



February 1, 2009

Career fair for teens scheduled for March 5 at Ohio University-Lancaster

By *JOE GIESSLER*
The Eagle-Gazette Staff

LANCASTER - Teens might not know what they want to do when they grow up, but a career and job expo might help them discover a passion or allow them to give back to the community through volunteer work.

Fairfield County Job & Family Services' Workforce Development is sponsoring a career fair on March 5 at the Ohio University Lancaster Campus.

"It's an advantage for students to be able to recognize opportunities they may not know about," said Missy Fields, Workforce Development youth career adviser.

Fields said the expo will have vendors who present a four-part program to teens which explains volunteer opportunities, educational options, current employment options and future employment opportunities.

Stacy Brooks will represent the Southeastern Ohio Legal Services, where she is a staff attorney.

The agency that represents low-income and elderly clients is willing to offer students an opportunity to volunteer at the Lancaster office to give them a feel for legal profession, she said.

"I didn't realize I wanted to be a lawyer until pretty late in the game," Brooks said. "It's a wonderful opportunity (that students have to volunteer)."

Teens can register as late as the day of the event; parents are welcome to tour the expo with them, Fields said.

"Some students are independent. Others like their parents to be another set of ears," she said.

Habitat for Humanity in Fairfield County Executive Director Bob Sulick has been attending the expo each year it has been offered. He usually gets two to three volunteers from the event, and they start helping right away. Sulick said he is looking for volunteers for now and the future.

"We seem to have a good working relationship with the teens," he said.

Fields said numerous career fields, including electricians, lawyers, military and law enforcement, will be represented at the event.

Employers still may participate in the event. Fields hopes to have about 30 employers register for the expo. She thinks about 200 area teens will attend the event, which can help even if the students are unsure what careers they want to pursue.

"(The expo) has more of a future focus," said Fields. "Focusing on the skills and education they need in the future (to start their career)."

Additional Facts

If You Go

- **What:** Teen Opportunity Expo
 - **Where:** Gym, Ohio University Lancaster Campus gym, 1570 Granville Pike, Lancaster.
 - **When:** 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., March 5
 - **Cost:** Free
 - **More Information:** To register as a vendor, call Missy Fields, youth career adviser for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, at 740-681-9593.
-