

# Cabell County Youth Empowerment Program Update

Kelly Plantz, CCYEP Student Support Specialist



On February 2, 2006 Jim Garrett from Huntington Junior College visited CCYEP to give a presentation on the college and answer any questions the students might have. On February 22, students followed up with a tour and lunch at Huntington Junior College. Students were very impressed with the college and especially the wide variety of courses offered at the school.



Read Right continues to service our students. Karen Kleppe is now tutoring students along with Marcia Hankins. By adding an additional tutor, they can provide services three times a week to our students. They meet with students Tuesday through Thursday from 8am till noon.



Students continue to participate in job readiness classes provided by WorkForceWV. They have received certificates of completion in the following: Resume Preparation and Development, Interviewing I, II, and Email Etiquette.

Jordan Dean and Nicole White, both Marshall University Criminal Justice majors, continue to assist in GED class throughout the week. They help students with tutoring and job related skills.

## WIA Day at the Capitol

On March 7th, students enrolled in the CCYEP program spend the day at the Capitol where they hosted a booth about the CCYEP program.

While there, the students and staff were invited into the legislative chambers, had their picture taken with their delegates, Kelly Sabonya, Kevin Craig, and Greg Howard.



## OWNERSHIP MENTALITY

Juleah Dotson was a high school drop out. She dropped out of Fairland High School in 2000 and tried to find employment but realized without an education, good employment would be hard to find.

She got married, to a man in the military, moved to Huntington and soon found herself living with her in-laws, which created tremendous strain on her marriage and their finances.

Juleah and her husband always dreamed of having their own home, nice car and a better future for their children. So while her husband was training for the military, Juleah decided it was time to begin bettering herself and her future. Juleah heard about the Cabell County Youth Empowerment Program through a friend and decided to check it out. Juleah enrolled in CCYEP in 2003 with her brother, John McComas, and best friend, Sarah Aliff.

The three of them decided they would challenge each other to set the standard for high attendance, participate in as many of the services and programs offered by CCYEP, and as soon as possible, get their GED's, jobs and go on to college.

While attending CCYEP, Juleah was able to find a few part-time jobs like working at a pretzel stand at the mall and she even sold air purifiers door-to-door. Those experiences were the fuel to not give up, stay motivated and get her GED.

Juleah, John and Sarah all passed their GED examination in the spring of 2004. John went on to college and Sarah and Julia went to work at local pizza businesses. However, when Juleah's sister-in-law was injured and left a quadriplegic, Juleah took a few months off from work to help care for her.

When Juleah returned to work at the pizza store, she started out as a part-time employee, delivering pizzas. Working only part-time at minimum wage plus tips, she found it very difficult to make ends meet. However, her hard work and determination have been rewarded. Today, after one and a half years, she is the assistant manager at Papa John's Pizza in Huntington working over 40 hours a week and making over \$7 an hour. She occasionally schedules herself some time to drive deliveries because the tips bring in extra income.

Juleah started as a part time employee and delivery driver trying to make it on minimum wage and tips. Today after 1 ½ year she is the assistant manger working over 40 hours a week and making over \$7 an hour. She still schedules her self from time to time as a delivery driver because the tips are good.

“CCYEP staff motivated me to stay focused and set the course to better my life. Tim always tells the students, we are not here to train you to work at McDonalds. We are here to give you the mentality to own your own McDonalds,” Juleah says.

This summer Juleah hopes to enroll at Marshall or Huntington Jr. College and get her degree as a Medical Transcriptionist.

“Hard work and determination pay off. CCYEP was the best thing that ever happened to me in getting me motivated and on track for getting my education, a good job and better future” she says.

