



Champaign ECP District Coordinator Marc Changnon Wins Marajen Stevick Foundation grant of \$8,505.00

NEWS RELEASE

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Submitted by:

Doretha Simmons, Director
Human Resources & Community Relations

Champaign Unit 4 Schools is proud to announce that Education to Careers District Director, Mr. Marc Changnon has been awarded a Marajen Stevick Foundation grant of \$8,505.00 for the enhancement of the Champaign Schools “Career Cruising” program for middle school students from the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois. The committee felt that the project was a great example of working with students at an even younger age to help them understand the connection between reading and writing and their future career choices.

Mr. Changnon implements the Champaign Unit 4 goal of preparing all students for successful careers in the workforce through the Education to Careers and Professions Program (ECP), which emphasizes communication skills. The Education to Careers and Professions program has focused on high school students over the past 12 years and now sees a real need to take The Education to Careers and Professions program to middle school students.

In the past three years the program has adopted the use of an internet-based career exploration and planning tool through the ECP program entitled Career Cruising, The Complete Guidance System. The project will implement the ECP program and specifically Career Cruising in each of the District’s three middle schools over the next three years. The main features of the Career Cruising program include student interest and skills assessment; career profiles on hundreds of careers; multimedia interviews; college and financial aid information; electronic career portfolios and resume building.

Mr. Changnon will lead the implementation of the Career Cruising program in all three middle schools with assistance from the school counselors. He will work with school administrators to build staff awareness and a list of activities each student will need to complete; communicate with and inform parents; and most importantly inform all students of how to access and use the Career Cruising program. There are a number of skills that students will utilize while they work on a list of established activities through the Career Cruising program. The most important skills that each student will use throughout the process will be their ability to read and write. In addition, by having students start the career process at the middle school level, it will enhance the effectiveness of the Education to Careers and Professions Program in achieving its ultimate goal of having each student graduate with a sense of purpose and direction for their lives.

For more information, contact Mr. Changnon at 351-3764.
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