



The Connecting Link

Winter Issue, 2010

A quarterly publication from Four County Area Vocational Cooperative

FCAVC Areas of Study

- ◆ Auto Body Collision Repair
- ◆ Automotive Technology
- ◆ CAD Drafting
- ◆ Construction Trades
- ◆ Cosmetology
- ◆ Criminal Justice
- ◆ Culinary Arts
- ◆ Direct Health Care
- ◆ Health Occupations Education
- ◆ HVACR
- ◆ Machine Trades
- ◆ Marine Mechanics
- ◆ Welding

For more information on the Four County Area Vocational Cooperative:

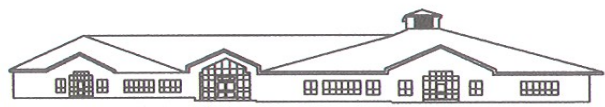
260-349-0250 local
 260-349-0240 fax
www.fcavc.org
www.gettherenow.info

Construction Trades Program Utilizes Skills USA Lowe's Grant



Through a partnership with Lowe's the Four County Area Vocational Cooperative Construction Trades Program is building an energy efficient green-concept home with the assistance of a SkillsUSA Grant. This partnership, which was launched in the Spring of 2010, has been instrumental in providing the Construction Trades students with even more opportunities to explore state of the art building that benefits not only the homeowners, but the community as well. A special thanks to Paul Lutteringer and Chris Fisher for working so closely with the students during this project.

Read more about the Construction Trades project and Grant inside!



Serving Students from:

- ◆ Angola High School
- ◆ Central Noble High School
- ◆ DeKalb Central High School
- ◆ East Noble High School
- ◆ Eastside High School
- ◆ Fremont High School
- ◆ Garrett High School
- ◆ Hamilton High School
- ◆ Lakeland High School
- ◆ Prairie Heights High School
- ◆ Westview High School

At a Glance...

This issue will highlight:

- * Auto Body Collision Repair
- * Automotive Technology
- * CAD
- * Construction Trades
- * Cosmetology
- * HVAC
- * Machine Trades
- * Marine Mechanics
- * Focus on Adult Education
- * Get There Now!/Campus Connections

Important Dates:

- November 24-26: Thanksgiving Break
- December 3: Skills USA Membership Due
- December 7: Annual Staff Holiday Party
- December 15&16: DHC State Testing
- December 17: DHC Graduation
- December 22-January 2: Winter Break



Construction Trades

The mild weather has greatly aided in the progress of the new Touchstone home at Noblehawk Golf Course in Kendallville. Students have been busy this fall, from pouring concrete, setting walls and erecting trusses. Presently the students are finishing the stone work, have applied shingles and installed windows. Doors of opportunity have again been opened up this year, with the Partnerships of Noble REMC and the Touchstone Energy Program which continues to create great energy conservation construction techniques for both FCAVC Construction students and local contractors. In addition, our newest partnership aiding in promoting student learning is the Lowes Grant made possible through Skills USA. Our local Lowes associates have been very proactive in the project's progress and the students personal growth in the construction industry. The students have done an excellent job in all the phases of the project from framing to the stone work on the corners. The students hope to have the exterior completed by the first week in December then they will move inside to complete the interior during the winter months.

With grant dollars awarded through the SkillsUSA Lowe's grant, the Construction Trades program is currently building its third Touchstone Energy® home providing features such as energy efficiency, cleaner and safer construction, more uniform and comfortable living environment and higher home re-sale value and is continuing to work with organizations in our communities to provide homeownership of this state of the art home for a family in need. This project establishes in young builders trends to follow and how to implement energy efficient construction processes. Students will be able to use these transferrable skills not only in SkillsUSA competition, but into the workplace in real world applications and in pursuing higher education and advanced training. The opportunities for students to work with professionals in all aspects of the building process as well as industry leaders such as Lowe's only increases the educational experience at all levels of the building process.



Focus on Adult Education

2010 has been a year of change for Adult Education, from budgets to the way the program operate. New students wanting to enroll in a new Adult Education class must now attend a mandatory 2 hour orientation session and a 12 hour class session prior to entering any class. Orientation dates are based upon demand at the time, and are scheduled in morning and afternoon sessions. At the orientation, students will complete registration forms, take a "TABE" tested to determine their academic learning level, receive introductory information regarding the actual GED test and be presented with information from WorkOne and have the opportunity to enroll with them and use their services. Those interested in pursuing the classes need to contact Sue Custer at 343-2163 for additional information. Also, due to demand and such high rates of success, the Cooperative will be adding a Winter GED Graduation the calendar. This will be held on Sunday, February 6 at the Cooperative Administration Building.

Another new venture in Adult Education is the offering of GED Online. This program is aimed at students whose schedules don't allow them to attend classes. Students who wish to pursue this option must still attend the mandatory orientation as any other student would, and must test at a 9th grade level or above. For the online courses, students are still required to attend 3 hours of in-class time as scheduled and must then do another 9 hours on their own each week. Students interested in this option, should inquire at orientation.

The Connections (Out of School Youth) Program is also seeing much success, with over 100 participants so far. This program is for young adults ages 17 to not yet 22, who have not completed their high school diploma. Interested students must first be approved by WorkOne based on their requirements. Students are required to attend 16 hours of class each week in preparation of obtaining their GED. With the WorkOne partnership, the students will also pursue training in a Vocational area of their choice. Anyone interested in participating in the Connections program should contact: 17-not yet 22, Dave Mattison at 260-449-6818 (Noble & DeKalb Cty) or Jackie Christman at 260-316-2358 (LaGrange & Steuben Cty).



In other news, Adult education instructor Karen Noll, is pictured holding bags of pop can tabs. The tabs are being delivered to Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. The proceeds from the tabs will benefit the Ronald McDonald House at Riley Children's Hospital.



Get There Now! College in High School

The Fall session of about 300 students is quickly coming to an end. The Spring semester course list is available at www.gettherenow.info. High School students interested in taking these dual credit courses should contact Leslie Raymer soon, as they should be enrolled by Thanksgiving. Also, any college bound students should be working on filling out their FAFSA as soon as their parents complete their tax returns, but for sure by March 1.

If any additional information is needed regarding Campus Connections, please contact Leslie Raymer, Campus Connections Director at 260-343-2159, 260-242-2310 or by email at lraymer@fcavc.org.

Cosmetology

The Cosmetology program is again focusing on Community Service this school year. Just as last year, the class chooses a project for each month. They collect dog food and treats to donate to the local humane societies and have collected canned goods for the local food bank. For November and December, you can participate in the Giving Tree. Bring in a new toy, such as a board game, doll, crayons and stuffed animals, and get a free haircut and style. These gifts will go to children in need in the surrounding Four County area.

The program is also preparing for another Cut-a-Thon. The students and instructor foresee this event becoming an annual occasion. Last year they were able to raise \$1,200 in turn adopting 8 families from the Christmas Bureau. This year's Cut-a-Thon will be held on Saturday, December 4. Be sure to mark your calendar's and come get a \$5 service of your choice (excludes hair color and perms). The students also encourage you to check out their Community Webpage. This site is maintained by the students through Google Apps and contains information on their Community Service events and schedules.



Please visit: <https://sites.google.com/a/fcavc.org/community-cosmetology-site/>



**The Direct Health Care Class will begin their
State CNA Testing on December 15.**

**The class will then hold their Graduation on
December 17 in the Lecture Hall at the Fairview Facility.**

Wish them all luck!!



**CULINARY ARTS 4C CAFE
580 FAIRVIEW BLVD.
OPEN TUES.-THRS., 10:30AM-12:30PM**

Marine Mechanics



It's been another busy fall for the Marine Mechanics class. Thanks to the nice weather in September and October the class was able to start the year on Sylvan Lake learning about boat handling and safety. But, once the colder weather set in, it was time to start winterizing boats.

In October the students visited B & E Marine in Michigan City where they were exposed to the largest Sea Ray dealer on the Great Lakes along with a boat ride on Lake Michigan.



In other news, Harris Kayot in Ft. Wayne donated \$24,000 worth of motors to the program this month and we are expecting a donation of motors from Bombardier in the near future. The students and instructors are very grateful to these companies for their support.

The program also currently has four students committed to Wyo-Tech in Daytona Beach, Florida. They are Jared Stowe, Trey Scott, Blake Boyd & Dustin Parr. There are also six students that will be going to MMI in Orlando, Florida. Those students are: Dillon Slain, Jake Lepper, Cody Krafft, Cody Black, Dillon Kirkpatrick and Dalton Slain.

Computer Aided Drafting

Cad Drafting is off to a great start for the 2010-2011 school year! To sum up what has been going on in the classroom with a "catchy phrase"... *"WE ARE MOVIN AND SHAKIN!"*

Many students are looking forward to becoming members of SkillsUSA. With students becoming members, they will be able to compete in competition in either Architectural Drafting or Technical Drafting. Regionals will be held in February. We will keep you posted on our progress.

Moving right along... Second year mechanical students just completed a very complex project! They created a Mountain board using Solid Works software. Students had to create every single part of the mountain board, which was a total of 38 parts! From each part, the students assembled the mountain boards to complete the project. This is Matt Millers (Prairie Heights High School) final mountain board (see Picture). We wanted to take this project one step further... So now the students are in the process of making a scaled model of their mountain boards using our Dimension Prototype machine.

Shaking right into what the Second year Architectural students are working on... Four students from the morning class spent a morning out at the building trade's home to note changes that have been made to the home since the first set of prints were drafted. Once the students complete the changes they found out at the site, the new owners of the home to have a complete set of *"as-built"* prints for future reference. Other students are working on turning a *"Brownfield"* building in Noblesville, Indiana into a renovated library. These are both very extensive projects, and we will keep you posted on their progress.



Let's *Shake* things up and talk about bridge design... Both first and second year students participated in this hand on project. Students had to design a bridge to test for Force (lbs.) and displacement (in). Another design constraint was that the students only had a 4' x 4" x 1/4" piece of balsa wood, 100 Popsicle sticks and good old Elmer's glue. But believe it or not... We had a bridge that actually held a force of 544 lbs! Congrats to Zach Saylor and Quinton Holloway (both students are from Prairie Heights High School) for designing the strongest bridge!

As you can see... things are *moving and shaking* right along this school year. I am very happy with the progress the students are making, and can see great futures for all of them.

Machine Trades

Machine Trades students continue to fine tune their precision skills. The program was lucky to get the opportunity to go to the International Machine Tool Show in Chicago. Students and staff were able to see the newest technology and experience the importance of this trade globally. Back at the shop students have numerous projects in process as well as side jobs for our partners in the COOP and community.



Automotive Technology

Students in the Auto Tech program are currently studying braking systems and steering and suspension with Mr. Prater and Mr. Helm respectively. They are staying busy in the shop completing their NATEF curriculum tasks as required as well as with working on vehicles from community members. The program will be selecting eight students to participate in the SkillsUSA competitions, beginning in February. This year's competition for the student's will again be held at Ivy Tech Community College in Fort Wayne. The program also saw a large crowd at their Open House in early November. The students, along with Mr. Prater and Mr. Helm would like to thank everyone that came through.



HVAC

The HVAC class has been busy preparing materials to assist the Construction Trades program by making preparations to install the GeoThermal Heating and Cooling unit. They have been framing to begin installing ductwork that run throughout the house. So far this year students have learned to read blueprints and have gained trouble shooting skills on various refrigeration units. The students look forward to installing the entire GeoThermal unit with assistance of professional contractors.



Want a part in making decisions about the Cooperative's Technology? The Technology Advisory Board is looking for members to assist in picking out and evaluating new technology and give feedback on items already in place.

You can make a difference in the Cooperative's technological progress!

Contact Kyle Smith and join today!

Auto Body Collision Repair



The Auto Body Collision Repair program has been very busy this fall. First year students have spent quite a bit of time in class and are now working on their door panels and starting to spend time in the paint booth. Second year students are busy working on vehicles and are finishing up our Dodge Ram project for Diesel World magazine. The students are actually in the current issue that will be released in January. Be sure to check out our website, www.fcavc.org, and check out the article. Students also did a quick paint job on the new FVAVC special purpose and are currently wrapping up a couple of light collision jobs from the public. Students are booked up with projects to finish out the year and look forward to what is to come at the New Year.

Happy Thanksgiving to All!

More Than a Day



As Thanksgiving Day rolls around,
It brings up some facts, quite profound.
We may think that we're poor,
Feel like bums, insecure,
But in truth, our riches astound.

We have friends and family we love;
We have guidance from Heaven above.
We have so much more
Than they sell in a store,
We're wealthy, when push comes to shove.

So add up your Blessings, I say;
Make Thanksgiving last more than a day.
Enjoy what you've got;
Realize it's a lot,
And you'll make all your cares go away.

By: Karl Fuchs