

# The Best Kept Secret in CAMBRIA COUNTY...

## Pennsylvania CareerLink

Your One Stop for Employment, Education, and Training

### Meet 2 of the Secrets of Our Success—



**Michelle**  
&  
**Maria**



Meet Michelle Mauro! She has been employed at the PA CareerLink-Cambria County since October of 2003. Michelle started as the PA CareerLink Service Assistant before accepting a position as a Career Planner in the Youth Services Department where she assists in providing vocational services to at-risk youth. Michelle determines eligibility for youth ages 16-21 who are interested in participating in a paid work experience. This eligibility is based on income or an individual disability. Recently, Michelle helped eleven youth gain summer work experience as part of the Youth Team's 8-week Summer Youth Program. Michelle also conducts weekly career awareness workshops at the Greater Johnstown High School as part of the After School Live Program as well as monitors the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program at Conemaugh Valley High School, Greater Johnstown Career & Technology Center, and Penn Cambria High School. Michelle is also a member of the Business Services Team, the Committee of Luncheon Professionals, and the Job Sharing Committee. When not at work, Michelle enjoys walking, shopping, gardening, and spending time with her boyfriend Bob and her son Joe.

This is Maria Strocio, an Employment Specialist for the Employment, Advancement and Retention Network (EARN) program, formally known as SPOC. She has worked at the PA CareerLink-Cambria County since 2001 but has worked with individuals with barriers to employment for eight years. Maria's main duty is assisting individuals, who are currently receiving public assistance, move into the workforce and become self-sufficient. She provides daily classroom instruction, case management and counseling to her consumers. Additionally, Maria is responsible for developing and maintaining training sites in the community for EARN clients to increase and practice proper work skills and behaviors. She has also become a liaison to many of the area's community services. Aside from daily work tasks, Maria is a member of The Accessibility Enhancement Team and The Committee of Luncheon Professionals. Maria really enjoys meeting many different people and feels that her experiences at the PA CareerLink have helped her grow as an advocate for strong workforce development opportunities. She thrives on seeing people overcome barriers and accomplish their goals, no matter how large or small. After work, Maria enjoys spending time with her teenage daughter, doing yard work, and taking long naps. Maria was also named "most handy with tools" at the PA CareerLink-Cambria County by her fellow co-workers.

ALL of Our Services are at NO COST! ALL of Our Services are at NO COST! ALL of Our Services are at NO COST!

*It's Not a Secret Anymore... Read What Some Customers Have to Say...*

Thank you so much for everything. I have learned a lot and have grown as a more confident person.  
Thank you also for your patience and kindness and for treating me with respect.

--Nancy, Johnstown, PA

You are so dedicated in all you do and absolutely wonderful.  
You have helped me keep my optimism and I am grateful to you.

--Connie, Central City, PA

# Employers & Job Seekers



Kim & Debra

At some point in life, one may be in a position of unfamiliar territory – unemployment. This was the case for Kim Kozma and Jo Ann Cotterman

In 2003, Kim became unemployed. She started into a program at the PA CareerLink Cambria County and it was determined that Kim required training. Kim committed to a two-year program in the area of Medical Office Specialist. She was approved for training through the Workforce Investment Act program for Adults and Dislocated Workers. Kim successfully completed training in December of 2004. During the next year, while employed part-time, Kim worked on her intensive job search, resume, and interviewing skills to obtain employment in her field of study. In December of 2005, the program developed a Workfind worksite that was in need of a medical office secretary. In January of 2006 Kim began the paid work experience with Laurel Highlands Medical Consultants, Inc. (LHMC, Inc.). Kim was hired on July 3, 2006! Debra Iachini-Lux, owner of LHMC, Inc., is thrilled with the success the Workfind program had for her business.



Debra & Jo Ann

As a new supporter of the program, Debra was instrumental in securing the Workfind worksite that led to full-time employment for Jo Ann Cotterman. Jo Ann went through an organizational realignment in 2005. She sought out PA CareerLink Cambria County for job search assistance and/or training. It was determined that Jo Ann was in need of training. She was approved for training in the area of Medical Assistant through the WIA program and started in July of 2005. Jo Ann was awarded a certificate in the Medical Assistant program in April of 2006. Jo Ann attained the award of Valedictorian! In May of 2006, Debra Iachini-Lux from LHMC, Inc. informed our program that a physician in the area of pulmonary care was interested in the Workfind program. Debra had expressed to her client, Dr. Christopher Begley, how impressed she was with the program. Dr. Begley was in need of a Medical Assistant. Jo Ann began the paid work experience in June 2006 and she was hired by Dr. Christopher Begley on September 5, 2006!

With the help of their Career Planner, Sandra Benko-Presnell, through training, career development, and a paid work experience – Kim and Jo Ann met their goals with success. Best wishes for continued success --- and a special thanks to Debra Iachini-Lux for her continued support of our mission!



Kim, Debra, Jo Ann, Sandra

## Of the PA CareerLink's Success

### \*\*\*WE NEED YOUR HELP!\*\*\*

If you have a success story that you would like to submit, please email it to Jacki at [jtrexler@goodwilljohnstown.org](mailto:jtrexler@goodwilljohnstown.org). If your story is selected to be in the next edition of our newsletter, you will receive a current edition of *Johnstown Magazine*.

### Check Out These Upcoming Events at PA CareerLink - Cambria County!

In conjunction with Health Careers Week (November 13-17, 2006), the PA CareerLink is organizing mini career fairs for students in area schools. We would like to involve area alumni that have chosen to stay in Johnstown to work in the health care field OR have returned to the area to pursue a health care career. If you are alumni of an area school and want to participate in a mini-career fair during Health Careers Week at your alma mater, let us know. Call Eva Dolges at 533-2493, ext. 274 or Pam Evans-Hartland at 536-3536, ext. 287.

Our Annual Mature Worker Job Fair will be held on **Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at our Cambria County Office. Although the job fair is designed to assist older workers in their job search it is open to anyone of any age. **For more information, call Abby at (814) 533-2493 ext. 221.**

The PA CareerLink - Cambria County is now accepting applications for the [Brownfields Job Training Program](#), Contact Amy at 533-2493 ext. 288 for information.

Check our Calendar of Events on our website: [www.pacareerlink.state.pa.us](http://www.pacareerlink.state.pa.us), for up-to-date workshop information!  
Also, be sure to log on to our local website at [www.cambriacareerlink.org](http://www.cambriacareerlink.org).

Please note, the PA CareerLink-Cambria County will be closed on the following dates:  
**Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**

LOOK FOR OUR NEXT PA CareerLink - Cambria County NEWSLETTER  
 IN EARLY January 2007



Equal Opportunity Programs. Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. To sign up for any of these events, or if you have questions regarding PA CareerLink services, please call: **(814) 533-2493 ext. 221** (to speak with the PA CareerLink Service Assistant), TDD (814) 535-6698.

Visit us on the web at [www.pacareerlink.state.pa.us](http://www.pacareerlink.state.pa.us).

We are located in downtown, Johnstown at 200 Lincoln Street.

Hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.