

OVAE CONNECTION



Pictured, left to right: Chris Walker and Dylan Beaver both seniors at Meade High School.
Photograph by Bill Moser. Used with permission.



Pictured, left to right: Charles Browne, OVAE; Joni Garcia (applying tape) and Emily Hunt of Arlington Career Center.
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Maryland Students Demonstrate Applicability to OVAE of Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Last week the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) welcomed students from Meade High School and the Community College of Baltimore County, both in Maryland, accompanied by an administrator from the Maryland State Department of Education, to discuss and demonstrate the applicability of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to the provision of homeland security for the United States. GIS is an interdisciplinary science with a core comprising geography, technology, and physics. It has the ability to capture, manage, analyze, and display all forms of geographically referenced information. GIS is widely used by federal and state governments and the private sector. Major federal government users of GIS are NASA, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Security Administration, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Center for Disease Control, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Labor. Significant uses of GIS include habitat, wetland, and water quality management and planning, prevention of crime, evacuation planning, astronomical monitoring, and the monitoring of shipping routes. GIS also is widely used in sales.

At Meade High School students are taught the GIS to a program and then learn to apply it. Initial certification in GIS is available in high school. After this certification, students are prepared for careers in occupations using GIS or to advance to undergraduate and graduate training. The estimated job growth in GIS from 2008 through 2018 is 19 percent. Salaries in GIS jobs range from \$33,000 to above \$100,000, with an additional \$20,000 to \$25,000 annually for employees with security clearances.

Virginia Students Demonstrate Physical Therapy Techniques to OVAE

Last week OVAE also hosted current students, a former student, and faculty from the Arlington, Va., public schools engaged in the discipline of physical therapy to explain and demonstrate the diagnosis and treatment of an injured ankle. The mission of the Arlington Career Center, where the students have received their career and technical training, is to prepare students to realize their potential in a changing society marked by technological advances. Four career clusters are offered at the center: business management and administration; science, technology, engineering and mathematics; health science; and government and public administration. The physical therapy students, who were from the health science cluster, demonstrated their ability to explain the normal range of motion of the ankle, evaluate it using diagnostic techniques, and tape it to protect it from damaging movement. Former Arlington student Synthia Goode, a graduate of Old Dominion University and a certified athletic trainer who also has a master's degree in education, explained how she has moved through progressively more responsible positions in physical therapy since getting her start in Arlington.

Physical therapists are responsible for assessing, organizing and delivering rehabilitative programs that improve mobility, relieve pain, increase strength, and improve or correct disabling conditions resulting from disease or injury. Opportunities range from physical therapy assistants to fully qualified physical therapists. The majority of physical therapists hold advanced degrees. The median wage for physical therapists in 2010 was \$76,310 and almost 200,000 of them were employed in the U.S. The projected job growth from 2010 to 2020 is much faster than average, with 100,600 projected job openings between 2010 and 2020.

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