

# TODAY

## Medina County Career Center

### Animal Management & Care Wins at Nationals

By: Claire Ryder

MCCC Animal Care senior **Gabrielle McNeil** took first place in clinicals in the Veterinary Science competition at the FFA National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. **McNeil** finished in seventh place in the individual overall competition, and the MCCC Animal Care team took eighth place overall in their competition.

"The FFA National Convention is a highly competitive event that tests the participant's ability to apply veterinary science knowledge and skill," **McNeil** said. "I won the award for the highest clinical procedure practicum, a score of 96 out of 100."

The material requirements for nationals consists of a written test, identification of livestock, small animal breeds, parasites and equipment, a math practicum, four clinical procedures, and handling and restraint practicums.

"You need to learn all the material before competition, but you also learn a lot about yourself," **McNeil** said. "I competed because putting myself out there and trying my hardest at something is how I discovered my true passion."

Recognition of the winners goes beyond high school doors. The top ten contestants also received scholarships.

"Competing helps immensely with my future education. I am attending the University of Findlay as a pre-vet/animal science major," **McNeil** said. "Once there, I will have the opportunity to work directly with livestock. Competition has provided me with a basis on which to build my knowledge of livestock."

The rush of the win stays with contestants for years to come.

"When my teammates and I walked out of our team project, the feeling was incredible," **McNeil** said. "We felt like we could conquer the world. The only other thing that matched that feeling was the awards ceremony."



Shaving the Way to Conquer Kids' Cancer



### st. BALDRICK'S DAY a huge success!

Excitement filled the air for this year's 4th Annual St. Baldrick's Foundation head-shaving event at the Medina County Career Center. Everyone was wearin' the green and the sounds of Irish music served as a backdrop to set the stage.

The event began with a solemn moment of silence in remembrance of children who have succumbed to cancer and with special thoughts of children currently battling the disease.

Mrs. Becky Hambley, the Cosmetology instructor responsible for spearheading the event at MCCC, was presented with a certificate from the St. Baldrick's Foundation in recognition of her ten years of supporting the mission of the organization through various outreach activities.

Then the countdown began, "start your razors – shave!" And the locks of hair fell to the ground to the cheers and applause of the spectators who gathered in support of the shavers. Teachers, students, parents, and guests from the community made a "bald" statement that day in an effort to conquer kid's cancer.

The initial goal was to raise \$15,000 to help fight the childhood disease. Mrs. Hambley shared, "It would be really great if we could surpass the \$22,000 we raised at last year's event." By the end of the night, the amount generated exceeded \$24,500!



Above photos: top – Joelle Costello, Cosmetology student, preparing Lexie Riviotto to donate her long hair to **Locks of Love**, then shave for St. Baldrick's. Bottom – VMI student Sydney Forbes captures Rachael Humphrey's reaction after getting her head shaved.

### MCCC Helps Families In Need

By: Paige Pacek



Medina County Career Center took a stand to ensure families that are less fortunate received a Christmas present under their tree during the holiday season by hosting a drive to support the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots toy drive.

Toys for Tots is a national program run by the Marine Corps. MCCC has participated in this program for a number of years. Students in the Construction Trades and Early Childhood Education programs volunteered to be hosts for this year's campaign at MCCC.

"It is a way for less fortunate kids to get a toy for Christmas and for MCCC students to give to others who cannot afford presents," Construction Trades Instructor Todd Mason said.

Early Childhood Education instructor Janice Curtin has volunteered in previous years to be the host for the drive. "I deal with little kids every day and knowing that the staff and students of the MCCC want to help those little kids who are less fortunate is really awesome," Curtin said.

The staff and students brought in a variety of toys and the Marine Corps picked up all the toys collected. The Marines then delivered the toys to children in need.

Many students and staff brought in toys, especially MCCC Presidents Council members. "They were quite generous and donated an impressive \$1,000 worth of toys for the campaign," Curtin said. Curtin believes this is a huge community service opportunity and a chance to bring everyone together to help others.

"It is not the child's fault that he or she may not have a toy under the tree on Christmas morning, and this drive helps deserving children enjoy the holiday season regardless of their personal situation," she said.

Receiving a toy for Christmas creates a big impact on that child which is why MCCC has been participating in this drive for several years.

"Everybody should become involved," Mason said. "It is a great cause and it is all about creating a smile on a child's face Christmas morning."

Top two pictures are toys collected by students, third is the award presented by the Marine Corps to Issac Woolum and Tori Jakupac, and the bottom photo shows students in the Power Equipment Technology Program that collected van loads of food for distribution to families in need.



# Medical Students Impact Lives

The lives of 525 people are now positively impacted because of the generosity of MCCC students and staff.

In December, the Diversified Medical Technologies and Public Safety programs partnered with American Red Cross for the first blood drive of the current school year.

Twice a year, students from both programs inform and educate students across all curriculums about the importance and benefits of donating blood and recruiting donors.

Coordination between the Red Cross, students, teachers and administrators allowed for the four-part process to run smoothly. Everything from registration to refreshments at the end were all held in the school's mall area. A new system allowed the process to run even faster.

"The new Rapid Pass system was wonderful," Diversified Medical Technologies II Instructor Karen Hritz said. "We would love to have all students do the Rapid Pass for our future drives. It expedites the entire process."

The school's efforts made it possible for the American Red Cross to collect 175 units of blood desperately needed for patient care.



## Students and Staff Partner with Easter Seals

By: Radhika Pathak

Students and staff at the Medina County Career Center came together to fill the truck for the Salvation Army's annual Easter Seals event.

Katie Howard and Devon O'Brien, advisors for MCCC's Presidents Council, invited program presidents to hold a competition gathering items for the Salvation Army through their program labs. The winner was awarded a class pizza party.

"This is our second year of the Easter Seals Fill-the-Truck campaign. We were contacted by Easter Seals last year to see if we were interested," O'Brien said. "We had an outstanding turnout, so we decided to participate again this year. All donated goods go to a worthy cause, and the money the Presidents Council earns from hosting the drive sends students in need holiday shopping."

Amier Itayem, student president of the Diversified Medical Technologies II program, enjoyed the competition aspect.

"It was a school wide event and a lot of programs participated," Itayem said.

"What I enjoyed most about the event is we were able to give back to the community to show our support," Business Marketing and Technologies II student president Micheal Muntz said.

"Easter Seals is a blessing for the community because it helps people with disabilities who can't afford equipment or needed therapy be able to afford it by donating used items and clothing," Howard said. "I feel it hits home as well because we also give back to our own students that have a need."

Students and staff donated 7,970 pounds of items to the cause, which raised \$1,600 that was donated to less fortunate student families during the holiday season.

"It's always important to give back to the community," Itayem said. "Not many people realize how much the community does for everyone. So to do an event for Easter Seals truly makes it worth it."

Hannah Christian, President of Presidents Council and the Software Engineering and Web Development II program, agreed.

"We are the community; our community is our home and our building block," Christian said. "It has made us into the people we are today, and we need to give back in order to provide that environment for generations to come."

"I think students need to help the community, one: because there is a need, and two: identify where there is a need, how they can help, and that there is a way to contribute, even as a high school student," Howard said.

"Not everyone is as fortunate as others so it's a great way to show support for our community," Optical Technologies I president Mackenna Richardson said.

The Early Childhood Education program won the competition with 1,396 pounds of donated items.

"We had 189 people donate blood," Hritz said. "Each donation can help save up to three lives, so our efforts and the efforts of our students can impact as many as 525 lives."

Diversified Medical Technologies students also kept busy over the holidays. Students went Christmas caroling one evening at Pearlview Care Center in Brunswick and reached another 800 patients around the county with holiday cards.

"We sent out 800 cards to four different local nursing homes," Diversified Medical Technologies I Instructor Ellie Byrd said. "The students wrote personal messages on each one."

The program also teamed up with the Optical Technology and Sports Medicine and Exercise Sci-



ence programs for a Pink Out day to help raise funds and awareness for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Students raised nearly \$700 for the cause.

Over the past year, the medical students have been making knotted tie blankets for patients in the Cleveland Clinic oncology department.

"We made a pledge to create and drop off five blankets to the Cleveland Clinic every month for the next two years," Byrd said.

Above photo, Junior DMT students pictured from left: Juniors Anastasia Combs, Summer Streety, Autumn Soeder, and Tyler Key with blankets to be delivered.

# STAR Teachers Recognized

By: Jocelynn Lucas

Two MCCC instructors have been named STAR teachers thus far this school year.

Optical Technology Instructor Amanda Hamm received the honor first quarter, and Sports Medicine and Exercise Instructor Gail Connors received the honor second quarter.

MCCC principal Tresa Goodwin adopted this friendly competition, an idea that was generated by Mary Taylor, administrative assistant to the principal.



Amanda Hamm  
Optical Technology

"Ms. Taylor was driving through Brunswick and saw a sign in a front yard that said 'My student is STAR!'" Goodwin said. "That's what started it."

Goodwin wanted to not only recognize students for perfect attendance, but also the staff for doing a great job in their work place as well.

"People like being recognized financially, but sometimes in a school district you have to think of other ways to recognize and reward people," Goodwin said. "This is a great way to recognize and show appreciation for our staff."

Each winner is chosen through student votes. Although several teachers are nominated by students, the instructor with the most votes wins.

"I was surprised and felt very honored," Hamm said. "It made me feel really good that my students feel that way about me. If students are comfortable and have a desire to learn, then you can

get their attention."

"I was pleasantly surprised when I was voted STAR teacher of the quarter," Connors said. "All I can say is I am blessed with students in both my junior and senior Sports Medicine class that are highly motivated to learn, enthusiastic, and make my day totally fun. Being in the classroom with my students is the best part of my day."

It is Hamm's eighth year teaching at the Medina County Career Center. This is her first time winning an award.

"It means a lot coming from the students," she said.

The winners of 'My Teacher is a STAR' received a starfish pin, a cup that says "I'm a teacher, what's your super power?" and a Starbucks gift card. The teacher is also recognized at staff meetings and will benefit during annual job performance evaluations.

"The teachers really do appreciate it!" Goodwin said. "From what I see, and from what I believe the kids see, these are teachers who are passionate about their subjects, they care about the kids, they make decisions based on what is best for the kids, and they are positive role models."



Gail Connors  
Sports Medicine &  
Exercise Science



## Four MCCC Students Elected as Regional Officers for SkillsUSA

By: Madelyn Howell

Medina County Career Center was well represented at SkillsUSA.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. It provides educational programs, events and competitions that support career and technical education in the nation's classrooms.

Twenty students went to SkillsUSA, where there were speeches, leadership workshops and a dance.

The students that attended the event were excited to share their experiences.

"I enjoyed SkillsUSA because it was an amazing experience. I hope I get the opportunity to compete again," junior MCCC Cosmetology student **Rose Yohman** said.

"I enjoyed SkillsUSA," fellow Cosmetology junior **Veronica Marco** said. "It was empowering to be surrounded by people who are doing everything they can to help you succeed."

"If anyone is thinking about getting involved in SkillsUSA, I highly recommend it; not just for developing your skills, but to be surrounded by other students with the same goals as you," Cosmetology junior **Payton Baxter** said.

"I loved SkillsUSA!" Cosmetology junior **Kathryn Seguin** said. "It was so much fun meeting other outgoing people who have similar leadership responsibilities."

Students ran for regional officers. Five voting delegates from the MCCC debated and campaigned. They were the only ones that could vote, the candidates could not.

There are seven positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Parliamentarian, Reporter, and Historian.

"MCCC had six students run for office and we won four out of the seven positions!" Junior Cosmetology Instructor Becky Hambley said. "We competed against 14 other schools, and we had the most success."

**Payton Baxter** of Cosmetology was elected President. **Izzy Neuhauser** from Video Production was elected Vice President. **Josh Pitcher** from Construction was elected Treasurer. **James Brown V**, also of Cosmetology, was elected Parliamentarian (pictured below).

"I was apprehensive at first about running, but once I got there, it was a lot of fun," said **Brown**.

The four students elected as officers traveled to Washington D.C. in January for one week of leadership training. They met state representatives, toured the Pentagon, and participated in the Arlington Wreath Ceremony.

*Photo below, from left to right, James Brown V, Parliamentarian; Payton Baxter, Vice President; Izzy Neuhauser, President; and Josh Pitcher, Treasurer.*



## MCCC Approved as a Wild Site

By Hannah Riegler

The Medina County Career Center was approved as a Wild School Site and recently received its Certificate of Designation from the State of Ohio.

MCCC Science Instructor Zachary Holdridge and Horticulture and Design Instructor Rick Malone have been working together with Project Wild to build ecosystems that will provide yearlong survival for wildlife.

Habitats are designed to have shelter, food and water. These habitats "provide educational opportunities for students," according to Project Wild representatives.

The initiative ascribes to the belief that indoor classrooms are limited for real-life study of the environment and, in most cases, may offer limited natural features. A Wild School Site provides more realistic educational opportunities and real-life experiences.

When students and teachers undertake projects to improve a school site for wildlife, they are also improving the quality of the environment for learning and teaching.

"The purpose of the Wild School Site is so students can investigate real wildlife in its natural habitat," Holdridge said.

Holdridge's environmental science students have been working on the project and Malone has already finished "phase one." Along with his students, Malone built a Wild School Site in front of the O.C. Duke building at the Medina County Career Center. His site includes blueberries, dogwoods, inkberries, crab apples, and other flowering plants.

"Phase two" will be to work on the trails MCCC has in the back of the property.

"We are going to incorporate some elements on the back trails to potentially attract more wildlife," Holdridge said.

The future goal is to put up bird houses and wooden blinds enabling students to observe wildlife, but not disturb it.

Holdridge and Malone both took a Masters class offered by the local Water Conservation District. "It was based around designing projects for a Wild School Site," Holdridge said.

*Above photo: From left, Beth Schnabel from the Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District presents Certificates of Designation to Science Teacher Zach Holdridge (left) and Horticulture Instructor Rick Malone (right). They are joined by Medina Mayor Dennis Hanwell, Superintendent Steve Chrisman, Board of Education members and returning students.*



## Honoring the Sacrifice of Veterans

By Jaden Stormer

This past Veterans Day, MCCC students and staff paid tribute to the service and sacrifice of the men and women who, in defense of our freedom, have bravely worn the uniform of the United States of America.

The day began with the singing the National Anthem by Diversified Medical Technologies senior Theresa Lanahan. Students and staff were asked to wear red, white, and blue in honor of all who have served, and those who are currently serving, in the United States Armed Forces. MCCC also opened its doors to local veterans.

"Veterans were welcomed to the Center Café for a complimentary lunch on Veteran's Day as a 'thank you' for their service to our country," event coordinator Christine Kurth said. "We also extended this invitation to veterans on staff at the Medina County Career Center."

Chef Tony Stanislo and the students in the Chef and Restaurant Management program helped serve dishes they prepared for the Veterans.

"I am proud to say the Café was booked for the Veterans Commemorative Luncheon," Stanislo said.

One of the attendees, former MCCC graduate and veteran Larry Hambley, served in the Navy from 1983 to 1987. "The Navy taught me a wide variety of skills," he said. "The Navy also taught me how to get along with people from different cultures and instilled strong work ethics in the process."

Hambley was in the Welding program at MCCC and became a certified welder at the age of 18, but there was no job market at the time. With the skills he acquired at MCCC, he was able to go into the Navy at a higher pay grade. "The Medina County Career Center was a significant stepping stone in my career," he said.

Lisa Machar, study hall teacher at MCCC and a veteran of the Ohio Army National Guard, attended the lunch as well.

"During basic training, I was taught discipline, order, working as a team, being equal, and how to win together," Machar said. "I am proud I was a soldier. I met new friends, gained support from others and received direction when I needed it."

Social Studies instructors were encouraged to speak to their classes about the significance of Veterans Day.



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SPRING 2016

## Regional Competitors Come to MCCC

MCCC students travel the nation participating in a variety of competitions; however, this past January, students from schools throughout northeast Ohio came to MCCC to compete.

The Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) organization, the largest national organization for students with an interest in health professions, held the regional competitions at MCCC.



“We were honored to serve as host to the Northeast Regional Competition, which welcomed over 300 competitors from twelve technical districts,” said Christine Kurth, event coordinator from MCCC’s District Career Services.

“The top five students from each contest category will be competing at the state level,” Sports Medicine and Exercise Science Instructor Gail Connors said.

Regional competition winners will advance to compete at the state level on April 5 and 6 at the University of Toledo. Students placing at the state level will have the opportunity to participate in the HOSA National Leadership Conference scheduled for June 22 through 25 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville, Tenn.

MCCC students represented their school with competitors from Diversified Medical Technologies, Optical Technology, and Sports Medicine and Exercise Science. Twenty-five MCCC students will take their talents to the state competition in Toledo, with 15 earning a first-place spot at regionals.

“Overall, visiting advisors thought this was a great competitive event, well organized and fairly run,” Connors said.

The mission of HOSA is to enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill and leadership development of all health science education students, therefore, helping students meet the needs of the health care community.

## Mark Your Calendars

April 18 ..... No Classes  
 May 6 & 7 ..... Mother’s Day Plant & Flower Sale  
 May 11, 12 & 13 ..... Final Days for Center Café  
 May 18..... Senior Breakfast & Awards Ceremony  
 May 26..... Final Day of Classes  
 May 30..... Memorial Day

## STOMP OUT SUICIDE

Two MCCC students won top spots in Medina County’s third annual Stomp Out Suicide video contest.

Video Production junior **Miles Howell** took first place and Video Production senior **Ben Carpenter** took third in the contest held by the county’s Coalition for Suicide Prevention.

Students across the county in grades 6-12 were invited to create a six to 120 second video that educates youth on suicide risk factors, as well as how to get help when you or someone you know may be suicidal.

“As an aspiring filmmaker, I thought this was the perfect opportunity to develop my skills,” **Carpenter** said. “Not only did I have a chance to make a video, I had a chance to make a video that instills a positive message.”

The top three spots not only raised money for the student, but a matched amount went to the students’ schools with first place awarding \$1,000 each and third place \$250 each for the student and their school.

“I entered this contest so I could help raise awareness for suicide prevention and raise money for the Video Production program,” **Howell** said.

The goal of the video is to inform youth on suicide risk factors, including emotional pain and feelings of hopelessness.

“My video centered around the statistic that for every suicide, six people are immediately affected,” **Howell** said.

**Carpenter** took the approach based on one of the most popular pastimes amongst teens.

“I was trying to focus on how our society is in constant social contact,” **Carpenter** said. “We are always on our phones, on the internet, or using social media. I was trying to show how with one button, someone can help someone else miles away or close at home.”

The students were notified of their win through the mail. “I looked in the mail and saw the letter,” **Carpenter** said, “That was a good day.”

**Howell** won first place last year with his matching winnings going to Highland High School.

*Above photo: pictured from left, winners Ben Carpenter and Miles Howell.*

