

# TODAY

## Medina County Career Center

### Summer Interns Recognized

By Radhika Pathak



Interns, employers, job coaches and parents came together on September 30 for MCCC's annual Celebration Dinner.

"It is to recognize all the students that went over and above to participate in the summer internship program, to recognize the employers who hired interns and to thank our job coaches for working with our students," Internship Program Advisor Christine Kurth said. "We also invited our parents to join us and celebrate the success of their student."

Jackie Schulte, human resource representative of SFS intech, was the keynote speaker.

"For the interns at SFS intech, Ms. Schulte put together a very detailed rotation so the interns had an opportunity to experience the different aspects of the company and were excited by how successfully the rotation worked," said Kurth.

Schulte was so impressed with the interns' performance that she wants to continue accepting interns and partner with other area companies.

"If an intern gets selected by SFS, the intern will not only work at SFS, but will also have the opportunity to intern at two other companies," Kurth said.

**Gabby Lang**, a senior in the Animal Management and Care program, participated in an internship at the Akron Zoo.

"The highlight of the internship was learning about the animals at the Akron Zoo and actually being able to visit the exhibits before they open up to the public. I was able to see how the animals are fed and trained without anyone crowding around," Lang said.



**Ben Carpenter**, a senior from the Video Production program,

had the opportunity to intern with the Akron RubberDucks.

"My favorite experience was when I got to use Camera 2 because it is the camera they use for action shots to see when someone hits the ball and on players when someone catches it," Carpenter said. "That was probably my favorite because it was easier to use than regular cameras and I could see the entire field."

**Karen Boyer**, senior and class president of the Chef and Restaurant program, worked with local restaurant Thyme<sup>2</sup>. "The highlight was getting experience in an actual business setting," Boyer said.



### MCCC Partners with Kitten Crazy

By Claire Ryder

Students in the Animal Management and Care program collected more than 400 pairs of shoes to benefit people in third world countries. The students worked in partnership with local non-profit organization Kitten Crazy.

"This event is a new initiative joining Kitten Crazy and funds2.org, two non-profit organizations working in partnership through a shoe drive," Kitten Crazy employee Lynn Smith said. "We know that most people have extra shoes in their closet that they could and would donate to help those less fortunate become self-sufficient."

Students and the community were asked to donate gently used shoes for the cause. Kitten Crazy earns funds based on the amount of shoes collected. Animal Management and Care program instructor Tonya Underwood explained that she became involved with the organization after finding a kitten and becoming aware of the campaign.

"The Career Center has paired up with Kitten Crazy in order to raise awareness for the need for shoes in third world countries, as well as to raise money for their organization," Underwood said.

Kitten Crazy relies on funds from the community to help sick or in-need cats be vaccinated and then hopefully be adopted.

"Our goal is to gather 2,500 pairs of shoes, however, we plan to acquire even more," Smith said.

The third world countries the shoes will go to are Haiti, Honduras and other countries around Central America and Africa.

"This fundraiser is an opportunity to reach out to the community that has embraced our organization, to provide an opportunity for the community members to join us in recycling and reducing what goes into landfills, while raising funds to support Kitten Crazy," Smith said. "It's a win/win for everyone."



### Winners in Anaheim

By Paige Pacek

Two students from the Medina County Career Center finished in the nation's top ten at the national HOSA competition over the summer.

HOSA, Health Occupations Students of America, is a worldwide competitive program for future health care professionals. MCCC took 23 students who placed in state to the national competition in Anaheim, CA. Eight of the 23 advanced to the second round and two of the students,



**Jessica Hurley** and **Jeff Hildebrand**, finished in the top ten.

Three programs at MCCC are part of HOSA: Sports Medicine and Exercise Science, Optical Technology and Diversified Medical Technologies.

The two seniors who finished in the top ten, both from Sports Medicine and Exercise Science, competed in the Physical Therapy category.



Sports Medicine instructor Gail Connors was overwhelmed when she saw her students finish in the top ten.

"It was phenomenal. I actually cried because I saw my students' hard work pay off," Connors said. "It is great seeing how proud they are of themselves and for them to realize they can do anything they set their minds to."

Students need to fulfill several requirements in order to compete in the HOSA competition, according to Connors

The students competing must take a written test first. The students who get the top scores on the written test proceed to the skills test, where they get to showcase their talents.



"The students receive a medal in recognition of winning and have their pictures taken. The students who do not win still feel a sense of accomplishment within themselves," Connors said.

Going to a HOSA competition is not only a career-based event, but a cultural experience.

"Having the National Competition in Anaheim, CA gave the students an opportunity to experience the city, culture and surrounding areas throughout the competition," Connors said.

## G.R.E.A.T.S. Welcomes New Members

By Jocelynn Lucas

The G.R.E.A.T.S. Program welcomed their newest members this fall.

Genders Rebelling Excitedly Against Traditional Stereotypes (G.R.E.A.T.S.), a group designed to provide both staff and peer support to students enrolled in non-traditional programs, welcomed almost 100 students to the group.

"We had our first meeting of the year on September 22, and that's when we hosted our Meet N' Greet. This brought all students together so they could meet with other students who were also in non-traditional programs," said Liz Swartz, Student Assistance Specialist and program coordinator. "This year, we have the most non-traditional students we've ever had. We have ninety-seven students; that's exciting!"

Non-traditional means that 25 percent or less of a student's gender is represented in his or her chosen program or career.

"Sometimes there can be certain challenges to being a minority based on your gender," Swartz said.

Around 75 percent of the students invited chose to join the group.

"At the beginning of the school year, once all of the schedules are finalized, we generate a list. We know in certain programs, certain genders will be considered non-traditional," Swartz said. "We pull a list of all of those students and send a welcome letter to them and their parents."

The members meet quarterly for one hour to discuss relative topics, participate in activities and listen to guest speakers. The topics of discussion include the benefits of being in a non-traditional program or career, challenging stereotypes, confronting sexual harassment, workplace etiquette and professionalism.

"The next time we meet is December 9 featuring a special program on sexual harassment to educate and assist people who come across those types of issues. Knowing how to be prepared and how to handle these situations can really help make a difference," Swartz said.

In February, the group will hold a business luncheon at MCCC's Center Café. The focus of the luncheon will be business etiquette, professionalism and business skills. A guest speaker, typically in a non-traditional career, will give students insight and information on their experience in the workforce, with the goal of giving students hands-on training and an advantage in the business world.

"When I survey my students at the end of the year, they always tell me the business luncheon was their favorite activity of the year," Swartz said. "That's a big deal. We've been doing this for the last couple of years and it is really well received."

## STUDENT EARNS SILVER MEDAL

By Hannah Riegler

**Kaitlyn Prater**, a senior in the Power Equipment Technology program, earned a silver medal for her second place win at the SkillsUSA national competition after earning 989 out of 1000 points at a job skill competition.

**Kaitlyn** showed off her talents in Louisville, KY through a demonstration on how to replace a recoil starter rope on a Stihl leaf blower.

"If you think about your chainsaw or leaf blower, it is the rope you pull," Prater said.

"I had to explain why you would want to replace it," Prater said. "My goal was to teach the audience how to do it themselves within the seven minutes that were allotted."

Prater practiced her presentation for months since it was the aspect about which she was most apprehensive.

"I had done it many times in front of numerous people," she said, "but doing it at the competition in front of four judges was the most nerve-wracking thing I had ever done."

The first step Prater took in order to make it to nationals was to conquer regionals. She competed with 15 people and was required to finish in the top three in order for her to advance to the state level. She took second in regionals.

Once at the state level, she needed to place first out of eighteen people in order to proceed to nationals.

"I placed first in the state, so then I qualified to go to nationals," Prater said. "I never knew I would come this far."

Prater joined Power Equipment Technology because she wanted to be able to fix small engines for herself and "not have to depend on someone else" to do it for her.



## Key Club Attends Drug Awareness Rally

By Shelby Buchholz

Students in Medina County Career Center's Key Club attended the Drug Awareness Rally at Medina's Public Square in September.

The Medina County Drug Abuse Commission — which focuses on the development, coordination, and direction of an effective countywide anti-drug program — held the rally to promote the anti-drug levy on the November ballot.

MCCC's Key Club members rallied with school district superintendents, court officials, law enforcement and members of the community to show their anti-drug support in Medina County.

MCCC Student Assistance Specialist Liz Swartz said the rally included several activities centered around drug prevention and featured a variety of guest speakers.

Each year, Key Club members participate in various activities throughout the community.

"Key Club is for anyone who enjoys giving back to their community, meeting community leaders and who wants to develop leadership skills," club advisor Jody Toddy said.

Each year, members work with the Medina County Achievement Center staff on their Halloween and Valentine's Day dances. Students volunteer to decorate and serve snacks for both dances.

Most Key Club events are established events in the county, although club members are able to attend state-wide Key Club functions such as The Fall Rally.

The Key Club members tend to bond with their teachers and peers as they participate in other activities such as going to a Cavs game, going to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and to Amazone, according to Toddy.

Key Club is sponsored by Medina County Kiwanis, which awards a \$500 scholarship at the end of each year to one of the student volunteers. There are other scholarships for students who complete the most community service hours.



## Camp Inspires Leaders

By Emily Blanton

Students in the Animal Management and Care and Horticultural Science and Design programs recently traveled to Camp Muskingum in Carrollton, Ohio for the annual FFA Fall Orientation Camp.

The three-day camp emphasizes team building and goal setting through a variety of activities and guest speakers.

This year David Kohout, from the non-profit organization Talk is Cheap, was invited to speak. Kohout focused on building character, establishing confidence and instilling hope in the lives of young people.

He has been involved in leadership training and teaching for more than twenty-eight years. His hope is that each audience will leave having a desire to achieve their full potential, realize their worth and be better prepared for society.

"Greatness is a choice and talk is cheap," Kohout said. "I never forgot who I was and would have become had not others seen the diamond in me when all I saw was coal."

Standing in the presence of greatness is what Kohout had the students repeat at random times during his presentation.

"Everyone has the power to do anything they please, and you should never let people drag you down," Animal Management and Care senior **Erin Hist** said was the biggest thing she took away from Kohout.

"I took a lot away from the speaker, but what really stuck was his ability to touch everyone, and how he showed that you need to love yourself," expressed **Ashley Danesi**, a senior in Animal Management and Care. Teachers, along with students, felt the presentation was beneficial.

"I think many students underestimate their own importance, but they have so much potential," science instructor Zach Holdridge stated.

Kohout has been running the Talk is Cheap program for over nine years. He has spoken to more than 500,000 students, staff and academic leaders.

Another highlight of the camp was the opportunity for students to meet and bond with students from other districts. Danesi said she liked the "ability to meet and interact with new people."

Students also enjoyed a dance the second night of camp. Most felt it was their favorite part of the trip because they got to have fun and interact with everyone.

"It was great and a good way to meet and bond with the juniors," exclaimed senior **Alex Incorvaia**.

Students not only learned leadership and team building skills, but they got to experience things they don't get to try at home.

"I signed up for canoeing, had lots of fun, and learned that it is super easy to tip it over," senior **Gabby Lang** shared.





## FAMILIES ENJOY FALL FESTIVAL

Students in the Early Childhood Education program hosted an evening filled with activities, food and music. The annual Fall Evening Festival was held for the children in MCCC's preschool and their families.

"There were 12 activities that the high school students ran," preschool teacher Carla Keller said. Each activity related to the Ohio Early Learning Standards.

"During the event, I ran a sensory table with the children where they had to find a Halloween prize," ECE senior **Jody Zane** said.

"We had feely boxes for the kids to touch the objects inside," ECE senior **Alexis Kohl** said. "There were brains (which was Jell-O), guts (which was spaghetti), finger nails (which were pumpkin seeds) and eyeballs (which were beads)," Alexis said.

All the activities were aligned with skills children need to master before they enter kindergarten.

"This activity focused on sensory skills," Keller said. "The preschool students can't see it, can't smell it, but they can feel it."

"Students had to use their previous knowledge of what activities and abilities would be age appropriate for three and four year olds," Early Childhood Education instructor Janice Curtin said. "They took their current knowledge of child development and put that to use by planning the activities."

Along with the feely boxes, preschool students were able to make scarecrows, spiders, skeletons, play bowling, pin the heart on the skeleton, and carve pumpkins.

"At the end, we put all the jack-o'-lanterns in the center of the commons, turned off the lights and sang Halloween songs," Keller said.

There were more than sixty people who attended the event and twenty high school ECE students who set up and ran the stations.

"I enjoyed seeing the children come through the door, their faces lighting up and running to their big teachers," ECE junior **Issac Woolum** said. "They were so excited, and that's why I wanted to be here."

Cosmetology seniors also provided complimentary manicures for parents and children during the evening event.

The MCCC Preschool is still accepting applications for this school year.

"We still have lots of learning to do throughout this year," Keller said.

Student applications can be found at [www.mcjvs.edu](http://www.mcjvs.edu). There is a sliding fee scale for families with children ages 3-4 who qualify and the program is free to income-qualifying families.

## Fair Projects

By Madelyn Howell

This summer, MCCC students were well represented at the Medina County Fair with nearly 200 projects that were entered.

"We almost didn't have enough room for all of the projects," Cosmetology instructor and project organizer Becky Hambley said. "I was very pleased to see how many entrants we had this year."

MCCC students entered projects from either their academic classes or their technical programs. Students signed up in early May, and then brought their designated projects to the fairgrounds on August 1. The projects were judged the same day.

# Students of the Month

## October 2015



**Kaitlyn Prater** – Kaitlyn is a senior in the Power Equipment Program. She is active in 4-H, serving as a recreation officer and committee member. Kaitlyn also serves as the secretary and Activity Leader for the Junior Fair Board. At MCCC, Kaitlyn has served as president for two years of Presidents Council, participates in GREATS, and is a maintenance aide. She was inducted into National Technical Honor Society as a junior, and attended the E4 Summit as a sophomore. Kaitlyn's community involvement includes volunteering for Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Medina County Food Drive, the Kitten Crazy Fundraiser, Fair Clean-Up, the Walk-a-Thon Fundraiser, the Tara Green Fundraiser and Military Coupon Cutting. She has also volunteered for the grandstand seat relabeling and Youth Clinics. Kaitlyn has played both junior varsity and varsity lacrosse and has volunteered as a time keeper for youth lacrosse. At MCCC, Kaitlyn volunteered for the Fashion Show and helped with the SkillsUSA Digital Video Production. For lacrosse, she was awarded the Most Spirited Player award, and served as team captain for the junior varsity team when she was a freshman. At the Medina County Fair, Kaitlyn won second place for Best Market Goat, second place for Honey Bee Competition, and first place for an Art Project. At SkillsUSA, Kaitlyn placed first at state competition and second at national competition. Following graduation, Kaitlyn plans to attend college.

**Nick Barbopoulos** – Nick is a senior in the Computer Science and Forensics Program. He currently serves as the treasurer for his class. At MCCC, Nick volunteered for the MCCC Road Show and Sophomore Visitation. In his community, Nick is a volunteer coach for youth soccer. He played soccer for three years at his home school and on a club team for two years. As a freshman, Nick won a Spanish Scholarship Award and a Language Arts Leadership Award. He won the Magna Cum Laude Award the last three years, the Business Student of the Year Award, and was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society as a junior. Nick won the Most Improved Player Award for soccer during his junior year. Following graduation, Nick plans to attend college to study computer science.



## November 2015



**Gabrielle McNeil** – Gabby is a senior in the Animal Management and Care program. She currently serves as president of MCCC Key Club and was secretary last year. Gabby has been the treasurer of FFA for the last two years. She was involved in Leadership Medina County as a junior and attends as an alumni mentor this year. Gabby has served her community through Key Club by volunteering at Medina Family Affair, Kiwanis Lunch with Santa, luminary kit building, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation deck building project. Her other volunteer activities include the Kitten Crazy Project, Victory Gallup Project, and the Rainbow Bridge Memorial Walk. Gabby is involved in horseback riding and jumping, and takes art lessons at the Artventure Studio. Gabby has been on honor roll throughout high school and was inducted into both National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society as a junior. She was recently selected as an honoree for the Spring Leadership Ball. In competition, Gabby placed first as an individual at state in animal health and continued on to national competition, where she placed seventh. She also scored the highest on the Clinical Practicum Test at nationals. She competed as a member of the FFA Vet Team, placing eighth at nationals. Gabby was awarded a \$600 scholarship for vet science from FFA. Following graduation, Gabby plans to attend the University of Findlay to major in pre-veterinary science.

**Spencer Brodie** – Spencer is a senior in the Engineering Technologies and Design program. He currently serves as president of his class and was treasurer last year. At his home school, Spencer is a Link Crew Group Leader and Section Leader for the bass drum line. He has been on the honor roll throughout high school and was inducted into both National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society as a junior. Spencer scored Magna Cum Laude on the National Latin Exam. His community volunteer activities include Breakfast with St. Nick, Fantasy Flight, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. He has been an MCCC Ambassador for two years and mentored three students in bowling at his home school. Spencer was on the junior varsity bowling team one year and on the varsity bowling team for three years. He was a two-time state qualifier, received the All-Ohio Honorable Mention and his team was named NOC Champions the last three years. Spencer holds the highest record for a two game series score for Brunswick High School. He is also a member of the marching band, jazz band, and concert and symphonic band. He won the Outstanding Percussion Award and received a "1" rating at solo and ensemble competition. Following graduation, Spencer plans to attend college.



The projects entered could receive a letter grade of A, B or C. There were only two B's and the rest were A's. "I think it's an awesome way for students to showcase their work," Hambley said. "It's a great way to show the public all the wonderful things we do here at the MCCC."

Some of the projects displayed included nail art, mannequin up-styles, fantasy hair, painted car fenders, posters, display boards, English projects, cut-away boards, paintings, graphic arts, promotional business projects, photography, drawings, F1 cars, welding joints and hammers.

On Thursday, August 6, the MCCC administrators visited to look at all of the projects.

"It was nice to have their support," Hambley said.

Each student was required to monitor the MCCC building at the fair for one hour during fair week. They did this to ensure that the projects were not touched or harmed by visitors, to hand out the MCCC newsletter to visitors, and to keep the projects looking their best by sweeping and dusting. By doing this, they took an active role in maintaining the building and showing off their hard work.

The students who entered their projects for the fair received a free fair pass for the week and were awarded money for each project they entered. Many students entered more than one project.

"It is a pleasure to work with these talented students and to see the pride they take not only in their projects, but in their school too," Hambley said.

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The Medina County Career Center is committed to equal opportunity for all and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

FALL 2015

## Presidents Council Holds First Leadership Day

MCCC Presidents Council members came together this fall for the first Leadership Day event.

“This year we decided the focus of Presidents Council really needs to be on leadership,” Presidents Council co-advisor **Devon O’Brien** said. “Council members are leaders in our classes and the leaders in our building.”

The event introduced the members of council to the principles, practices and actions of leaders through the all-day event at the school’s outdoor classroom.

The event began with an exercise with Sherry Koenig, MCCC Admissions Coordinator, who led an activity called True Colors. The activity focused on helping members gain a better understanding of their own personality traits as well as traits of fellow members, in hopes of better team work.

“It provided a perspective on how different people can successfully work together,” Co-Advisor Katie Howard said. “It was an important activity because in years past, students didn’t always know how to work with each other.”

The event also featured presentations from leaders in the school district and the community.

Matthew Wiederhold, executive director of Main Street Medina, focused on the history of Medina, how it’s gotten to where it is today and what it is like to organize community events, according to O’Brien.

Steven Chrisman, MCCC superintendent, focused on quotes by inspirational speaker John Maxwell. The quotes helped students focus on who is a leader, what they do and how they do it.

“The goal is to help students understand their role as leaders, how to interact with the public,

### Mark Your Calendars

|                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Thanksgiving Break</b> ..... | <b>November 26-30</b>  |
| <b>Blood Drive</b> .....        | <b>December 8</b>      |
| <b>Winter Break</b> .....       | <b>December 21 -</b>   |
| .....                           | <b>January 1, 2016</b> |
| <b>Open House 6-8pm</b> .....   | <b>January 28</b>      |
| .....                           | <b>February 3</b>      |
| <b>Prom Fashion Show</b> .....  | <b>February 4</b>      |



how to interact with each other, coordinate events and help bring up their student body,” Howard said.

A presentation was given by Secretary to the Principal Mary Taylor on “Robert’s Rules of Order,” meeting etiquette and how to stay organized. Taylor also passed out folders labeled ‘Pending’ so students can put things they are working on in them.

The two final speakers were MCCC Principal Tresa Goodwin and Assistant Principal Jeff Hicks. Goodwin focused on her journey to her current leadership role and about how life doesn’t always take you where you think you are going to go.

“Not every leader’s path is a straight line,” Hicks said during his speech. “But if you do your best, stick to your goals and move forward, you will get to where you want to be.”

Hicks then congratulated all students for starting their path in leadership now. Students ate lunch prepared by Chef and Restaurant Management students in the Center Café.

Presidents Council members are the elected presidents within their labs, along with 5 at-large members. This year, the council is organizing several events including the annual fashion show and walk-a-thon. Proceeds from the walk-a-thon will be awarded to two MCCC students in the form of \$1,000 scholarships each.

“We want these students to be an asset in the school and also in the community,” said O’Brien.

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