

JANUARY, 2017

## **BRENNER RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT**



*ERIC BRENNER*

Eric Brenner, Employment Specialist, is the recipient of The Counseling Center's Razzle Dazzle Award, which is given for exemplary customer service. He was nominated by Diane DeRue, Vice President and Chief of Recovery Services. As an employment specialist, Eric works with individuals who encounter barriers to competitive employment, including those with a severe mental illness, legal difficulties or transitional age youth who face challenges in achieving independence. His job is to alleviate those barriers and involves working with both job seekers and potential employers.

Eric assesses the life experience, interests, skills and work experience, if any, of those seeking employment to help them determine jobs for which they might be suited. If individuals are uncertain of job interests, he will assist them with a job development process. He also contacts potential employers to learn about their requirements so a suitable match can be made. If needed, he can provide on-site job coaching. He then follows employees placed for 90 days post placement and can intervene if concerns arise. Also, any time after placement, he is available to provide job retention services. DeRue noted that Brenner has a background in education and that the skills he gained in education are well used in his current position. "He starts with where the person is and works with them; he provides a safe environment for them to try things. He is extremely good at connecting with his clients, they feel very much at ease with him." DeRue nominated Brenner for two specific achievements. In one case, he met with a client for the first time and was told that if the client did not have a job by the following week, he would be subject to incarceration. Two days later, Eric found the client a job. Eric also met with another client and assessed her work history and skills. He knew where there were openings and the client had a job she wanted and liked to do within two hours. Eric is making a difference in the lives of those with whom he works!

## **ORRVILLE OFFICE HOURS EXPANDED**

Since the move of the Orrville office to 859 South Main Street, demand for counseling services has continually increased. To meet the demand, the Orrville office, which has been open on Mondays and Thursdays, will now be open on Wednesdays as well. Hours are: Mondays, 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. and Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The office is staffed by psychologist, Amanda Brewer, Ph.D., social worker, Melanie Zuk, LISW-S and counselor, Jeff Bradford, PCC. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 330-683-5106. Orrville United Way provides funding to support counseling services at our Orrville office.