



## Center Stage Member Spotlight

### Lynn Moomaw - Wayne County Schools Career Center



The Wayne County Schools Career Center (WCSCC) has been proudly serving Wayne County for over 50 years. Developed in 1969, the center has continuously contributed to the training of Wayne County's exceptional workforce. The career center and its employees are a living, breathing example of their mission statement – provide knowledge, skill development, and experiences necessary for a lifetime of personal and professional growth. Everything from the programs they offer to the relationships they build, they do it for the success of the students and the community. We had a chance to speak with Lynn Moomaw, Director of Operations and Adult Education, about what makes WCSCC so special.

WCSCC offers 27 trade programs to high school students who are interested in technical training. The programs range from agricultural mechanics to culinary arts, cosmetology, nursing, and more. Best of all, the high school programs are free of charge to those who are accepted.

"If you decide you don't like it, you decide for free. If you decide you do like it, you essentially start a career your junior year of high school," said Lynn. As you can see, the rewards favorably outweigh the risks.

Another reason the career center is so valuable to high school students is the real hands-on experience they receive. As a junior, students learn in labs, on equipment that replicates the local workplaces for that trade. Many seniors have the opportunity to go on job placement in lieu of lab time. The internship provides the students with an opportunity to put their classroom learning to the test and earn real wages. Most students typically retain their placement job full-time upon graduating.

The Adult education programs are a little different but they too, offer countless resources and opportunities. Lynn explained why adults choose to attend the WCSCC, "For adults, it's about the locality. Many want to stay local and it's very affordable. You're coming to a small campus, and you have so many options. They also like the hours and the support they get." Adult Education programs range from 90-hour welding classes for entry level jobs, on-line or in-person technology courses, customized training for business, related technical instruction for apprenticeships to fulltime programs in nursing, cosmetology, law enforcement and manufacturing.

With classes offered in the afternoons and evenings, adult students can work around jobs, family schedules, and other commitments. Perhaps the most beneficial resource the WCSCC has to offer is its transition coordinators. These coordinators work with adult students on how to overcome barriers such as transportation and childcare.

In addition to the excellent high school and adult education programs, another advantage of the WCSCC is its adaptability.

"Over the last 50 years, a lot of trades we offer have stayed the same such as nursing and welding, but we've also seen many that come and go," said Lynn. "Whatever the needs are in the area, we try to reflect those. We're always looking to see if there is a new trade that we need to add."

With 27 career tech labs, WCSCC spends almost every summer renovating one or two of them to ensure industry standards are being met. Along with the lab renovations, WCSCC does an excellent job maintaining and updating curriculums to mirror current industry needs.

The reason this is possible is because of WCSCC's advisory committees. Every trade program at WCSCC has an advisory committee made up of respective professionals currently working in Wayne County. These professionals advise instructors about what is needed, what should be taught, and how it should be taught.

In the WCSCC's continued effort to support the needs of Wayne County employers, they incorporated two programs that are important to our local businesses, the Drug Free Club and the A Game.

The Drug Free Club is a voluntary club that students can join where they are drug tested initially and then randomly throughout the school year. If they pass, they receive a "Drug Free Club Card" and incentives such as ice cream and VIP parking.

"Two-thirds of our students typically participate," Lynn stated. "And many of our employers will require them to have their drug free card even before interviewing."

WCSCC also uses the "A Game". The A Game contains seven areas, attitude, attendance, appearance, ambition, accountability, acceptance, and appreciation. Throughout the year, the career center teaches and touches on these points and at the end, students are tested. The test provides an outlook for employers that helps certify a student's job readiness.

Lynn views the career center as a partner of the Wayne County community, as I'm sure others do too. One of the best things about the WCSCC is that they not only impact their students but also the community. It is a two-way street.

"The Wayne County Schools Career Center prepares our local professionals by providing skills, encouraging positive attitudes, and stressing that all life choices determine the students' success," said Kevin Weldi, President of Tekor Inc. "We are certainly blessed to have the support of this incredible organization."

It is to no one's surprise that everything that Lynn and the WCSCC do, they do it to enhance how we live, learn, and work.

Lynn's final statement made an impact – "It's really important for people to come visit the Wayne County Schools Career Center. Most people don't realize what we have to offer. There are 27 programs but at least 2,700 possible career paths. The opportunities for our students are limitless."

If you are interested in learning more about what the career center has to offer, visit <http://www.wcscc.org>.

