

# 'Recession resistant' jobs top work list of future

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By BOBBY WARREN  
Staff Writer

WOOSTER -- What will the jobs of the future be in Wayne County?

Will they be something hatched from the minds of visionaries like the late Gene Roddenberry, the creator of "Star Trek," or George Lucas of "Star Wars" fame?

Is it possible they might be more of the same, except for an infusion of technology?

Of the 30 fastest growing occupations in Ohio, half of them are directly related to health care, according to work force statistics on the job outlook to 2014 compiled by the state. The number is more than half when veterinary technologists and technicians are included in the broader category of health care.

Wooster Community Hospital Chief Executive Officer William Sheron said the work force development statistics really grabbed his attention.

"You can't export these jobs," Sheron said. "They are more recession-resistant. Health care does not matter on the economy, either you need it, or you don't."

Not only are health care jobs fast-growing, they also are good-paying ones, Sheron said.

The highest projected growth is for network systems and data communications analysts. The need is expected to grow 47.3 percent with 412 annual openings by 2014. The average wage is \$32.73 an hour. Home health aides are No. 2 on the list. A 45 percent rise is expected for home health aides, where there will be nearly 2,000 openings annually with a \$9.42 hourly wage.

Rounding out the top five are physicians assistants, computer software engineers and medical assistants.

TechniGraphics recently announced it will add 150 jobs over three years. The company produces digital imagery, like maps for the departments of Defense and Homeland Security.

Executive Vice President Mary Vaidya described the mapping work done at TGS as helping those who have "boots on the ground" in the military.

"I like to say we are in production, but we are also in future production," Vaidya said.

Some of the engineering work done at TGS in its product lifecycle management division includes creating true 3D models of products, including information about the types of materials are used.



The visual information systems used by TGS can be used to determine how natural disasters might affect buildings and evacuation routes. In water systems, a 3D model can show what will happen if a bolt is turned or a lever used.

"Digital is the future," said Meisha Lutsey, vice president and general manager of operations at TechniGraphics. The visual interface used by Tom Cruise in the movie "Minority Report" is not that far away, she added. Cruise played a futuristic cop who moved and sorted computer information by waving his hands and moving his fingers in the air instead of with a keyboard or mouse.

Scientists at Ohio State University's Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center are doing work that will likely add jobs in the fields of alternative energy and manufacturing. Projects include turning biomass into energy, developing a plant in the dandelion family to be used as a domestic source of rubber and improving the process to produce ethanol.

"OARDC is investing in food, bioenergy, bio-based products and the environment," Director Steve Slack said. "All of the things we see in economic development in Wayne County fit into these areas."

Wayne Economic Development Council is in the process of revising its targeted industry list. Once public officials determine what industries they want to see, it will help in identifying what jobs will follow, WEDC President Rod Crider said.

Wayne County is well-positioned for the types of jobs Ohio leaders want to encourage, Crider said. Those areas of investment include bio-based products, biomedical engineering and advanced and renewable energy.

Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher said the types of jobs Ohio seeks will be based on ideas, technology, knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurship.

"TechniGraphics combines all of these with the services it provides to the world," Fisher said during a recent visit to the company. "We're interested in jobs of not the next couple of years but for the decades."

Business and Wayne County government reporter Bobby Warren can be reached at 330-287-1638 or [bwarren@the-daily-record.com](mailto:bwarren@the-daily-record.com).