

News You Can Use

June 2023

VIRTUAL REALITY

Edison seniors get virtual view of potential careers

Hands-on simulations help students explore options in a new way

From staff reports

RICHMOND — Students gained perspective about career opportunities through a unique lens at Edison High School.

Officials from Ohio Means Jobs Jefferson County brought the TRANSFR virtual reality program to the campus on April 27 and students explored job prospects during an activity in the school gym. The program offers hands-on simulations and a training curriculum that gives students a modern form of career exploration. According to the TRANSFR website, the simulations deliver customized experiences that can help train students at any experience level. Users progress at their own pace through a training curriculum built on experiences from real-world experts in a variety of fields including manufacturing, construction and automotive to healthcare and public safety.

More than a dozen seniors in Paul Baker's job ready course donned virtual headsets and selected among a variety of jobs, then they could perform tasks such as auto maintenance and taking blood pressure. Mike Cernansky, job developer and outreach mentor with Ohio Means Jobs Jefferson County, was joined by Kelcea Danielson, CCMEP case manager, and outfitted teens with the VR headgear while explaining how to operate the equipment. Cernansky said the state-of-the-art system was a new concept and a fun way to inspire the students.

"The whole point of the program is to expose others to different types of careers. We've been getting into schools during the last couple of weeks and maybe next year we can try to get them into all the schools in the county," he commented. "It's a new process for us and might lead students into a career."

"It also gives them an interactive introduction into what they want to be doing," added Danielson.

Baker said his job ready course focuses on the district's goal to prepare students for tomorrow by ensuring they have interview skills, resumes and options for Armed Forces, college and other opportunities. Fourteen seniors take part in the class while he also teaches a career exploration course for grades 9-12 to help those pupils narrow down their choice of



Contributed

VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE — Edison High School senior Dylan Barker tests his job skills on a virtual headset as Ohio Means Jobs Jefferson County brought the high-tech career exploration equipment to the campus on April 27. More than a dozen seniors had a chance to experience simulated jobs from health care to robotics as well as other trades to inspire a career pathway.

pathways. He said the TRANSFR program was a bonus to that concept.

"This has been unbelievable. Edison's mission statement is 'Enrolled, Enlisted and Employed,' and this can give them an idea of what it's like to become employed right out of high school in different fields."

Many students selected the health care program during the activity, which he said would always be a thriving field in the area. He thanked Cernansky and Ohio Means Jobs Jefferson County for bringing the experience to the school and said it was a great benefit to the youth.

Seniors Dylan Barker and Anna Wadas enjoyed the high-tech exploration

and said it was a great way to view career pathways.

"I thought it was a really interesting program that gives us a different look at actual careers," said Barker. "My actual field of interest is computer science, so robotics was the closest program. I thought it was a good field to be in and you feel like you are doing the work yourself."

Meanwhile, Wadas chose health care for her virtual vocation and learned to take blood pressure readings. She agreed that the experience provided a sense of realism.

"It was interesting to see the many things you could do and the diversity of the career fields," she added.

NEW HIRES



Billie Rawson started in Maintenance on April 24th.

Welcome to the team!

Mark Your Calendar

June 7 – Better You Better Ohio Biometric Screening

June 19 – Juneteenth – Observed Holiday – The Agency will be closed for normal business hours.

June Birthdays



June 8 - Patty Minto

June 14 - Terry Hennen

June 27 - Doug Gosney

June 28 - Bradley Wells

CCMEP Case Managers Kelcea Danielson and Mike Cernansky visited Edison High School to help students gain perspective on career opportunity.

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May 2023



Monthly Program Highlight

Electric Partnership Plan (EPP)

The Electric Partnership Program (EPP) helps eligible Ohioans reduce their electricity usage in their home. The EPP provider performs in-home audits and installs appropriate electric energy efficiency measures to reduce electric usage. Participants also receive information on how they can reduce their electric use and improve their home's efficiency.

To be eligible for the program, Ohioans must also have 12 months of electric usage at their current address, have an annual electric baseload usage of at least 5,000 kWh, and live in the service territory of American Electric Power.

James Fuit; EPP Energy Auditor– 740-282-0971 ext. 189

