

AmeriCorps Member of Month



By Gwen Woodson
AmeriCorps
Director

Joan Wicker is a full-time member of the Grenada School District AmeriCorps Program (GSDAP), and she knows how to "Get Things Done!" The GSDAP focuses on tutoring Grenada School District K-8 students

needing assistance in math and reading.

After learning about the program from her friend Mrs. Ross, a former member, Wicker decided to do a year of service with the Grenada School District AmeriCorps Program. She plans to earn 1,700 service hours to qualify for the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award. Wicker is serving at the Grenada Middle School where she mentors and tutors 6th - 8th grade students.

"She is not only a wonderful example and role model to the students, but also to her fellow AmeriCorps members," said Program Director Gwen Woodson.

The Grenada School District has hosted AmeriCorps members for the last five years in the role of tutors. This year are 1,015 students involved in the tutoring program. GSDAP also offers skills training, continuing education, and other benefits for members. These opportunities enable members to better serve local needs while gaining work experience.

Wicker challenges her students not only to read, but to understand the vocabulary and meaning of what they have read. She tutors 22 students throughout the day - mostly in reading comprehension, but also in math. In addition, she tutors students before and after school. Although the majority of her time was spent focusing on academics, Wicker manages to serve as the program photographer.

"I have always had a passion for sharing knowledge. I believe the only way to better our community and country is by having well informed citizens. The best way to insure our country stays strong is by assisting its youth. Talking isn't enough. Doing is the only way to get things done," Wicker stated. "AmeriCorps is an effective way of empowering our youth with the tools they will need to make informed decisions."

Wicker is an active member of Shiloh Baptist Church in Big Creek. She assists with their Awana program. She has also served as a Girl Scout Troop Leader and served her country as an Illinois Army National Guard member. Wicker continues to serve her community through the Grenada School District AmeriCorps Program by participating in the Downtown Jubilee, Make a Difference Day at the Boy's and Girl's Club, Food Pantry, Grenada Lake Visitor's Center, and the Elizabeth Jones Library reading program.

Wicker is a mother of five: Heather (Sean) Sartin, Ethan, Marshall, Shawn, and Jane. She has one grandchild, Alex. Her husband of 23 years is Kenneth Wicker, Manager of Waste Management. She attended the University of Southern Mississippi majoring in history/secondary education. Her service at Grenada Middle School will help her decide if she wants to get her teaching certification.

"Joan is one of the hardest working, most humble, and positive people I have ever encountered in my professional life," stated GSDAP Director, Gwen Woodson. "I have had the pleasure to watch Joan interact with her students and have seen the passion she has for education. I am confident she will make an amazing teacher in the future and have no doubt she will positively impact students, fellow teachers, and community members. I am extremely thankful that she is a member of the GSDAP."

Since 1994, more than 775,000 AmeriCorps members have given one billion hours of service, mobilized tens of millions of volunteers, and impacted the lives of countless citizens.

For more information about the Grenada School District AmeriCorps Program, contact Program Director Gwen Woodson at gwoodson@grenadak12.com. For more information about AmeriCorps, visit www.americorps.gov.



High Hopes Teacher Discounts

Grenada School District Employees must present school ID to receive discounts at participating businesses.

333 Restaurant - free tea with buffet or entree'

Custom Printing - 15% off custom car tag

Crystal's Diner - 10% off lunch excluding drinks

Dolly's - 10% off all collegiate items

Elements - 15% off regular priced merchandise

Extreme Fitness & Tanning - \$20 per month gym membership, add base tanning package for additional \$10 or 15% off tanning package

Love Shoes - 10% off regular priced merchandise

Mag's - 10% off regular priced merchandise

Neblett's - 10% off framing

Ohlis Paint - 15% off all retail prices

Orleans Café and Bakery - 10% off any entree'

Puddleducks - 10% off regular priced merchandise

R & S Storage - 50% off 1st month's rent, requires at least a 2 month contract

Stewart's Sports & More - 10% off all regular priced merchandise

Tassin Jewelers - 10% off all regular priced gifts; 20% off all regular priced jewelry

The Gift Box - 10% off all regular priced gifts

Town Square Gifts - 10% off all regular priced merchandise

Tricia's Salon & Day Spa - 20% off hair products

Ziprint - 5¢ black and white copies (regularly priced 15¢ per copy)

GCTC Hosts Annual Craft Committee Dinner



GCTC Student Services Coordinators Kaye Dorroh and Bonnie Brunt, met with WIN Job Center Representative Ida Givens, and Luvata Representative Ron Kane to discuss ideas for skills to be taught to GSD students.

By Kaye Dorroh and Bonnie Brunt
GCTC Student Services Coordinators

The Grenada Career and Technical Center (GCTC) hosted its annual Craft Committee dinner on November 19, 2013, at the GCTC. Each program instructor invited business and community leaders to serve on an advisory committee that met before dinner to discuss ideas and recommendations related to the skilled profession being taught. The purpose of this partnership between the Career and Technical training programs and the business and community leaders is to provide a means for ongoing collaboration, to insure the relevance of instruction to business and industry needs, and to promote public awareness of the Career and Technical programs being offered.

After the advisory committee meetings, the participants enjoyed a delicious dinner catered by Orleans with desserts following the meal. Dr. Cliff Craven, GCTC Director, informed everyone about Career Academy, Mississippi's latest attempt to curb the drop-out rate. Career Academy sets forth the concept that

the student will be more engaged in their education if they are focused on their career interests, making their educational academic choices around their career choice. Career Academy at GHS is still in the planning stage.

Dr. Craven conducted a drawing for the door prizes. Among the door prizes were an Adirondack chair made and donated by the Construction students and a bottle tree made and donated by the Welding students. Other prizes furnished by GCTC programs included a Cajun turkey, cookie dough, gift cards to Spencer's, and a tool kit.

Dr. Craven expressed gratitude to all those who attended the dinner by stating, "I am extremely pleased with the support that our community displayed tonight. It is a great example of how our community, administration, teachers, staff, and students pulling together can make a difference. This can only positively affect our students and center. Thank you all for attending and I look forward to working with the leadership of our community."

Grenada School District Website
www.grenadak12.com



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