



Perris News

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New Vocational School to Open in July



Owner Ramona Lawson cuts the ribbon on the new center on Wilkerson Avenue.

A new vocational school will open in Perris in July, targeting hard to place residents looking for that first job as well as those injured at work and looking to restart their lives with a new career.

Representatives of the Perris City Council, Perris Valley Chamber of Commerce, various City school districts attended the ribbon cutting of Ramona's Vocational School on Wilkerson Avenue near 4th Street.

The school, which formally opens July 6, offers dental assistant classes, as well as line cook and baker, florist, child development and basic computer training. The campus targets adults who have not finished high school and those injured on the job seeking retraining for new employment opportunities.

School officials spent six months attending chamber functions and contacting Perris businesses and representatives of Riverside County's Economic Development Department and Workforce Development Board.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Yarbrough was the keynote speaker at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Yarbrough said he took advantage of vocational training as a high-school student to learn auto mechanics. Today, he owns an auto repair business, a towing company and builds and restores race cars and vintage Volvos for local enthusiasts. He praised vocational educational programs for the opportunities they provide to students not interested in attending college.

It helped him find a career he loves.

"It's important to find a job you enjoy, one that you're good at and one that keeps you in the lifestyle you're accustomed to," Yarbrough said.

Director Ramona Lawson said the school places emphasis on teaching budgeting and family planning as well as academic/vocational subjects. She called locating to Perris an "awesome opportunity" to make a difference in the lives of people who need a helping hand to achieve success.

"We want you to move to the next step," she said. "We want to motivate our students to go to college but we also realize that not everyone is college bound. Our mission is to make sure that every person has access to education and training so that they may become successful regardless of their economic and social background. We believe that education is a basic right and if they are willing to learn, we are willing to teach."

More information about the vocational school and its class offerings is available at 951-940-6000.



Perris Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Yarbrough speaks at the ribbon-cutting ceremony of a new vocational school in the City.