

Community

PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

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November 2005



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## Licensed to Succeed

### Career Center Helps Residents Earn Computer “Drivers License”

In today’s high-tech world, computer skills can open many doors for job seekers.

Career & Workforce Development Center–East (CWDCE) now offers a course designed to teach people to “drive” a computer with the same ease that they drive a car.

The International Computer Driving License (ICDL) program issues certification to individuals who demonstrate fundamental computer skills in the most common commercial software programs.

By working their way through a series of testing modules, participants in the ICDL program can practice essential computer skills until they demonstrate competency.

CWDCE’s administrative assistant, Vaughn Ampersand, retired from his career in real estate sales and management after undergoing coronary bypass surgery.

He didn’t feel 100 percent ready for retirement, but he also wasn’t sure that he was familiar enough with the latest computer programs to be successful in a new job.

After accepting a position at CWDCE, Ampersand took the ICDL test to make sure he had a good grasp of the computer skills that would help him succeed at work.

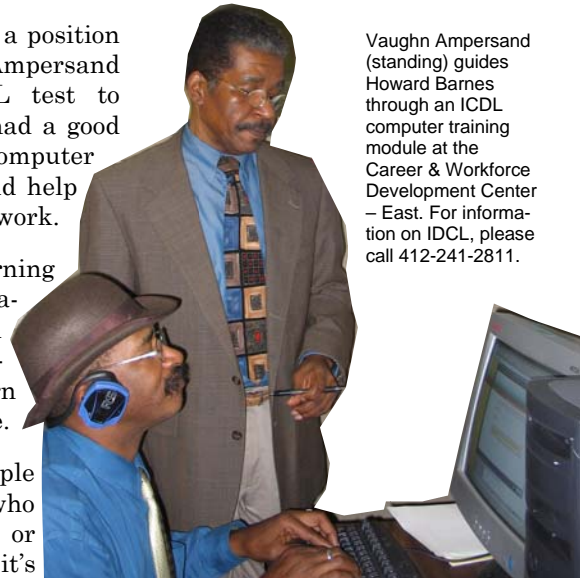
He said earning ICDL certification made him feel very prepared to return to the workforce.

“For many people like myself who are retired or semi-retired, it’s just about not being afraid,” Ampersand said. “Once you get over your fear of failing, you realize you can do it.”

The ICDL offers certification that is recognized worldwide and shows employers that a job candidate possesses competency in fundamental Information Technology skills. The certification also gives job applicants self-confidence and the knowledge that they can use a personal computer and a variety of standard software applications.

CWDCE will soon be moving ICDL testing and its other employment programs to a new location.

The Center will move into the new Homewood



Vaughn Ampersand (standing) guides Howard Barnes through an ICDL computer training module at the Career & Workforce Development Center – East. For information on IDCL, please call 412-241-2811.

Brushton YMCA building, which is expected to open in early December.

In addition to CWDCE’s job postings, job fairs, on-site interviews, and other career-building tools, individuals who visit the Center will be able to benefit from other essential services located in the YMCA building. Health screenings, drug and alcohol treatment, and a gym and fitness classes will enable the YMCA to serve as a one-stop shop for East End residents who want to lead healthier lives.

The new facility is being built adjacent to the existing YMCA at 7140 Bennett Street.

## Upcoming Events

### Home Safety Checks for Senior Citizens

Pittsburgh Cares and GLENDA volunteers will join Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers in conducting free home checks on Saturday, **November 19** and Saturday, **December 10**.

Allegheny County residents age 60 and over are eligible for this service. Checks feature a room-by-room safety assessment and the distribution of supplies such as smoke alarms, flashlights, bathmats, and grab bars.

Call the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers office at 412-687-6712 to request a safety check.

### Disaster Preparedness Forum

The public is invited to learn about ways to prepare for natural disasters at an educational program from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, **November 18** at the Kingsley Association, 6435 Frankstown Avenue.

The forum is designed to teach individuals about the major types of emergencies and how to prepare for them. It will feature video and panel presentations, exhibits, a quiz, a prize raffle and refreshments.

The forum is part of the Healthy Black Families program, sponsored by the Center for Minority Health. For more information, please visit [www.cmh.pitt.edu](http://www.cmh.pitt.edu) or call 412-624-5665.

### Fitness Programs

Get moving toward a healthier lifestyle with free instruction in African and Hip-Hop Dance and Tai-Chi.

Classes will be offered for children, adults and families on Saturday, **November 19** at 11 a.m. at the Kingsley Association, 6435 Frankstown Avenue.

The classes are part of the Healthy Black Families program, sponsored by the Center for Minority Health. For more information, please visit [www.cmh.pitt.edu](http://www.cmh.pitt.edu) or call 412-624-5665.

## ENEC and YouthLINK Help Teens Land Jobs

First jobs are usually found in the food service and hospitality industries, but many food stores, hotels, and restaurants will only hire youth once they reach age 16.

Eastside Neighborhood Employment Center (ENEC), provides 14- and 15-year-old job applicants with information on employers who hire younger teens and assists teens in applying for the necessary work permit.

ENEC, 5100 Penn Avenue, provides youth ages 14 to 21 with specialized employment services through the YouthLINK program, sponsored by the Pittsburgh Partnership, United Way of Allegheny County and the Alcoa Foundation.

ENEC holds job-readiness workshops at local high schools and also offers a collection of guides and career planning materials to help teens determine what skills are required for various occupations.

ENEC staff will help youth find out how and where to get the training they will need to get the jobs they desire in the future.

For youth and adults alike, ENEC is now open until 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, in addition to its core hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information on YouthLINK or ENEC, please call 412-362-8580.

## IVC Celebrates Volunteerism

Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers (IVC) hosted its annual testimonial reception on Thursday, November 3, 2005, at the Downtown Hilton.

This reception honored Morgan K. O'Brien, CEO of Duquesne Light Company, and the Duquesne Light employee volunteers for their commitment to community service. The event also celebrated the more than

400 volunteers who comprise IVC's congregational network. IVC presented the 2005 Paul and Miriam Kossis Volunteer Award to Mt. Lebanon Christian Church for their volunteers' outstanding service to further IVC's mission to maximize the independence and overcome the isolation of frail elderly in Allegheny County.



Pictured from left to right are: Morgan K. O'Brien, CEO of Duquesne Light; Master of Ceremonies, Jim Roddey; and IVC President, Jim Kelly.



