Written by MARK JAEGER
Wednesday, 30 May 2012 16:58

Strong enrollment proves employers, students find value in training program

The true success of the Workforce 2020 Youth Apprenticeship program might not be apparent until years down the road, but by at least one measure it has been a banner year.

The student-mentoring program had 24 graduates this spring, an accomplishment acknowledged during a May 21 graduation and honor recognition at the Cedarburg Cultural Center. It is the 17th year for the countywide program.

In each case, a high-school student was matched with a mentor in a workplace setting that deals with a career area of the student's choosing.

John Higgins, who coordinates the program at Port Washington High School, said the increased support of the apprenticeships is a sign of growing awareness by students and employers.

"This is the largest class we've ever had and the kids we've had this year are really a great group," Higgins said.

"Through the apprenticeship program, they are finding there are jobs out there that they can do and really love. Even for the students who end up going on to college, they are finding they are gaining real advantages over their classmates with no workplace experience."

Apprenticeship matches are made in six fields. This year's students came from five Ozaukee County high schools.

The fields of training, their graduates, school, workplaces and mentors are:

Nursing assistant

Kelly Bergman, Chelsea Brock and Leah Bischoff, all Port Washington, assigned to Harbor Club in Port Washington, and mentored by Catherine Torcivia; Jenna Finnel, Cedarburg High School, Harbor Club, mentored by Catherine Torcivia; Dana Rich of Cedarburg High School and Mitchell Delcamp of Grafton High School, both at Lasata Care Center in Cedarburg, mentored by Dawn Nimtz; Haley Brost and Audrey Malek, both of Cedarburg High School, Cedar Springs Rehabilitation in Cedarburg, mentored by Candie Schilling; Abigail Smith, Grafton High School, Aurora Medical Center in Grafton, mentored by Carla LaFever; Katherine Smith, Grafton High

School, Serenity Home in Grafton, mentored by Kate Peterson; and Vanessa Klosiewski and Linnea Shamir, Ozaukee High School, Gables on the Pond in Random Lake, mentored by Pam Zastrow.

Manufacturing — welding

Ryan McCarthy, Grafton High School, MPE in Milwaukee, mentored by Dawn Kubiak; and Josh Stephen, Port Washington High School, KMC in Port Washington, mentored by Marry Barron.

Manufacturing — design and drafting

David Morrissey, Cedarburg High School, GenMet in Mequon, mentored by Eric Isbister.

Automotive technician

Dustin Westphal, Grafton High School, Schmit Bros. Automotive in Saukville, mentored by Jason Marquart; Jake Stibbe and Zachary Zimmerman, both from Grafton High School, Belgium Service Center, mentored by David Kaan; Chris Bath, Grafton High School, ADvantage Auto in Saukville, mentored by Darren Klinter; Tyler Reedy, Port Washington High School, Sommer's Automotive in Mequon, mentored by Gary Mortag and Scott Reedy; and Bryce Engle, Cedarburg High School, Cedarburg Automotive, mentored by Dennis Krings.

Information technology

Leah Nelson, Port Washington High School, Schmit Bros. Automotive, mentored by Curtis Miller and Peace Simon.

Finance

Julie Lanser, Ozaukee High School, Port Washington State Bank, mentored by Ann Noster; Christine O'Neal, Grafton High School, Newburg State Bank, mentored by Johnathan Isselman.

Image Information: A GRADUATION RECOGNITION was held May 21 for Ozaukee County students awho completed the Youth Apprenticeship program and their mentors. It was the 17th year for the local job-training program. Students and mentors included (front row, from left) Julie

Lanser, Dustin Westphal, Chris Bath, Ryan McCarthy, Leah Nelson, Leah Bischoff, Kelly Bergman, Jenna Finnel, Abby Smith, David Morrissey, Katherine Smith, Mitch DelCamp; (back row) Annie Noster, Jake Stibbe, Long Phu, Tyler Reedy, Peace Simon, Audrey Malek, Bryce Engel, Deanna Rusch, Kate Peterson, Dawn Nimtz and Haley Brost. Photo by Sam Arendt