

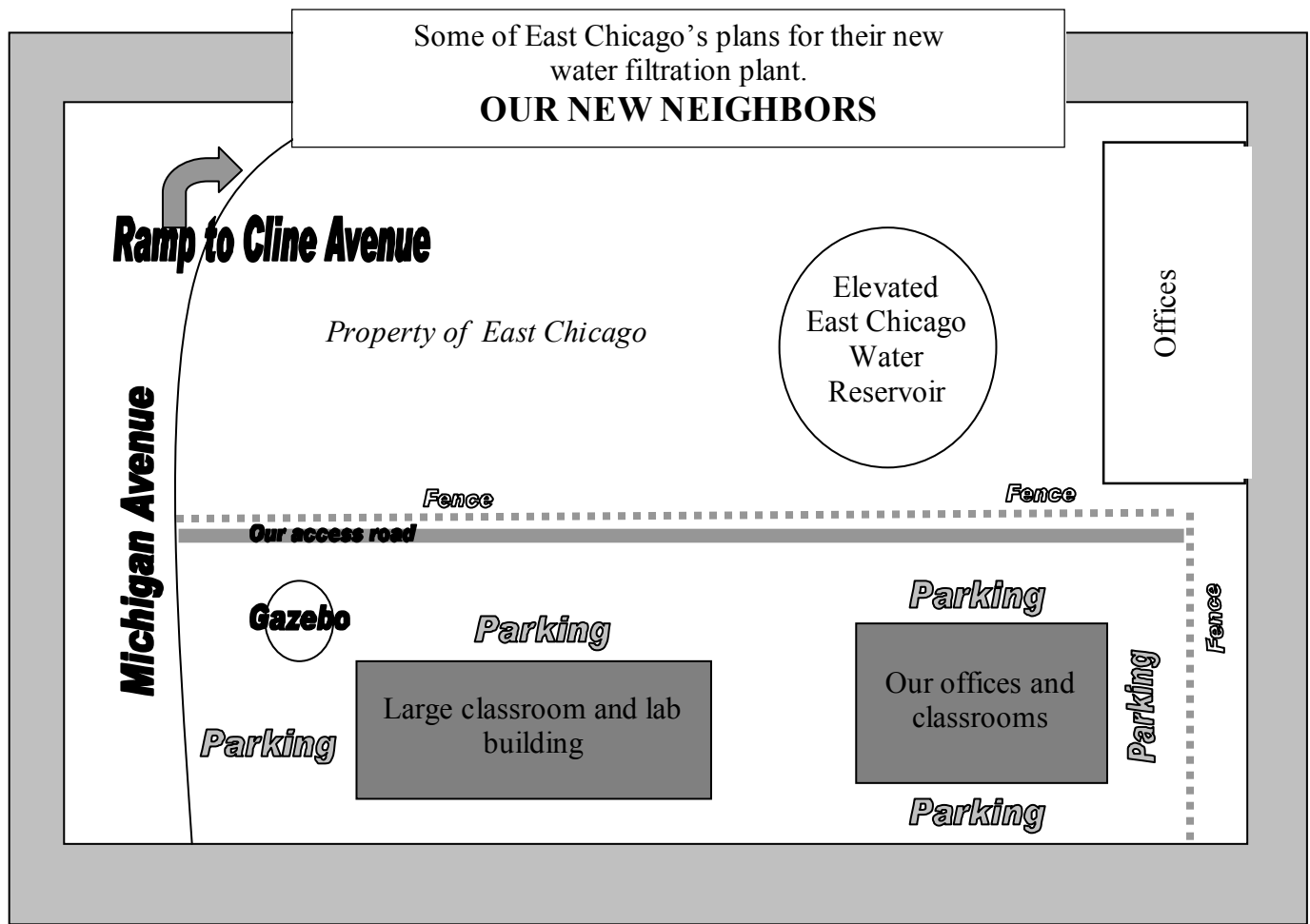
# LINKS

*Your Link to Lifelong Learning*

Vol.15 No. 1 Student Publication of the Bernard Kleiman JobLink Learning Center June, 2010

## 1990 to 2010 We're Twenty Years Old & *Always Changing to Meet Your Needs*

*Yes, we are still here. There may be construction around us,  
but we remain in the same buildings.*





## From Diane's Desk

**Diane Lentz**  
JobLink Coordinator

### Why are lifelong learners the most interesting people in the world?

Over the last 20 years, JobLink has been a source of inspiration, encouragement, financial support, resource, support, friendship to many of you - actually, **6,156** of you. Some of you have amazed us with your level of participation, taking one course after another and are still interested in learning.

You have curiosity, no doubt. You have a Plan B, C, maybe even D in your life to cover the "unexpected"...like a recession. You enjoy yourself in the classes as the other students are a source of motivation, inspiration and friendship. You care about your family enough to give up one day a week to **secure** your future (thus, their future) by learning and updating new skills. When you retire, you know you may have to do more than "just retire." Maybe you enjoy learning just for learning's sake. *All of this makes you a very interesting person-*

- Someone who is less stressed because no one can take away your knowledge, knowledge that is transferrable to so many new situations.
- Someone who can help others because you know how to do things.
- Someone who can carry on a conversation about a variety of topics because you learn from the people in your life and have been engaging your mind in "new learning".
- Someone who is a role model for the family—demonstrating the importance of learning.
- Someone who knows that JobLink has been here for you and continues to help you become that **interesting life-long learner.**

Yes, 20 years later JobLink has gone through many changes; so have you. The entire JobLink staff looks forward to being there for you in the years to come!

## ...Viewpoints...

**Steve Wagner**  
Local 1010 Representative

*After 20 years, YOU deserve the credit!*

I remember, back in 1989 when our union was negotiating an education program, it was never imagined that our Career Development contract language would evolve into the Bernard Kleiman Joblink Learning Center that we have today. In fact, one of the biggest debates we had was whether or not the USW membership would actually use the program enough to spend the contractually funded contribution amounts! I'm proud to say that our program utilization became so strong, that in the 1999 contract there was a funding increase.

When we first opened our doors in the summer of 1990, there was much skepticism about the program. We started off helping participants improve their skills so that they could be successful bidding on jobs that required entry level tests.

Changing to the needs of our membership, we then moved on to more interesting classes that embedded many skills in its curriculum. Due to participants' requests, we've had many computer classes over the years from basic computer skills to Various certification classes. With the help of the 6000+ members who have taken classes or completed a survey, we



**Roger Hughes**  
Management Representative

Did you ever hear that old saying, "The more things change, the more they stay the same."? One thing's for sure, that saying does not apply to JobLink.

At its inception in the 80's, JobLink's primary focus was to train Inland Steel employees in elementary skills like math, reading and writing and to provide training for a new career outside the steel industry. Over the last 20 years, JobLink has adapted to the ever changing market place and the world.

Now, JobLink teaches computer technology and software skills; the tuition assistance program promotes college degrees in Engineering and other technical areas; the engine repair courses have progressed from basic push movers to riding mowers; the list could go on and on.

If you are contemplating improving you position in life by preparing for the future, then JobLink should be your next call! JobLink gets an A+ in 1) preparing ArcelorMittal employees for the future and 2) adapting to the training demands of our world and its environment.

*(Steve continues on page 3)*



**Links** is a student publication of the Bernard Kleiman JobLink Learning Center  
Student Editor: Tom Zmigrocki Editor: Marcia L. Taylor  
JobLink Subcommittee: Diane Lentz, Roger Hughes, Steve Wagner

## By the numbers: How we have changed

What' s changed?	1990 (July through December)	2010 (January through March)
Percentage of steelworkers Participating	4% (Only active members were eligible to participate)	12% (This does not count participation of spouses and retirees)
Number of course offerings	4 courses offered	196 courses offered
Number of instructors	2	14 (Only teachers who teach at JobLink, not offsite )
Number of classrooms	2	7 plus 4 labs
Types of courses	Basic skills and personal development	Basic skills, computer classes (both hardware and software), technical, personal development and tuition assistance
Ways to register	In person	In person, on the phone or on our website: <a href="http://www.bkjoblink.org">www.bkjoblink.org</a>
Technology for student use	None	Electronically equipped classrooms, a website, networked computers, telecasted classes and online classes

(Steve continued from page 2) have been able to consistently improve our program. Because of our current participants, we have an excellent woodworking shop, computer labs, electrical, mechanical classes and more.

Over the last 20 years, there's been a lot of credit given to the career development programs. With your help, the USW, and participating companies, produced a National Education Program named the best adult education program in the United States. Furthermore, our local career development program, JobLink, has received multiple adult education awards at both the state and national levels for being the best on-site education program in the country. Besides getting "college credit" for our learning experiences, we all deserve a "lifelong learning credit". I believe we have the best jointly managed career development program in the nation because it is worker driven. I'm excited to be involved with Joblink in the years ahead as we work with new hires at our plant; I look forward to working with all of you as we continue to change our program to address our needs as workers-- to be ready for the future. It is with great admiration and pride, that I congratulate current local 1010 members and past members (retirees) who for over 20 years have taken the time to earn their "lifelong learning credit"!

## Staff News: Who's Doing What at JobLink?

### Nick Nash

By Marcia L. Taylor

Nick Nash may be new on our staff, but he is far from new to JobLink. A mechanic in the mill, Nick first enrolled at JobLink in 1994 to learn more about wood working and carpentry.

"I've always liked working with my hands", says Nick. "So it was natural to take those kinds of classes."

Working with his hands wasn't the only thing Nick liked. He liked to learn – he's the perfect example of the lifelong learner. His JobLink carpentry and home improvement classes earned him 24 hours through South



Suburban College. He then he was able to transfer those credits to IUN.

"I started going to IUN and continued there until after I retired. I retired in 2005 and graduated in May of 2009 - with probably over 200 credit hours even though I only needed about 120. I started at IUN by just taking things I liked. It was like a hobby. Someone asked what I was majoring in and I said 'I'm majoring in electives.'"

"But you get so many credits you might as well get a degree. My major ended up being psychology with minors in sociology and communications."

Now the retired steelworker and father of three and grandfather to six, teaches Introduction to MTM (a tele-casted course), Remedial MTM (along with Skip Chandler) and home improvement classes at JobLink sharing his love of learning with students.

"I enjoy being around the students, the other instructors and just the environment here. Now I get paid to do things I really like. That's always nice."

Plus I really like to see students succeed. Thirteen of the fifteen students in our Remedial MTM class passed the Ramsay test. That makes me feel like it's all worthwhile."

## WORDS FROM THOSE IN THE KNOW

A few participants who took classes in 1990 and are still active with us

*Editor's Note: These individuals represent only a portion of those participants who originally came through our doors in 1990 and are still coming. They are true lifelong learners!*

**John Merrick** I had a lot of experiences since I've taken the classes. I just kept learning. JobLink kept modernizing as time went on. When you first got computers I took classes and then as time went on I took other classes to keep up-to-date. It was really great to my wife that she could take classes. We didn't see that opportunity coming. When it did come, she jumped on it. It has meant a lot of opportunities for both of us. I figured when I retire these classes will come in handy at another job.

**Raquel Lopez (spouse to Daniel Lopez)** JobLink was a godsend for Daniel, really for all of us. Because of JobLink Daniel was able to become an electrician. And because of that, he is still working. I know when he was laid off, it uplifted him to go to JobLink and have something positive to do.

**Ed Turner** JobLink has meant a lot to me. From computer class to golf lessons to small engine repair class to math brush-up class and even learning how to repair a generator, JobLink teachers have been there to help me each step of the way. However, the most important class I took at JobLink was test preparation class. I took a test for a job opening and passed! I had that job for half of my 33 year career



at Inland Steel. The staff and teachers were very helpful to me. They answered all my questions and concerns. Thank you so much, JobLink!



### Ken Churilla

Initially I took algebra and it helped me later when I went to Purdue. It gave me the confidence to go back to school. I went out for a certification in Industrial Safety, but I actually ended up going for another one, too – Emergency Management. It's a personal accomplishment. One thing great about JobLink is the tuition voucher, not just reimbursements. I didn't pay anything out of pocket.

**Martin Bridgeman** When I first came to JobLink I wanted to brush up my skills and when the Tuition Assistance started, I took computer based classes—programming—at Ivy Tech. I got a B+ in C++. It was fun. More recently I've learned to work with new versions of software, like PowerPoint, Excel, Word and even PhotoShop, which is really cool. I scanned a damaged photo of my father when he played baseball. It was an important photo because it was with Satchel Paige and Double Duty Radcliffe. I was able to do a great repair job and now I have it forever.



### Words To Remember!

**The road to success is always under construction.**



# Success: Achievement, Victory, Accomplishment and Triumph

By Diane Lentz, Coordinator

Through the years, JobLink's Success Board has featured so many accomplishments. It is also a testimonial that everyone's **success** can be different. It is basically about an individual meeting his/her personal goal. Here are just a few randomly selected examples to share:

\* 2008 Jose went into the military instead of finishing high school. Some 30 years later, after studying algebra, geometry, writing at JobLink, he passed his GED test.

\* 2010 Mike took Small Engine courses; now has his own lawnmower repair business.

\* 2005 Jose, Walter, Mark, Tim, John, Robert, Jason, Vincent received an IvyTech HVAC career development certificate.

\* 2005 David used his new computer skills to help him organize an Adult Softball League.

\* 2000 Tino and Randy after taking airbrush classes airbrushed the **UNION YES** sign on the Local 1010 building.

\* 1999 "At work now, all my supervisors call me in off the job to solve computer related problems for our office."

\* 2000 Mark, by progressing through Computer I & 2, Paint Shop, Microsoft Publisher—shared that his newly developed skills and acquired confidence enabled him to further pursue interests inside and outside of Ispat/Inland Steel.

\* 2001 Donell, Lloyd, Craig, William, Edgar, Leo, George, Ruben, Ronald, Joe, Tom received their A+ certification

\* 2000 Tony named to the Dean's List.

\* 2000 Steve started a Home Inspection business after taking the necessary courses.

\* 2001 Bill, Jennifer, Joe, Chuck, Joe O. were published in The HEAT

\* 2006 Jerry, Jeff, Ted, Dave, Henry and Randy have gone on to be published in two volumes of Kindred Voices.

## ***JobLink is waiting for your success story!***

\* 2010 Ted participated with other steelworkers writing for *Steel and Roses* and will soon have his first novel published.

\* 2004 John got his Bachelor of Science degree from Calumet College.

\* 2007 MaryLou got her Marketing degree from Davenport College.

\* 2005 Earl, John, John B., William, Carla Alison, Jesse, Michael, Susan, Jerome, Ron, Leonard passed their Indiana Accredited Horticulture Program test.

\* 2005 Nick completed all the requirements for CompTIA Network+ Certification.

\* 2007 Rodney got straight A's while getting his Safety Certification at Purdue Calumet.

\* 2007, 2008, 2009 Marta adds a little beauty to JobLink's flower barrel year after year.

...the list goes on and on...so many others...the newsletter could be entirely devoted to other success stories. Congratulations to every Local 1010 member who has a Success Story through JobLink!

## ***Be an artist in JobLink's newest project***

Go green, go artistic...

Help us create

a sculpture garden  
using discarded items.

Look for new classes in our  
Winter catalog that will  
teach blacksmithing  
and welding skills,  
turning junk into art.



JobLink's Success Board: Come in to see it!

## **Joblink Reminder**



*Have you noticed? We're not open on Fridays,  
June 18 through July 30.*

*JobLink will be closed on  
Monday, July 5th*

## Bernard Kleiman *JobLink* Learning Center

Mittal Steel Indiana Harbor  
3210 Watling Street (7-200)  
East Chicago, IN 46312

### *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]
Julian Gonzales	[MHS]
Bob Guevara	[Plt. 4.]
Kevin Kelly Sr.	[IN Harbor Coke]
Ed McHaskell	[Coke Energy]
Mike Nelson	[4BOF Mech Turn]
Gail Richardson	[3 Cold Strip West]
Phillip Rodriguez	[5 AC/Utilities]
John Shultz	[3 Cold Strip West]
Genfu Tai	[R & D]
Jerry Torres	[MEU]
Nick Valle	[Union Hall]
John Walker	[#4 S.P.]

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*After 20 years, let's see how well you know us...*

# JobLink Jeopardy

## People

## Benefits

## Potpourri

1. Who is JobLink named after?

4. How much do you get per year in tuition assistance?

7. What year was our pole barn built? (This is your double jeopardy question)

2. Who is your department's Friend of JobLink?

5. Under what condition can your spouse attend?

8. Name three ways you can register for classes.

3. Who has been the JobLink coordinator since 1990?

6. What does the acronym TAP stand for?

9. What does the acronym ICD stand for?

**Flip to see the answers.**

**From the top: People:** 1. Bernard Kleiman (chief negotiator of the educational benefit), 2. Check the list above, 3. Diane Lentz; **Benefits:** 4. \$1,800, 5. If the active member completes a class first, then the spouse is eligible for one year 6. Tuition Assistance Program; **Potpourri:** 7. 1996, 8. By phone, in person or online, 9. Institute for Career Development.