

# NEWSLETTER

## JEROME PRAIRIE'S EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



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### Transition Center's New Teacher

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Meet Clay Valenzuela-Reece... Clay is a new hire for the Jerome Prairie Transition Center. He has joined our staff for the 2019-2020 school year as a part-time teacher. "This is my first teaching position, and I could not be more excited. I work with a great group of young adults and am propelling my teaching career to the next level." Clay said.

Clay is continuing his degree to finish his teaching certification and obtain two majors and to move to a Masters program to complete his education. Clay elaborated, "I attended Tacoma Community College where I completed my Associates Degree. From Tacoma, I went on to a four-year institution in Campbellsville, Kentucky. The Pacific Northwest is the only home for me, so I decided to move back. I am now enrolled at Southern Oregon University and Western Governors University."

We are thrilled to have 'Clay Nation' on board. "I am excited for the rest of the year at Jerome Prairie, the staff and students have been very welcoming and have allowed me to step right in and be a part of a special group. I can not wait to see how the students grow for the rest of the year and become independent adults."

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### Transition Center News

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The start of the school year has been flawless. The Fall schedule of seminars are in full swing. Courses that focus on self-care, relationships, finance, household responsibilities, communication, job skill development, and recognizing empathy. One of our classes even expands job opportunities and skills by learning to greet customers, pump the requested amount of gasoline, clean windows, check fluid levels, check tire pressure, and process different types of payments.

October is filled with opportunities for growth. We begin building our community experiences with bi-weekly visits to Redwood Terrace. At the assisted living community we will learn ways to be compassionate, respectful, and loving caregivers during the facilities activity time. CLCM will visit on the 9th, and a trip to Harry and David on the 16th.

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### G.E.D. & On-Line News

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September was an eventful month for us. We added 56 students to our team. Deputy Simon came with Pizza and spent some time getting to know the team. Our members had the chance to ask questions and get to know an officer in a positive way. We are excited to take advantage of the Car Smart opportunity on Wednesdays with parents and family planning to join in the upcoming month. Patty and Charae will be attending the GED Summit on October 16th and 17th in Salem Oregon. They are both excited for the opportunity to bring home more knowledge to help the team reach their goals. Our team is Moving Mountains by reaching goals.

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### Student Spot-Light

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**Drew Gasperson:**

This is Drew's second year at JPTC. He is a graduate of NVHS. His favorite thing to do at the Center is cooking, socializing and learning about ways to get a job. His hobbies are playing video games and watching TV. Drew's teachers like his upbeat, positive attitude every day.