

Daily Chronicle



30°

DeKalb, IL
Unknown Precip | Foreca:



[View Today's e-Edition](#)
[Subscribe to the Daily Chronicle](#)


[News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Features](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Video](#) | [Photos](#) | [Public Notices](#) | [Niche](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Wheels](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Classified](#)

[Election Central](#) | [Archives](#) | [Planit DeKalb County](#) | [Coupons](#) | [Business Directory](#)

Site Web Search by [YAHOO!](#)

Pieper: Fallacies of career and tech education

Created: Monday, February 13, 2012 5:30 a.m. CST

 [Comments](#) (1 comments) 0

Text Size: [Aa](#) [Aa](#) [Aa](#) [Aa](#) [Aa](#)

Despite all the information available about a career and tech education, misconceptions abound.

Many of these false ideas come from folks who took shop class or home economics in high school and have not taken a good look at today's vocational programs. Many people still think classes are for a certain segment of students who won't go to college and may not be capable of doing so.

For instance, they may still believe auto technology students are capable of only changing oil and tires when the reality is they regularly use digital scan tools and other PC-based devices to diagnose the complicated systems in new automobiles. These same folks may think baking a cake is still a main topic in culinary arts when studying applied accounting and using industrial grade culinary equipment are more the norm.

Because these misconceptions guide policymaking, many schools have abandoned vocational industrial arts programs because more emphasis has been placed on college readiness. The weakened No Child Left Behind policy has indirectly helped close these once viable programs for students by implying the better choice is college prep over career prep.

Fortunately, policymakers are starting to see the light about career and tech offerings and encourage students to be college and career ready. Today's career education seeks to blend hands-on applications with problem-solving that includes critical math, reading and science skills. The world of work is a different place than it was 20 years ago, and today's students need to accept the concept of lifelong learning if they want to be successful and productive.

A follow-up survey of Indian Valley Vocational Center 2011 graduates found 67 percent of respondents were enrolled in continuing education at a tech school or two- or four-year college. More than 55 percent of these graduates indicated they were employed in a field related to their course of study at IVVC. Another 13 percent had joined a branch of military service.

Of the 20 fastest growing occupations in the U.S., 65 percent of them require an associate's degree or on-the-job training, not a four-year degree. A person with a career and tech education-related degree or credential will earn an average of between \$5,000-\$15,000 more per year than someone with a humanities or social science degree (Jacobson, Pathways 2009).

[Previous Page](#) | [1](#) | [2](#) | [Next Page](#)

[Apply for UPS Jobs](#)

UPS is hiring in your area. Apply for UPS Jobs Online.
[UPS.localjobster.com](#)

[Tech Education](#)

Looking For Tech Education? Find It Nearby With Local.com!
[Local.com](#)

[UPS Application](#)

Complete Your Application Today. Start Tomorrow.
[www.JobsOnline.net](#)

Ads by Yahoo!

Comments

TOTAL COMMENTS

1

Most Recent Comment

Kerry M., Malta, IL (KerryM) wrote on **February 13, 2012 3:25 p.m. ...**

A good article for everyone to read, especially educators and legislators. When



Read it Anywhere, Anytime
Daily Chronicle e-Edition Online
Your Daily Chronicle sent to your inbox every morning!
 [REGISTER TODAY!](#)

COUPONS • DEALS • TRAVEL SPECIALS • ONLINE ANYTIME!
 
Powered by [zip2save.com](#)

CALL TODAY FOR A VISION CORRECTION EVALUATION
1-800-CHECKUP

2240 Gateway Drive | Sycamore, Illinois | 60178
(815) 756-8571 | [www.hauser-ross.com](#)

Daily Chronicle



30°

DeKalb, IL
Unknown Precip | Foreca:



[View Today's e-Edition](#)
[Subscribe to the Daily Chronicle](#)


[News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Features](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Video](#) | [Photos](#) | [Public Notices](#) | [Niche](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Wheels](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Classified](#)

[Election Central](#) | [Archives](#) | [Planit DeKalb County](#) | [Coupons](#) | [Business Directory](#)

Site Web Search by 

Pieper: Fallacies of career and tech education

Created: Monday, February 13, 2012 5:30 a.m. CST

 [Comments](#) (1 comments)

Text Size: Aa Aa Aa Aa Aa

(Continued from Page 1)

Career and tech education students who chose to go to four-year colleges have another advantage: Rather than flipping hamburgers at minimum wage to pay for tuition, these skilled students qualify for better paying employment opportunities doing work they enjoy while finishing a degree.

Rather than asking a student to choose between a college and career readiness path in high school, why not encourage them to consider both? If the end goal of our educational process is to develop good citizens who are gainfully employed, then students should be offered the best choices in both worlds or at least a blending of both.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan has stated K-12 educators have the responsibility to prepare all students to be college and career ready, "not either/or." Besides the benefits of career and tech education already mentioned, it provides another important piece of the educational pie. Students enrolled in these classes tend to want to stay in school and graduate. Career education engages students in programming that is relevant, interesting and provides employment skills.

The next time you are watching a tire technician change your flat tire, remember that he also can use a digital volt-ohm meter to check the continuity of the wires connecting the wheel speed sensor to the ECM, which controls the mechanical function of the anti-lock brakes and cruise control module. He probably learned that in today's career and tech education's "auto shop" in high school.

• *Ron Pieper is the director at Indian Valley Vocational Center and can be reached at 815-786-7616 or rpieperivvc@yahoo.com.*

[Previous Page](#) | [1](#) | [2](#) | [Next Page](#)

Waubonsee Comm. College

Affordable educational options at 4 conveniently located campuses.
www.waubonsee.edu

distance education

Choose From 87 Online Degrees at American Public University. Enroll.
www.apus.edu

Education Careers

Get your dream start. Find top Education jobs. Free registration.
www.Job.com

Ads by Yahoo!

Comments

TOTAL COMMENTS
1

Most Recent Comment

Kerry M., Malta, IL (KerryM) wrote on **February 13, 2012 3:25 p.m.** ...

A good article for everyone to read, especially educators and legislators. When society starts to understand not every child should or wants to attend a four year university, we will be on our way to fiscal sanity, national productivity, and much more happiness for families and their children. Of course a few dynasty makers may be upset along the way...Thank you for this letter, Mr. Pieper.

[Report](#)

[View/Add Comments](#)



Finding affordable fun in the heart of Florida

Provided by Kissimmee CVB



What is the best non-prescription eyelash enhancer?

Provided by DermStore LLC.



The trick for your brain to learn a new language fast

Provided by Pimsleur Approach

2011
NOW AVAILABLE
THE MAG CHAMPIONSHIP
SOUVENIR EDITION
[Click here for details...](#)

ROAD TO THE
WHITE HOUSE
ENTER HERE 

INBODEN'S MEAT MARKET
Click Here for Coupons
