



Midlands Educators Try New Careers *A Look at MEBA's 2008 Teachers in the Workplace Course*

For one week in June, 13 Midlands educators returned to the classroom - not to a classroom constructed of four walls and housed in a school, but a classroom housed in area businesses full of hands-on learning and real world experience.

The learning experience is part of **Midlands Education and Business Alliance's (MEBA)** annual Teachers in the Workplace summer graduate course. The three-hour course exposes educators to the world of business, showing how work-based skills connect to school-based learning. Participating educators spend 40 hours in a challenging position with local business or industry to learn about the skills, both hard and soft, students need to be successful in a particular field. Educators can share their experience and knowledge with their students, helping to provide a more seamless connection between school and work.

Businesses serving as hosts for this year's course include: **CMC Steel of South Carolina; Lexington Medical Center; Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Palmetto Health; Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals; Recruiting Solutions; SCANA; South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum; South Carolina Electric & Gas - Wateree Station; and Total Comfort.**

Participating educators came from all grade levels and subject areas including a high school Spanish teacher, a middle school computer education and keyboarding instructor and a college outreach and retention coordinator.

Scott Ganuchea, a sports medicine instructor and athletic trainer at **White Knoll High School in Lexington One**, spent the week at **Lexington Medical Center's** outpatient rehabilitation facility where he credited the change of environment and introduction to



Congratulations to MEBA's 2008 Teachers in the Workplace course participants. Front row (l to r): Paula Dunn, Dr. Kaye Shaw, Lisa Call, Michelle Eargle, Samantha Turner. Second Row (l to r): Kathy Rivers, Edith Jordan, Elizabeth Gale, Paul Dobyons, Shelia Gordon. Third row (l to r): Dana Crowley, Margaret Ramsey, Janet Reamy, Sue Shumpert. Back row (l to r): Scott Ganuchea, Kenneth Vause.

new professionals who showed him new techniques he can use and share with his students. Ganuchea was impressed with the facility's use of the Nintendo Wii and Wii Fit to assist with patient



Scott Ganuchea (left) at Lexington Medical Center outpatient rehabilitation facility.

rehabilitation and provide interest to routines. By being able to work with a variety of professionals in different positions, with different certification and education levels, Ganuchea gained a better understanding of the many types of careers available under the same roof ranging from physical

therapist to occupational therapist to physical therapist assistant to receptionist.

Shelia Gordon, also a sports medicine instructor at **White Knoll High School**, obtained a firsthand view of daily activities at **Palmetto Health**. Gordon participated in virtual, hands-on activities inside Palmetto Health's simulation lab, which allows laymen and medical professionals to experience and learn from simulated labor and delivery, emergency situations and operation room procedures. Gordon spent part of her training with some high school seniors spending a few weeks at Palmetto Health to help determine whether or not they want to pursue a career in health science. "It was great to spend time with these students," said Gordon. "They were involved in an important part of the career development process and one of which all student should take advantage."



Shelia Gordon of White Knoll High School in the simulation lab at Palmetto Health.

The **South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum** was pleased to host **Paula Dunn**, a Spanish teacher from **Blythewood High School** in **Richland Two**. Not only did Dunn have a meaningful experience learning about what it takes to run a public museum, but the museum also benefited from Dunn's translation skills. While working at the museum, Dunn provided Spanish translation for several exhibits. According to Dunn, the

Upcoming Events

Executive Committee

August 8, 2008

7:45 - 9:00 am

Midlands Technical College

Beltline Campus

President's Conf. Room

Curriculum Alignment

September 4, 2008

9:30 - 11:30 am

Midlands Technical College

Airport Campus, AC 115

MEBA/MREC Host

Education & Business Summit

September 5, 2008

9:30 am - 11:00 am

Midlands Technical College

Northeast Campus

Business Management & Information Technologies

September 10, 2008

9:00 - 10:30 am

Midlands Technical College

Airport Campus, AC 139

The staff at MEBA wish you a safe and enjoyable summer.

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United States has the fourth largest Hispanic population in the world, and she was pleased to help increase the museum's level of accessibility and enjoyment for its Spanish-speaking patrons. "It was an honor and a privilege for me to work at the museum and to translate material for them," said Dunn. "It's another way I can show my students how important and useful speaking Spanish can be." Dunn also encouraged fellow course participants to take advantage of the many programs and exhibits the museum has to offer for students and educators.



Paula Dunn (right) stands in front of an exhibit at the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum.

Edith Jordan's position at CMC Steel of South Carolina called for a change of wardrobe in addition to a change of worksite. A math teacher at **Brookland-Cayce High School in Lexington Two**, Jordan spent the week outfitted in a hard hat and

steel-toe boots in order to learn about the daily work at a steel manufacturing facility. Headquartered in Dallas, Texas, CMC Steel is a leader in manufacturing, processing, fabrication, trading and distribution of steel, primary and secondary metals and numerous raw materials. From the raw materials yard through shipping, CMC Steel of South Carolina uses state-of-the-art technology to maximize safety, quality and efficiency.

Jordan was impressed by CMC Steel's commitment to safety and to its employees. The company uses extensive safety measures and checks, offers training and education opportunities to its employees and provides benefits and scholarships for employees and their families.

According to Jordan, the four most important skill areas needed at CMC Steel of South Carolina include: strong communication skills, both verbal and written; substantial math skills; computer technology; and quality control. Jordan emphasized the importance of teaching students how to communicate well as well as the importance of soft skills such as dependability, ability to be a team player and punctuality. "Many of the business professionals continually stressed the need for employees with good soft skills, as these are things that can't necessarily be taught in an on-the-job training program but must be inherent in employees from the beginning," explained Jordan.

Jordan also learned the career opportunities available at CMC Steel are not what industry stereotypes may lead one to believe. Company employees range in education level from high school diploma to advanced engineering degree, and fields range from accounting to engineering to sales and marketing.



Edith Jordan (left) at CMC Steel of South Carolina.

Four educators who worked at **SCANA** came to this same conclusion, identifying SCANA as a "city with-

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Thank you to our
 Teachers in the Workplace
 business partners for 2008:

CMC Steel of South Carolina
 Lexington Medical Center
 Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc.
 SC Confederate Relic Room and
 Military Museum
 Palmetto Health
 Recruiting Solutions
 SCANA
 SCE&G Wateree Station
 Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals
 Total Comfort



Dana Crowley (l) of Lexington High School gets an inside look at one of SCANA's bucket trucks with Keller Kissam (r), Vice President of Electric Operations for SCANA.

in a city." "Before this experience, I had no idea of the extensiveness and variety of career opportunities available at SCANA," said **Michelle Eargle**, an outreach and retention coordinator at **Midlands Technical College**.

Eargle, along with **Dana Crowley**, who provides basic employment skills training at **Lexington High School in Lexington One**; **Kathy Rivers**, a special education teacher at **Dutch Fork High School in**

Lexington Richland Five; and **Sue Shumpert**, a seventh grade math teacher at **St. Andrews Middle School in Richland One**, spent time learning about SCANA operations. From its customer service to fuel procurement to accounting, financing and strategic sourcing, the four educators were given a total view of SCANA.

Other participating educators included **Elizabeth Gale**, a keyboarding and computer education instructor at **Pelion Middle School in Lexington One**, who worked at **Recruiting Solutions**; **Paul Dobyns**, a sports medicine instructor at **Spring Valley High School in Richland Two**, worked at **Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals**; **Margaret Ramsey**, a middle and high school guidance counselor at **Lexington Alternative Learning Center in Lexington One**, worked at **Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc.**; **Janet Reamy**, keyboarding and computer education instructor at **Carolina Springs Middle School in Lexington One**, worked at **Total Comfort**; and **Kenneth Vause** of **Airport High School in Lexington Two**, who worked at **SCE&G - Wateree Station**.



Janet Reamy (left) works at Total Comfort.

"As always, this was a great year for MEBA's Teachers in the Workplace course," said **Lisa Call**, MEBA's Chief Operating Officer. "In just one week, these educators have come away with valuable new experiences and contacts that they can use to add meaning and relevance to their work as educators and to ultimately help their students transition to the world of work."

Teachers in the Workplace Course Participants Share What They Learned

MEBA's Teachers in the Workplace summer course helps educators bring added experience and relevance to their classrooms in order to show students the connection between what they are learning today and how it will benefit them in their careers of tomorrow. Not only do course participants gain this knowledge through their own hands-on experience, but also through hearing about the experiences of their peers. The result is an inside view of many and various career clusters, local businesses and industries, and career opportunities in just one week.



Scott Ganucheau shares his experience with other course participants.

On June 17, 2008, all 13 course participants came together to share their experiences and connections with each other. As part of the course requirements, each educator delivered a 5-10 minute presentation detailing his or her experience and offering resources and contacts for how to bring the particular industry and careers to life for students.

"This collaboration is a great way to maximize the benefit of the Teachers in the Workplace course," explains **Dr. Kaye Shaw**, MEBA's executive director. "Teachers learn from their individual experiences as well as those of others."

MEBA's 2008 Teachers in the Workplace Course: Photo Gallery



Kenneth Vause of Airport High School at SCE&G -- Waterree Station.



Elizabeth Gale of Pelion Middle School at Recruiting Solutions.



Sue Shumpert, Kathy Rivers, Dana Crowley and Michelle Eargle (l to r) talk with Keller Kissam of SCANA while being filmed by WLTX. Check out WLTX's story by visiting www.wltx.com and typing "MEBA" in the search window.



Margaret Ramsey (r) of Lexington Alternative Learning Center at Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc.



Paul Dobyns of Spring Valley High School tries out equipment at Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals.



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