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Teens obtain career advice at job fair

*BY JOE GIESSLER
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LANCASTER - Jordan Edwards, 17, has thought for a while he wants to be a computer engineer and after Thursday he knew how to achieve it.

Edwards was one of more than 200 teens that attended the career fair sponsored by Fairfield County Job & Family Services at the Ohio University Lancaster Campus.

"I knew what I wanted to do, but now I know the degrees I need to get there," said Edwards after speaking with an ITT Technical Institute representative.

The two-and-half-hour event was attended by 45 employers, mostly from Central Ohio, representing numerous career fields and opportunities. Possible opportunities include electrical, law enforcement, legal services, education, volunteer organizations and medical.

Workforce Development youth career adviser Missy Fields was pleased with the turnout of businesses and teenagers.

"This is definitely more than past years," Fields said. "Word is getting around, which is good because this is the time (as a teen) to start thinking about a career."

Lancaster Police Officer Jim Marshall wanted to answer any questions teens might have about being in law enforcement.

"A lot of kids have questions about how to become a police officer and what to major in at college," Marshall said. "We want to make sure being a police officer is something they think about doing."

Jenny Cowdrey was at the fair promoting the Dental Assistants Academy of Ohio, LLC.

She said students can attend the 10-week program while still in high school because the classes are offered on Saturdays.

"They can be certified and working (as a dental assistant) after taking the program," Cowdrey said.

She said the academy garnered one student because of the career fair this past year. She hoped to sign up six students at the fair.

Claypool Electrical Engineer and Project Manager Christina Deem wanted to let teens know of the various opportunities within the electric field.

She said the company offers a four year apprenticeship program.

Jami Bailey, 14, came with Bobbi Dorris, 42, in search of volunteer opportunities.

"I know she's interested in doing some volunteer work. This (event) gives her a broader spectrum to choose from," Dorris said.
