

## WCCC Names March 2011 WCCC Employer of the Month

Deerfield Township Fire Department was honored as Warren County Career Center's Employer of the Month for March 2011. The department has hired many WCCC graduates of the Fire Science program, donated an out-of-service fire truck to the program and works with the Adult Education Public Safety Services program.

Chief Chris Eisele and Deputy Chief Doug Wehmeyer said their department has a good relationship with the WCCC programs. "We only hire people into the department with two years of experience, unless they have come through the Career Center's Fire Science program," Chief Eisele said. "It works out great, and as long as you continue to turn out such excellent students, we have no problem hiring them."

Former WCCC student Austin Mellendorf, of Lebanon, finished the WCCC Fire Science program in 2009 and began working for Deerfield and also Union Township Fire Department. He plans on taking a Paramedic course in college next year to continue his education. Current junior Samantha Scherer, of Waynesville, said she likes the program and plans to use her Miami Valley Tech Prep scholarship to continue her studies after graduation in the emergency medical field. Her ultimate goal is to go into the field of medicine, she said.

Deputy Chief Wehmeyer said that the quality of training facilities at WCCC benefits the students in many ways. "You have a two-story training house inside your lab that can be changed around for different floorplans," he said. "For a student to be training in there and have a sheet of drywall, for example, fall on his head, that could later save his life when it happens in a real fire and he goes back to his training and knows what to do."

Some of the Deerfield firefighters also serve as teachers in the Adult Education classes for firefighters and emergency medical technicians, and the department uses the school for further training for employees. "We appreciate all that you do for us," WCCC Superintendent Maggie Hess said. "You work with our students, hire our students, donate needed equipment and help advise us on training, and we want to thank you."

Pictured from left, Austin Mellendorf, Fire Science Instructor Pat Lemming, Samantha Scherer, Principal Gary Patton, Superintendent Maggie Hess, Adult Education Director Tom Harris, Treasurer Karen Royer, Chief Chris Eisele, Deputy Chief Doug Wehmeyer, Adult Education Coordinator Gary Reed.

