

# TODAY

## Medina County Career Center



### To Infinity and Beyond! *By: Andrea Peck*

The possibility of MCCC student-manufactured products being used in space exploration recently came closer to becoming a reality.

On September 22, the students in Precision Machining Technology met with members of NASA to discuss the possibility.

The visit was through a program called "High School Students United with NASA to Create Hardware (HUNCH). A three-member team from NASA met with Frank Baluch, Instructor of Precision Machining Technology, and several of the program's students.

The goal of HUNCH is to create hardware for NASA. The program offers schools the opportunity to create new products and ideas NASA can use. MCCC is the first school the program members vis-

ited in Ohio and the only school they plan to visit in Medina County.

HUNCH attracted the attention of MCCC due to the Precision Machining Technology program. Precision Machining Technology provides MCCC students with in-depth knowledge of all aspects of metalworking and manufacturing. Students in the program have the opportunity to fabricate hardware for NASA that can potentially travel in space and be used at the International Space Station.

The kick-off meeting was used to initially meet students and discuss what kind of hardware is needed. HUNCH members gave students examples of what they have received from other schools. Precision Machining students are now working to create hardware and tools for HUNCH.

HUNCH is an extremely innovative partnership between educational institutions and NASA at Johnson Space Center, Marshall Space Flight Center, and Langley Research Center. Members from HUNCH travel across the United States to different schools with the hope of producing real world hardware, videos and flight hardware, or software for NASA. This partnership allows both NASA and high school students to benefit from the collaboration. NASA is able to receive cost-effective hardware, while students receive experiences that are truly 'out of this world.'



### Swan Wins 1st Place in National Nursing Assistant Competition

*By: Nicole Horstman*

Sarah Swan recently took first place in a national nursing assistant competition.

Swan, a former student of the Diversified Medical Technology program, entered the Nursing Assistant competition hosted by Health Occupation Students of America at the National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida this past June.

"Sarah worked very hard preparing for the competition by reviewing and practicing the skills according to the competition guidelines," DMT instructor Karen Hritz said.

MCCC staff helped Sarah after school to prepare for her competitions. In addition, Sarah would take home a timer and other supplies she needed to practice independently.

"Fellow DMT instructor Ellie Byrd and I were here for questions, support and encouragement," Instructor Hritz said. "Sarah did all the work!"

"Sarah, along with other DMT students, Sports Medicine Instructor Gail Connors, and I attended the HOSA National Leadership Conference."

Swan took an online 50 question multiple choice exam that covered most aspects related to a nursing career including communication, personal qualities, ethical and legal responsibilities, human growth and development, anatomy and physiology, aging and geriatric care, nutrition, safety and body mechanics, infection control, vital signs, nursing assistant skills and metric measurements and conversions. She was also required to take a second online exam to qualify for state competition. When she passed the second test, Sarah was able to compete with the skills she had worked very hard on learning and perfecting.

"The main competition that took me to Nationals was Nursing Assisting," Swan said.

"After completing the skills portion, I found out the following day I had placed second in the state which qualified me to go to the National Competition held at Disney World," Swan said.

### Construction Trades Building Dreams



Emily and her sister Kristen love the outdoors; unfortunately, both suffer from Mitochondrial disease and are confined to wheelchairs. Even with this disease, the sisters refuse to let their boundaries be limited.

MCCC's Construction Trades program has teamed up with the Make-A-Wish Foundation to bring the girls' dreams to reality.

At the age of 13, Emily's wish is to spend time outdoors with her sister, as well as the rest of the family. However, the lack of space on their deck has provided little room to allow for it. With the help of Construction Trades, Emily will finally get her wish.

Students from Key Club and ten MCCC staff members began working on the wish by removing the existing deck and ramp the weekend prior to construction. Under the supervision of Todd Mason, Construction Trades Instructor, and Frank Baluch, Precision Machining Technology Instructor, students in Construction Trades worked on building a new handicap accessible ramp and larger deck.

On September 21, construction began on the 16 by 20 foot deck. People in the community, private contractors and major businesses, such as Home Depot, worked together to supply building materials.

The deck was completed early in October, according to Mason.

"My students worked tirelessly through rain, cold, and even spurts of sleet to complete the deck with some of them working a couple weekends and several evenings after school," Mason said.

The deck consists of several special features. It is made of a composite trex deck material allowing for a better and more refined wood look that doesn't require

maintenance. A wheelchair ramp is positioned on the left side allowing for easy access. It also includes a set of lights on the banister and a fire ring for nighttime use. For hotter days, or for people sensitive to the light, a simple awning supplies shade. Landscape will be added to finish the project in the coming spring.

"We are always looking for new community projects to work on," Mason said. "When I first met the girls, I felt so bad for them and started thinking of my own kids and how hard it would be to be confined to their house. From there, it wasn't too difficult of a decision to take on this project."

Key Club members, along with Chef and Restaurant Instructor Tony Stanislo and his students, provided lunch for the four days of construction. Several staff members brought snacks for the students as well. "It amazed me the way the staff and students of the school came together and worked selflessly to support this worthy cause. I have seen it time and time again in my year and a half at the school. It makes me proud to be part of this organization," Mason said.

Make-A-Wish grants the wishes of children between the ages of 2 ½ and 18 with life-threatening medical conditions. Every wish relies on the support of local businesses and organizations to help grant the wishes.



# HOME SCHOOLS' STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE HOME SCHOOL PRIDE

This school year, more than 400 MCCC students are involved with an extracurricular activity at their home school. Admissions Coordinator Chris Kalina explained that each year senior students complete a survey on their experience at MCCC. One of the top findings is that students feel it is very important to stay involved with their home school in a variety of ways.

## Why are you involved with an activity at your home school?

*"I love the feeling of pumping up the crowd for a big win!"*

**Leah Pasquarelli**, Early Childhood Education II – Medina: Cheerleader

*"I love singing, dancing and tennis, because it's rad."*

**Andy Palsgraf**, Video Production I – Medina: Showchoir, Men's Chorus, Tennis

*"I believe it is important to never lose sight of who you are and your home school."*

**Jaden Lynn Stormer**, Business and Marketing Technology I – Brunswick: Golf, Choir

*"So I can be part of a family."*

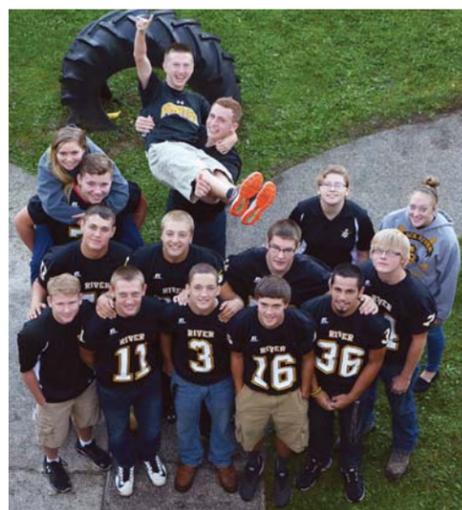
**Amanda Caspary**, Chef and Restaurant II – Brunswick: Cross Country

*"I've been playing ever since I could stand and it's the game I love."*

**Josh Ailiff**, Automotive Technology I – Medina: Varsity Soccer

*"I absolutely love playing the game. It's been a big part of my life for a very long time."*

**Kevin Zacharyasz**, Precision Machining Technology II – Buckeye: Football



*"Sports is my life."*

**Allan Benson**, Heating, Ventilation & Air-Conditioning I – Black River: Football, Basketball, Baseball

*"I simply love the sport. I enjoy that it is a team sport and my team works well together."*

**Brodie Gagne**, Automotive Technology I – Buckeye: Varsity Soccer

*"I love music. Marching band just fascinates me how we can all move together as a whole and create a show."*

**Rebecca Drummond**, Video Production I – Medina: Marching Band

*"I enjoy lacrosse and like helping freshman in Link Crew."*

**Jessica Bolger**, Engineering Technologies and Design – Brunswick: Lacrosse, Link Crew

*"I want to be involved and track is a good way to be involved and make friends."*

**Brian Kushlak**, Computer Science and Forensics I – Brunswick: Track and Field

## Why is it important to be part of your home school?

*"I can still be connected with my friends and represent my school at the Career Center."*

**Andy Palsgraf**, Video Production I – Medina: Show Choir, Men's Chorus, Tennis

*"I can stay connected and still have a good time at my home school."*

**Jessica Bolger**, Engineering Technologies and Design – Brunswick: Lacrosse, Link

*"I'm a Brunswick Blue Devil. Go big Blue!"*

**Jaden Lynn Stormer**, Business and Marketing Technology I – Brunswick: Golf, Choir

*"It's important to socialize with friends you've left behind and not completely separate yourself."*

**Kevin Zacharyasz**, Precision Machining Technology II – Buckeye: Football

*"It is still important to be a part of it because you have many opportunities at your home school too."*

**Rebecca Drummond**, Video Production I – Medina: Marching Band

*"It's important because it's where I come from. I still have to represent Buckeye."*

**Brodie Gagne**, Automotive Technology I – Buckeye: Varsity Soccer

*"In order to stay in touch with my friends and see how they are doing at Black River."*

**Allan Benson**, Heating, Ventilation & Air-Conditioning I – Black River: Football, Basketball, Baseball

*"I get to stay connected to my friends and be a part of the Swarm."*

**Josh Ailiff**, Automotive Technology I – Medina: Varsity Soccer



*"I get to show support to my home school and see my friends."*

**Amanda Caspary**, Chef and Restaurant II – Brunswick: Cross Country



*"Being a part of your home school keeps you involved with old friends and teachers."*

**Brian Kushlak**, Computer Science and Forensics I – Brunswick: Track and Field



*"My home school is where I spent my first two years of high school and met some of my best friends."*

**Leah Pasquarelli**, Early Childhood Education II – Medina: Cheerleader

MCCC is comprised of students from seven school districts within Medina County and offers over 25 technical career programs covering many opportunities in today's job market.



Group Photos – First column: top photo – all schools combined; middle – Black River High School; bottom – Highland High School.

Photos – Second column: top photo – Brunswick High School; 2nd photo from top – Buckeye High School; 3rd photo – Cloverleaf High School; and bottom photo – Medina High School.



# ALCOA

## \$25,000 Grant to PMT Program

By: *Andrea Peck*

MCCC's Precision Machining Technology program recently received a grant for \$25,000 from international manufacturer ALCOA.

HR employees from ALCOA's Barberton branch contacted Frank Baluch, the Precision Machining Technology (PMT) instructor, in an effort to hire students for manufacturing positions.

"Companies are looking for skilled people who have the ability to set up a machine, not just push a button," Baluch said.

Through this discussion, the PMT program was encouraged to apply for a grant of \$25,000 to put towards the purchase of a FANUC simulator and computer numerical control software. The equipment cost totalled \$46,000 and MCCC was able to cover the remaining \$21,000 to make it happen.

"The grant also includes an instructor certification program," Baluch said.

Through this grant, Baluch and Lorah Meech, instructor for the Engineering Technologies and Design program, will be certified through a four-day training class and online component.

"Once we are certified, we will be able to work towards certifying our students," Baluch said.

The new FANUC simulator is the industry standard and will be used along with PMT's current training model. Baluch explained machining employers are looking for skilled employees who can set up the machine, which is a skill most new hires do not possess.

The machine is small enough to be portable so it can be easily moved between the PMT and engineering labs.

Baluch is a former employee of ALCOA and had worked as a toolmaker for 34 years with the company.

"It is a great honor to receive this grant," he said.

ALCOA is the world's third largest producer of alumina and aluminum. ALCOA creates a variety of products to enhance performance from transportation to consumer and industrial electronics.



*Precision Machining Instructor Frank Baluch is working with junior Austin Kluk on CNC program set-up.*

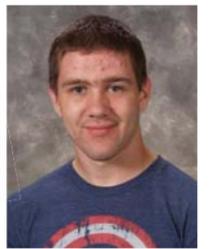
# Students of the Month

## October 2014



**Macie Hollopeter** – Macie is a senior in the Optical program. She currently serves as treasurer of her class, as well as for her dance group, Tour de Force. Macie was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society and has been on the Honor Roll throughout high school. She is involved in competitive dance and competed at the Cathy Roe Ultimate Dance Spectacular. Macie won the Technician of the Year Award at Art in Motion Dance Center. Her volunteer activities include park cleaning, the Susan G. Komen Cancer Walk, dancing at nursing homes and Camp Paradise, working at Adopt-a-Family for the holidays, Safety Town, and the Bright Eyedeas Optical Clinic. Following graduation, Macie plans to work in the optical field, obtain her optician's license, and become a vision therapist.

**Kevin Chester** – Kevin is a senior in the Sports Medicine and Exercise Science program. He served as a representative to Junior Leadership last year. Kevin served on Student Council for two years at his home school and was also a HUDDLE leader. Kevin was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society as a junior. He is team captain for both his wrestling and football teams. Kevin's academics include dual credit classes in Sports Medicine and Exercise Science, Medical Terminology, Political Science, and English Composition through Lorain County Community College. His volunteer activities include the blood drive, youth football camp, Homecoming set up, working at the Post Newspaper, and activities at the Achievement Center. Kevin is a four-year letter winner in wrestling and a three-year letter winner in football. He also played baseball for one year and sang in the Men's Choir. Kevin won the Sportsman Award for wrestling his junior year. He has also won an Academic Letter each of the last three years. Following graduation, Kevin plans to attend college to obtain a degree in pharmacy.



# Trail to Distinction

By: *Tristan Seacrist*

Thomas Matheis spent his summer blazing the trail to obtain the rank of Eagle Scout from the Boy Scouts of America. He accomplished this by taking a lead role in making a number of improvements to one of our local parks.

Matheis, a senior in Video Production II, admits he got a late start in scouting when he joined in 2007. While most boys join Boy Scouts at the younger age of 11, Matheis admits he wasn't interested in Scouts at that point in his life.

"When I was 11, I didn't think scouting was for me. I never had an interest and honestly, all I thought they did was tie knots which was not what I wanted to do," he said.

Matheis has many family ties to scouting. He became involved when he learned that two of his cousins, including Andrew Diamond, a student in Software Engineering and Web Development II, were in Scout Troop 513 out of Brunswick. He later learned that his grandfather was the original founder of Troop 513.

Matheis began the early planning stages of his project in October 2013 and officially received the go-ahead on February 2, 2014.

Several requirements must be fulfilled in order to receive Eagle rank, including a community service project. The project provides the opportunity for a qualified scout to demonstrate leadership while performing a project for the benefit of his community.

Once all plans were finalized, Matheis acquired funding from the Brunswick Soccer Association and began construction. Construction started Memorial Day weekend and was completed June 4, 2014.

The project took place at Hopkins Park in Brunswick, and included replacing 250 feet of wooden fence with vinyl fencing, replacing two wooden gates with two 16-foot tubular gates, putting four 4 x 8 foot cement slabs under four benches, and creating a walkway leading to the soccer fields.

"It was a very tough and time-consuming project, but I am glad I finished it," Matheis said, describing the accomplishment he felt, though he admits he didn't do it alone.

"Not all the work at Hopkins was done by me; my friend and fellow Scout Nick Gati worked on some parts of the project including an additional 250 feet of fence, one gate, four slabs and two new benches," he said.



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The Medina County Career Center JVSD 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 2014

*Swan Wins 1st Place in Nursing Competition - continued from page 1*

While she was there, Swan had to take another skills test to qualify her to move on to round two. On Swan's fifth day in Orlando, she went to the awards ceremony.

"Waiting for my competition awards to start was one of the hardest things I have had to do," she said. "I was so anxious and nervous."

The judge announced the top ten finalists, and then stated who placed third, second, and first.

"They called third and second, and honestly I thought, well if I haven't been called by now, I didn't place," Swan said. "Then, the only thing I remember hearing was my school name and then my last name and I was shocked."

Swan said she had never felt happier and was very proud of herself. She was both shaking and crying with excitement.

At that point, Hritz took her students and fellow instructor to celebrate and enjoyed an evening at the Magic Kingdom.

"Our students were awesome and it was an amazing experience!" Hritz said.

Swan agreed.

Going to Disney World and winning a national competition was one of the biggest accomplishments Sarah has ever had, and it was an experience that she will never forget, according to Swan.

"The students and instructors are very appreciative of our amazing Board of Education and Administration for supporting MCCC students with these incredible opportunities," Hritz said.

**Visit MCCC online at  
[www.mcjvs.edu](http://www.mcjvs.edu)**



Above, Optical Technology juniors recently conducted preschool vision screenings. Brittany Cummings is pictured working with Ethan Cummings checking for amblyopia indicators.

## Mark Your Calendars

- Thanksgiving Break ..... November 26-28**
- Blood Drive ..... December 2**
- Winter Break ..... December 22 - January 2, 2015**
- Open House 6-8pm ..... January 29  
February 4**
- Prom Fashion Show ..... February 5**



## A Night with the Stars

By: *Celena Holtzclaw*

On September 11, MCCC's Chef and Restaurant Management program collaborated with local area restaurants for United Way of Medina County's annual Taste of Medina County.

The 24<sup>th</sup> annual Taste of Medina County – "A Night with the Stars" event – featured the finest foods from MCCC's Center Café, along with

22 local restaurants. Hosted by the Weymouth Country Club, the three-hour fundraiser served approximately 200 people.

Instructor for MCCC's Chef and Restaurant program, Chef Tony Stanislo, planned for over a month with his chef students to prepare for and achieve the Hollywood theme through food selection, plating and decorations.

"I do a lot of planning and making sure the food we serve guests provides the most tasteful experience," Stanislo said.

Stanislo took ten senior students to the event. He explained the students he selects must have strong culinary skills.

"(I believe) this was one of our best years because I gave the students more ownership of the work they did," he said. "The students took great deal of pride in the food they prepared."

The Center Café has been part of this event for the past 14 years. Stanislo feels the event is extremely important in order to "help United Way and help others in need."

The event took place on the memorable date of September 11, which marked the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the terrorist attacks. The success of the event was evident as many felt compelled to give to the organization that played a large role in the recovery of Ground Zero.

The Center Café is open to the public and offers sitdown lunch Wednesdays through Fridays from 10:30a.m. to 1:00p.m. All foods are prepared and served by the students of the Chef and Restaurant Management Program. Visit [mcjvs.edu](http://mcjvs.edu) for the latest menu.

