
Randy Hendrix	[Plt. 2 Electrical]
Kevin Kelly	[IN Harbor Coke]
Ed McHaskell	[Coke Energy]
Mike Nelson	[4BOF Mech Turn]
Gail Richardson	[3 Cold Strip West]
Luis O. Rodriguez	[Quality Control]
Phillip Rodriguez	[5 AC/Utilities]
John Shultz	[3 Cold Strip West]
Genfu Tai	[R & D]
Jerry Torres	[MEU]
Nick Valle	[Union Hall]
Dan Vertucci	[3 Cold Strip, Mechanical]
John Walker	[#4 S.P.]
Joe Woessner	[Plt. 1 Machine Shop]
Tom Zmigrocki	[Plt. 1 Machine Shop]

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*Thanks To Everyone For A Great  
Education Fair!*

