



"I'm glad I joined FCCLA because I like meeting new people and I enjoy all of the fun activities we do. I just wish I had joined sooner."

- Senior Vanessa Haigh, FCCLA member at Southern Wells HS

Good News Digest

ADAMS • BLACKFORD • HUNTINGTON • JAY • WELLS COUNTIES, INDIANA

Spring 2013



HUMAN BODY SYSTEMS. PLTW teacher and RN Lisa Wood indicates the amount of blood passing through the kidneys every minute to Kristen Ireland during a unit on the urinary tract systems in Human Body Systems, a second-level class in the Biomedical series of four classes at Jay County.

IT'S A COKE AND A SMILE for fourth-year PLTW students Zachary James and Grace Goodman, who chose the soft drink for testing what different dilutions of a toxic agent would do to radish starts during a five-day period.



TOXICITY TESTS. The use of rubbing alcohol as hydration for starts of radishes produces some concern for the team of Desi Minnick and Collin Saxman, who are enrolled in this fourth-year Biomedical Innovation class. Minnick and Saxman found that many of their radish starts failed to flourish when this toxic element was introduced, used and monitored over a five-day period. Other students chose products including hair spray, soft drinks, and other liquids that could easily be found in the home. Students were studying foreign dose responses for Problem #4: Investigating Environmental Health. "The Design of a Medical Innovation will be our final unit," fifth year teacher Lisa Wood said. This task will combine all the knowledge students have already learned and give them a chance to identify a problem and solve it.

Biomedical Innovation at Jay County Studies 'exceed' college experiences

From devising recommendations for a more efficient and effective hospital emergency room to learning how to conduct a forensic autopsy, Jay County's Biomedical Innovation course provides students experiences other teachers claim they did even receive in college.

"It's a very intensive and individualized class," senior Desi Minnick said. "You have to be more independent than in other classes."

This independence is earned following successful completion of the first three classes in this Project Lead

the Way (PLTW) sequence, and the only such course offered currently in Area 18.

Taught by Lisa Wood, the students in this senior level class pair up to tackle the seven problems presented within the curriculum.

"Working together to solve a task is vital," Wood said.

"Science does not have all the answers at the moment, and we need intelligent young minds to discover new cures and build new innovations."

This class is a "must-have" for student Paige Lennartz, who hopes to someday become a cardiologist.

"The hands-on experience is the best. Once you

get into it, it's the coolest thing ever."

Students are urged to visit the CTE website, www.area18.org and see what classes are available outside their school building at surrounding high schools.

COURSES (4)
Principles of Biomedical Science
Human Body Systems
Medical Intervention
Biomedical Innovation
Problem 1:
Design of an Effective ER
Problem 2:
Exploring Human Physiology
Problem 3:
Design of a Medical Innovation
Problem 4:
Investigating Environmental Health
Problem 5:
Combating a Public Health Issue
Problem 6:
Molecular Biology in Action
Problem 7:
Forensic Autopsy
DUAL CREDITS (12)
through IUPUI



A PERFECT GEL is achieved by Darren Derome when testing city and well water for bacteria by its DNA. Students were then able to multiply their DNA samples a million times and separate them to be able to detect health issues like E.coli.

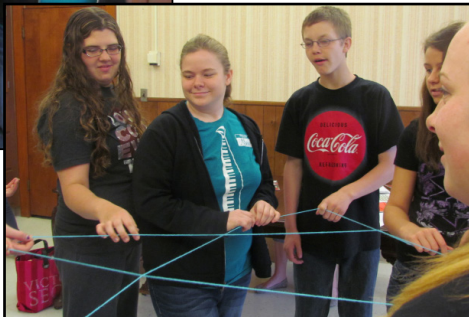
S. Wells' FCCLA does its share to unite, entertain its members



ABOVE: Both high school and middle school students are welcomed into Southern Wells' FCCLA. Following the business part of the club meetings, members took part in a balloon race.

RIGHT: Sponsor Janel Franks had her doubts, but members were able to take a string and transform it into a star through teamwork and communication.

"It's my best PR," laughed Family and Consumer Science, and FCCLA sponsor Janel Franks. As a student at Southern Wells herself, Franks remembers all of the activities she enjoyed, along with the state and national competitions and bonding that came from the trips. The group campaigned against Texting and Driving, giving away thumb rings as reminders, and participated in the Bluffton Street Fair Parade this year.



Meet & Greet Area 18's CTE faculty

THE 'HEALTHY ALTERNATIVE'



YVETTE ROUCH
HEALTH SCIENCE EDUCATION
BLACKFORD HIGH SCHOOL

School nurse enters health classroom

In her first year of teaching Health Science class at Blackford High School, Yvette Rouch may be new to the business of teaching, but not to the area of health. As a Registered Nurse in ER at Marion General, Yvette also serves as the school nurse at Blackford elementary school.

With her first class of 13 students, Rouch has had the opportunity to work with students who are exploring

career options mixed in with students who are serious about pursuing a career in the medical field.

"I like how it teaches you what you need to know for college. I should have a head start when I go to study nursing," junior Tori Stinson said.

Meanwhile, Rouch plans to expand her curriculum to include a second year of health and dual credits.

Teacher/RN decides upon retirement

Following 28 years teaching health-related classes at Bluffton High School and 41 years as a Registered Nurse, CTE teacher Kathi Plummer says it's time to retire and get involved in projects she "never had the time to do."

"I have loved working with teenagers. In Career and Tech Education we have the opportunity to expose our future workforce to all the exciting opportunities available to them," Plummer said.



KATHI PLUMMER
HEALTH SCIENCE EDUCATION
BLUFFTON HIGH SCHOOL

The Bluffton Health Science Education program includes students from all three Wells County schools: Bluffton, Norwell and Southern Wells.

"My favorite quote is from Elton Trueblood: 'A man has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of human life when he plants shade trees under which he knows full well he will never sit.'"

Students in her classes are currently preparing to take the CNA test for full certification.

Out About in Area 18 Schools



JAY COUNTY: FFA members sign the poster, "...so God Made a Farmer" to display in the student center during FFA Week, a time of celebration. Five renewable scholarships were awarded to Anna Muhlenkamp, Sarah Dirksen, Dylan Swingley, Katie Reier, Samantha Homan.



HUNTINGTON NORTH: EMT-Advanced Andrew Dennison explains the Combitube necessary to open airways to Clay Carmichael and Ian Hiers who assess then demonstrate their skills in tracheal intubation during Skills Day. Students worked at various stations with professionals in preparation for their EMT-Basic test next month.



BLACKFORD: Suzanne Taylor, culinary arts teacher, answers questions and helps guide sophomore Black Theiry in his preparation of a pot roast during the classes' study of seasonings. "I like it when I make a good product and someone enjoys it," Theiry said. The sophomore lists cinnamon rolls as his favorite class "assignment." Taylor says she would like to expand the program and offer dual credits.



BLACKFORD: Culinary Arts students Jayda Landers and Jaymee Sicks combine ingredients for their Taco Stew, which, according to Landers, needed some sour cream, cheese and chips. "You have to learn to concentrate in this class," Landers said. "But eating what you make is the best part." The kitchen has six stations and at other stations students worked in pairs during their study of "Seasonings."

Recruiting done Right!



From South Adams



to Belmont



to Adams Central



to Jay County

South Adams guidance takes CTE recruitment outside of building

with Guidance Director Todd Rupert

For the past 10 years, guidance director Todd Rupert says South Adams has been proactive by introducing the school's tenth grade students to Career & Technical Education classes offered at the school and by its Area 18 neighbors: Belmont, Adams Central and Jay County high schools.

"The school saw the need for students to make informed choices," said guidance director Rupert, "...to make connections between course selections and career pathways."

Eighty students boarded the four buses

in February to visit the programs available for study. And by day's end, "Every student indicated that there was at least one CTE program they could see themselves connecting with in the next two years," Rupert said.

"Health Sciences seems to have the highest consistent percentage of participation," Rupert continued. "(It) meets C40, AHD, (and) THD requirements. State certification (CNA) and dual credits are attached to the program. And, look at *Hoosier 50 Hot Jobs* - many are in the health career pathway."



Counselors gather for underserved pupils

With the intention of improving special population student participation and completion in Career and Tech Ed., Area 18 counselors gathered on March 8 to discuss how to reach more students.

Guest speaker Matt Fleck of Fleck Education, formerly with IDOE, was on hand to answer questions and update the schools on new Indiana guidelines and speculation on future developments.

The meeting was funded in part by Area 18 through the acquisition of a mini-grant from the SIEC.

Materials were also created and distributed to help raise awareness of the CTE classes available to students from all walks of life.

I want to be like Rosie!

We Can Do It!

Fantasia Singer/Single Mother

Chef Morimoto Language No Barrier

It's up on your screen, on the screen, American Idol after publically admitting illiteracy. Fantasia walked in of her former high school to receive her high school diploma for her OED.

We watched Fantasia for eight seasons (total), she had for having the ill she started.

It was that a life time ago.

When Iron Chef America was first approved as a regular series on American TV, Morimoto was reluctant to come on board, fearing TV executives would drop him for someone else.

Morimoto understands English, but doesn't speak it well and is heavily accented. Much of the time, producers let him speak Japanese. They subtitle him when he's speaking in English, and dub over him when he's speaking Japanese.

Want to know more about CULINARY ARTS?

Check out class offerings for your school in Career and Technical Education

www.area18.org

Sample bookmarks available to all students.

BLUFFTON'S BPA 26 students place at District

"I am interested in studying either Business Administration or Computer Science and feel the contests help me learn to present myself in a respectful manner. It takes time, dedication and effort to succeed."



CARSON ADDINGTON
BPA President at Bluffton HS

"Whenever you take this many students to a contest, it takes a lot of fundraising efforts. We sponsored an inside putt-putt course, a Fun House and ran the concessions at the games."



ADAM ATKINS
Business teacher, BPA sponsor

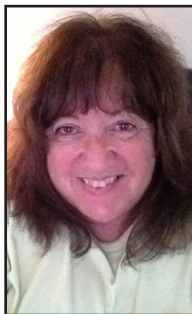
Twenty-six Bluffton High School students, who are members of the Business Professionals of America (BPA), earned first, second or third places at their District contests Jan. 18 and 19.

Earning first places were Caleb Shepard, Emerson Ringger, Justin Park, Tad Makowski, Morgan Napier, Caitlin Krider and Dylan Curran.

Coming home with second places were Jacob Thompson, Grant Sills, Taylor Pulver, Hannah Mock, Catlin Krider, Andy Elwell, Levi Eisenhut, Sam Dedrick, Jonah Baumgartner, Taylor White, Devin Shannon, Ethan Kitt, Brandon Hacha, Eric Baumgartner, Norah Antrim and Carson Addington.

Receiving third place finishes in their respective categories were Zach Zeis and Jarrett Harris.

Kasey Craig placed fourth and Emily Koenn automatically moved on to State in Computer Modeling. State was held March 10, 11, 12.



Not just your old 'vocational' class perception: Area 18's CTE courses offer legit career training

I received a phone call just one year ago that would change my views forever regarding Career and Technical Education, and just how many students it could positively impact.

A student from my own teaching past called last May, and presented me with a one-year job offer to cover and promote these types of classes in Wells, Adams, Jay, Blackford and Huntington counties.

"Mmm, take some pictures of shop and home ec classes, I figured..."

I remember years ago when the term, "Tech Prep" was first introduced to parents sitting in an orientation program for incoming high school students. Families could choose either the "College Prep" or "Tech Prep" course track for their children, the principal said.

No way was I going to handicap my daughter - whom I fully expected to attend a four-year college to get a degree in, well, anything - to be "labeled" vocational.

I know now I did her a great disservice. At age 32 she is still struggling - with a family of her own - to finally earn that RN certification and diploma.

My early visits to Area 18 CTE classes, like the Culinary Arts program taught by Bluffton's Karen Reed, were both eye-opening and - occasionally - delicious.

Here were a group of high school kids scurrying to bake 300 cookies and other menu items for that weekend's band competition hosted by the school.

Their skull caps and aprons made the students feel and look professional, and their serious approach in class was noteworthy since they were working under the handicap of an two-hour fog delay.

I continued on to Adams Central, where construction teacher Andy Hackenjos blew my mind when he shared the blueprints and

pictures of \$160,000 plus homes his students had built in the community as part of their classwork.

At Huntington North High School, Mick Jarrett was training his students on precision machines that required a boatload of math and measurements. These students would be job-ready upon high school graduation for a career where manufacturers say they are desperate for trained applicants.

Meanwhile, South Adams auto service teacher Gary McMillan was working with his students over a computer, identifying parts needed to repair a semi-electric car, the Probe, that had been brought into the school shop for repairs.

At Belmont, Huntington, Blackford and Bluffton high schools, teachers Janelle Gresla, Tiffanney Drummond, Yvette Rouch and Kathi Plummer were not teaching the old "health science" curriculum as I remembered it, but training students for industry licenses - Certified Nursing Assistant and CPR. These students would be job-ready upon the completion of

class, and could work during high school or college, or use the certifications as a stepping stone to other careers in the medical field.

Huntington's Rick Uecker traveled from his hospital job to the classroom every morning to teach and train his students for their EMT-Basic certification.

Kevin Morris balanced time between his own automotive and trucking business and teaching students automotive service at his alma mater, Norwell High School, because he wanted to resurrect the course that gave him his start.

"Maybe I can have a positive influence to get students

involved in this as a career," Morris said.

Jay County was the location of several visits

throughout the year as I explored the school's greenhouse, watching horticulture students plant seedling geraniums for an eventual community project that would generate school scholarship money.

I attended Jay County's 260-student strong FFA meeting and reviewed the list of 30 some community service, project-related and contest-generated activities planned for its members over the next few months.

Down the hall, Doug Tipton was overseeing a class full of kids - who used to play with Lego's - create and demonstrate a life-sized robotics project that eventually took them

"As soon as you add relevance, you make the math more meaningful."

- DOUG HUNT
MANUFACTURING TEACHER
SOUTHERN WELLS HS

to national competition. But it was little Southern Wells I visited most often, as I became entranced by manufacturing teacher

Doug Hunt's group of - what looked to be fairly ornery boys - create their own personalized guitars, from computer-generated designs through woodworking, painting and sanding to actual musical instruments by semester's end. This nationally-recognized teacher in this little school of 400 had maneuvered his class into part of a national science grant project regarding guitar production, and Southern Wells provided all of the fret boards.

"As soon as you add relevance, you make the math more meaningful," Hunt said.

Space doesn't permit me

to share all of the wonderful stories of CTE classes visited throughout the year.

From law enforcement

The new Indiana

Works Councils will help bridge barriers between education and businesses.

- SIGNED INTO LAW BY
GOV. MIKE PENCE
APRIL 16, 2013

and web design at Belmont to broadcasting daily TV shows and printing this publication at Jay County, I will be forever thankful to Area 18 CTE Director Kevin Keller for giving

me this chance to work and learn - and meet some pretty incredible kids and teachers along the way.

I take with me a new and more accurate understanding of Career and Technical Education, taught in a project- and outcome-based manner that all classes - in my opinion - should use.

I observed students learning specific and complex terms, while performing complicated procedures and taking ownership in their work, reinforced by their teachers.

I realized, after one student in Belmont's Health program told me she drove 45 minutes a day to attend the course, that students and their parents value chances to earn industry certificates and university dual credits that will provide them a head start in school and in the workforce.

I take with me a reaffirmation that all students can and will learn if offered a varied, pertinent curriculum taught by well-informed teachers, guided by college and tech knowledgeable counselors, while supported and promoted by school and state administrators.

CTE is truly a win-win course of study quickly shedding its negative reputation as an area for students who "don't like school" to a realistic, in-depth learning experience which - with post-secondary training - will assure meaningful employment for all.

I am now a believer.

"CTE is truly a win-win course of study that is quickly shedding its negative reputation as an area for students who "don't like school" to a realistic, in-depth learning experience which - with post-secondary training - will assure meaningful employment for all."

The **CTE Good News Digest** is a quarterly publication of Area 18 to celebrate students and their teachers involved in career and technical training throughout Northeast Indiana. This publication was printed by students in the Jay County Graphic Design and Layout class, taught by Chris Krieg.

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