

NEW



DIRECTIONS

career center

Newsletter for Donors and Volunteers

Winter 2009

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The Pathfinder

Danter Returns as Executive Director

The Board of Trustees of New Directions Career Center (NDCC), recently announced the selection of Linda Danter as executive director for the agency. Danter, previously served as co-director and later director of NDCC from 1995 – 2000. She returned to the agency because of her desire to lead the organization as it works to assist the unemployed, as well as career changers, during these challenging economic times.

“My passion continues to be assisting individuals, especially women, achieve economic self-sufficiency,” said Danter. Darla King, Board

President and owner of King Business Interiors, Inc., is pleased with Danter’s return. “Linda was instrumental in expanding NDCC’s funding base, as well as its programs and services during her original tenure,” observed King. “She is committed to our clients as well as our donors, volunteers and funding sources.”

Danter, who holds a PhD from Ohio State University, is passionate and well-prepared for the challenges ahead with more than 20 years experience in positions of leadership and management in not-for-profit organizations.



Danter, who resumed her duties on January 5th, lives in Bexley with her husband, Ken, and is active in various charities.

Inside this issue:

- Women of Promise Plans Underway 2
- English Foundation Grant Announced 2
- Limited Brands, Inc. Grant Helps Women Develop Careers 2
- Volunteers Participate in “Paint Day” 3
- Bostwick Scholarship Awarded 3
- Client Numbers Rise 3
- In-Kind Donations Recognized 4

NDCC Invites Guests to March Open Houses

The NDCC Board of Trustees invites volunteers, donors, community partners and friends to attend one of two upcoming Open Houses. The purpose of the Open Houses is to welcome Linda Danter as Executive Director and provide guests with an opportunity to tour the new home offices of the Center at 199 East Rich Street in downtown Columbus.

Open House Schedule

March 3 4:00—6:30 p.m.
(Hors d’oeuvres and beverages will be provided).

March 4 7:30—9:30 a.m.
(A continental breakfast will be provided.)

Please RSVP your attendance by e-mail: rsvp@newdirectionscc.org OR by phone: 849-0028 ext. 107.

Parking is available at the pay lot just south of Cherry Street behind the NDCC or at meters on Rich Street.

We look forward to welcoming you on either March 3 or March 4!

“To be successful, the first thing to do is fall in love with your work.”

Sister Mary Lauretta

Women of Promise Event Scheduled for April 16

On Thursday, April 16 the New Directions Career Center (NDCC) will hold its annual fund-raising event, **Women of Promise**, at the Fawcett Center. Expected attendance is 400-450 for the Center's signature fund-raiser, which features music, hors d'oeuvres, a live auction, and a fantastic silent auction. The highlight of the evening will once again be the presentation of the Woman of Promise award to an outstanding NDCC graduate.

Channel 10 News Anchor, **Andrea Cambern**, will emcee this year's event.

"Hold the Date" announcements are being mailed in early February, and invitations will be sent in early March.

There are a variety of sponsorship levels for businesses who wish to support the event. Individuals may support the event through purchase of regular or patron tickets (a patron ticket also provides support for a Center client or graduate to attend the event).

Items for inclusion in the silent and live auctions are also being solicited at this time. For additional information about the event and/or how you can help to

make it successful, please contact Linda Warden, Development Director at lwarden@newdirectionscc.org or 849-0028 ext. 110.



English Foundation Benefits NDCC's Operations

The English Foundation recently awarded a \$25,000 grant to the New Directions Career Center to assist with payment of costs related to the recent move of the agency's offices.

Board and staff are extremely grateful for the grant, which will be used for several re-location costs including:

- Printing of new stationery;
- New building signage;

- New carpeting and paint;
- Professional mover's expense;
- Cabling and set-up of phone and computer systems.

The Center's offices are now housed at 199 East Rich Street in downtown Columbus.

"We are extremely grateful to the English Foundation for this grant, which allows us to provide an inviting, professional learning environment for our clients."

Darla King
Board President

Limited Brands, Inc. Grant Will Help Women Develop Careers

A recent \$25,000 grant from Limited Brands, Inc. will provide needed support for the New Directions Career Center's programs and services. Specifically, the Limited Brands grant will be used to serve clients — especially single moms with dependent children. Since 1980, NDCC has focused its programs and services on women in transition, who need to enter or re-enter the job market. The types of transitions that bring women to the Center include divorce, death or disablement of a spouse, escape from a

situation of domestic violence, and job loss.

Grants such as the Limited Brands, Inc. grant, allow NDCC to provide services to anyone in need (regardless of ability to pay), plus provide the child care and transportation assistance that many women need so they can participate in programs and training that will lead to economic independence for themselves and their children.



Volunteers Participate in “Paint Day” at the Center

Volunteers recently assisted staff of NDCC in painting classroom, office and reception area walls. More than 60 hours of volunteer time helped to create an attractive, inviting space for clients, staff and volunteers at the Center’s new home (199 East Rich Street).

AEP Board member, Velda Otey, provided — and personally delivered — lunch for the hungry workers.

Staff wish to extend a special thanks to all volunteers who helped with this important task. These special people included: Darla King, Bev Martin, Elspeth Willoughby, Mara Ackerman, and Velda Otey. Executive Director, Linda Danter, extended a formal thank you to volunteers, “Because of your hard work, we have a bright and cheerful place to welcome our clients. We sincerely thank you.”



Volunteers donated more than 60 hours to help NDCC staff paint classrooms, offices and other areas.

Bostwick Scholarship Awarded

New Directions Career Center recently awarded the Bostwick Memorial Scholarship to Columbus resident, Toska Pearson. The scholarship is given annually in memory of Anne Bostwick, a NDCC career counselor who died in a tragic auto accident in 1991. The scholarship recognizes extraordinary NDCC graduates who pursue additional education as one component of achieving their career goals.

Pearson, a single mother, came to NDCC in 2008. An American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter, she sought the resources of the Center’s *New Directions* program to further her career. Said Pearson, “At the NDCC we were

encouraged to dream without barriers, dream where it was open and safe — and dream I did! After the dreaming, we wrote and drew our vision on paper. Then I thought, this doesn’t have to stay a vision — it can become a reality. Now I am on the path of reality.” She credited the personality tests, open discussions and hands-on exercises in the class as contributors to her decision to pursue more education. “My career goal is to obtain a major in ASL and a minor in deaf culture,” stated Pearson, who is now enrolled at Columbus State Community College. She plans to transfer to Gallaudet University in the Fall. Congratulations, Toska!



Bostwick Scholarship Winner, Toska Pearson, signing “interpreter.”

Client Numbers Increasing as Unemployment Rate Rises

Requests for the NDCC programs and services are increasing. This is not surprising, in light of the current economic climate and unemployment rates.

Since October the number of clients served through the Center’s regularly scheduled programs have risen. However, the most dramatic increase has occurred in the number of requests from churches and businesses who are seeking the expertise of our licensed career counselors and professional placement

specialist to provide customized services for individuals who have either lost their jobs or are at risk of losing employment.

Program workshops are being developed to meet the identified needs of various groups. Topics covered in these workshops often include resume writing, networking, interviewing skills, eliminating barriers to employment, and developing financial literacy.



Client numbers and service requests are rising.

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Volunteers**

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NDCC Staff Roster

Linda S. Danter, Ph.D., Executive Director
Linda Warden, Development Director
Terra Smith, LPCC Director of Programs & Services
Amanda Fox, LPC Career Counselor
Betty Howard, Career Consultant
Cynthia Kazalia, Placement Specialist
Meredith Kitts, Office Administrator
Elsbeth Willoughby, Volunteer Coordinator
Edna Farmer, Office Assistant
Rosanna Tabler, Office Assistant

NDCC Board of Trustees

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Karen Alsbrooks, The Ohio State University
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Donna Stevenson, Northwest Title
Nome Stillwell, Columbus State Community College
Ariana Ulloa-Olavarrieta
Ellen Wiseman Julian (Trustee Emeritus)
Laura Yaroma, Honda of America Mfg., Inc.

New Directions Career Center (NDCC) serves individuals — particularly central Ohio women in transition — to help them attain and maintain economic self-sufficiency. To achieve this mission, NDCC delivers employment counseling, career education, life skills training and job placement programs and services. These programs and services are designed to help individuals find fulfilling employment that will support a lifetime of economic independence — not just a job.

Since its inception in 1980, the New Directions Career Center (NDCC) has successfully empowered more than 60,000 individuals to enter or re-enter the workforce in fulfilling careers that allow them to support themselves and their families.

Wish List

The following items are needed:

- 37"-42" TV for Classroom
- White Board for Classroom
- Vacuum Cleaner
- Paper Shredder
- Institutional Coffee Pot
- 4-in-1 Printer, Copier, Scanner and Fax Machine
- Microwave (medium to large size for client use)
- Postage Stamps
- Easels (4 needed)
- Flip chart paper for easels
- Flat-screen computer monitors (15 needed)
- Coffee and coffee supplies



To make a donation, please contact Linda Warden, Development Director, 614-849-0028 Ext. 110 or lwarden@newdirectionscc.org

In-Kind Donations Update

New Directions Career Center has recently received several generous in-kind donations. These include:

- Office furniture from King Business Interiors, Inc.;
- Paper towels and toilet tissue from Cardinal Health;
- Paint supplies from Elsbeth Willoughby;
- Copier paper (legal size) and coffee from The Danter Company;
- Catered lunch for workers during "Paint Day" from American Electric Power (AEP)
- Door mats and first aid kit from Board of Trustees donations.