

Denise's Animal House Honored May 2010

Denise's Animal House, located on Old 122 in Lebanon, was named the May 2010 Employer of the Month for the Warren County Career Center. Owner Denise Meinhardt has employed two Veterinary Science students over the past two years, and she plans to hire more students in the future. Her business provides boarding and grooming services for dogs and cats, and she has worked with some other species of animals as well. "The students from the Career Center come to me with skills, a desire to be there, and in a frame of mind that they want to learn more," she said. "I think it is both appropriate and courageous for the school to allow these young people to work directly with animals to give them the real life experience they are getting. It is a great program."

Senior Ashley Kish, Springboro, has worked at Denise's for two years. "I have learned a lot about the responsibility of having a job, this was my first job," she said. "I learned how to tell which temperaments of dogs work together, and also learned secretarial type duties such as answering the phone and computer skills. I also learned that cleanliness in an animal setting is very important." Ashley plans on studying Criminal Justice at Bowling Green University next fall. She wants to work in animal rescue.

Senior AJ Rickey, Waynesville, began working at Denise's in January. She said she has learned so much about the operation of a business and the care of animals from her experience. "We do feeding, medication, shots, everything the animals need," she said. AJ plans to attend Sinclair Community College this fall and study nursing. She said she would like to continue to work at Denise's while she is in college.

Ms. Meinhardt's business has been in operation for 10 years. She also served on the first business advisory committee when the curriculum for the program was being developed.



Pictured from left, WCCC Director of Secondary Education Gary Patton, Ashley Kish, WCCC Treasurer Karen Royer, Denise Meinhardt, WCCC Veterinary Science Instructor Andi Schmidt, AJ Rickey, and WCCC Superintendent Maggie Hess.

