

Distinguished Service Award & Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Four County Career Center honored six graduates from the Career Center who have had success in their careers and who will serve as outstanding representatives for the school at the 20th annual “Wall of Fame” awards program Monday evening. Nominations for this honor are open to the public and based on the areas of significant contributions to the individual’s career, the community, education, and Four County Career Center.

This was also the 4th year for the “Distinguished Service Award” presented to the individual who has displayed on-going dedication and commitment to the Career Center and to the communities served by the Career Center. This year’s recipient is Jane Cook Hibbard, retired Early Childhood Education Instructor at the Career Center.

The new members were inducted during the annual advisory committee dinner where Ellie Cichocki, Workforce Development/Job Placement Coordinator, served as Master of Ceremonies. Superintendent Tim Meister formally welcomed everyone and gave special introductions. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tyler Conmay, a Law Enforcement and Security Tactics student from Napoleon, and a Student Ambassador. Holly Spangler, a Culinary Arts Management student from Liberty Center and a Student Ambassador, gave the invocation.

Shown above following the ceremony holding their plaques are (LEFT TO RIGHT) Jane Cook Hibbard; Larry H. Dean; Jeff Keefer; Bethany Mathers; Vicky Roughton; Susan (Herndon) Smith; and Dean Thiel.

Jane Cook Hibbard retired as Early Childhood Education Instructor from the Career Center in 2005 after thirty-six years in education. She has continued to be active in many educational and community organizations following retirement over the years and is a member of the FCCC Endowment Committee. Jane lives in Stryker with her husband Galen.

Larry H. Dean came to the Career Center from Hilltop High School and enrolled in the Auto Mechanics program from which he graduated in 1970. Larry is currently the President of Bryan Truck Line, Inc. in Montpelier. Larry lives in Bryan with his wife Michelle.

Jeff Keefer enrolled at the Career Center from Fayette High School, entered the Ag/Diesel Mechanics program and graduated in 1980. He is the Owner/Shop Manager/Mechanic of Keefer Farm Repairs and lives in Fayette with his wife LaWonda.

Bethany Mathers attended the Career Center from Napoleon High School and graduated in 2005 in the Hospitality Services program. Bethany is currently employed as Carryout at Chief Supermarket and lives in Napoleon.

Vicky Roughton came to the Career Center from Defiance High School, entered the Health Occupations program and graduated in 1973. She is currently the Health Information Management Supervisor at Mercy Health Defiance and resides in Defiance with her husband Keith.

Susan (Herndon) Smith enrolled at the Career Center from Holgate High School and graduated in 1989 in the Cosmetology program. Susan is the Senior Cosmetology Instructor at Vantage Career Center in Van Wert and she lives in Holgate with her husband Mark and daughter Tiffany.

Dean Thiel attended the Career Center from Edgerton High School, entered the Auto Body Repair program and graduated in 1983. He is currently the Body Shop and Service Manager at Jason Dietsch Collision and Customs in Edgerton and lives in Edgerton with his wife Lisa and their two daughters Elizabeth and Felicity.

A picture/plaque of each “Wall of Fame” and “Distinguished Service Award” recipient will be placed in the main entrance at Four County Career Center. A special “Thank You” is extended to all area businesses who continue to employ Career Center students and give them the opportunity to succeed. Nominations are now being accepted for next year’s “Wall of Fame” and “Distinguished Service Award.” Contact the Career Center at 419-267-3331 for nomination forms or visit the website at www.fourcounty.net.

