

A Message From Your President, Suzanne Kelly



Greetings MS ACTE. The month of February is designated as National CTE Month. Please make an effort to share positive news concerning your program achievements as well as the success stories of your CTE students with school administrators, parents, community members, business and industry leaders, and your local

and state legislators. CTE provides a wonderful opportunity for students to explore career options and learn life long skills while in high school and many students in our state are missing out on this wonderful opportunity. CTE programs offer scholarship opportunities, college credits, and national certifications, and leadership opportunities through CTE student organizations. Many of our student organizations will host district and/or state competitions during the month of February. This is another opportunity to share positive information with your community.

I am pleased to share that our 2015 Summer Conference will be held at the Jackson Convention Center July 29th – 31st. We are looking forward to a great conference with professional development sessions designed especially for

CTE educators. I hope you submitted a presentation proposal for the conference if you were interested. If you did not get a proposal submitted, but have suggestions for topics you would like to see at this years conference, please email your affiliate president and/or your state supervisor with your suggestions soon. Contact information for your affiliate presidents may be found on our website at www.mississippiacte.com.

On a personal note, I strongly believe that our state association will only be as strong as our active members. Please take time at the 2015 Summer Conference to attend your MS ACTE affiliate business meetings as well as your ACTE regional business meetings. We need members who are willing to step up to the plate to serve on committees as well as take on active leadership roles to help guide Mississippi ACTE as we continue to grow as a professional organization.

Finally, let me encourage you to take time this spring to nominate your students and coworkers for the awards and scholarships programs offered through ACTE. You will find more information concerning the nomination process and deadlines on our state website. Thank you for allowing me to serve you this year. I look forward to seeing you this summer!

Mississippi ACTE Receives QAS Award

submitted by: Linda Bath

MS ACTE was awarded the 2014 ACTE Quality Association Standards Award at the ACTE VISION 14 Conference in Nashville in November 2014. The purpose of the Quality Association Standards is to provide benchmarks for state associations to determine levels of performance and satisfactory service to their members and prospective members.



Hello From the Mississippi ACTE Office

submitted by: Linda Bath

I am excited that the 2015 Summer Conference will be held at the Jackson Convention Center in July. It is a beautiful facility! All affiliate meetings will be held at that location with the exception of the Agriculture affiliate and perhaps some of the Trade and Industry groups who would prefer to meet at a school so they can be in a “shop” environment. We will have vendors at this year’s conference, and we will host the MS ACTE Reception. Registration for the conference will be done on the RCU web site. I hope all of you will plan to attend.

The ACTE Region IV Conference will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas, April 16-18. The registration form and tentative agenda can be found at www.ACTEonline.org/Arkansas. The early bird registration fee is \$175 if you register prior to March 1; after March 1 it will be \$225. This conference is within driving distance for us, so please plan to attend. We have exciting news... the Mississippi ACTE Face Book page is up and running. Aimee Brown is the administrator of the site. If you have items you want posted please send them to her at acbrown@madison-schools.com. Aimee also serves as the chairperson for the Resolutions Committee. MS ACTE recognizes members who are retiring this year or who passed away during the year with a resolution at the summer conference. If you know of anyone who is retiring or who has died, please send that information to her.

I would like to encourage you to nominate someone to serve as MS ACTE’s 2nd Vice President. The deadline for submitting the form has been extended to March 31. The nomination form can be found on our web site, mississippiacte.com. Click on the Download button to pull up the form. Robert Barnard, our 1st Vice President, is a member of the CPE affiliate. According to our bylaws, we cannot have consecutive presidents from the same affiliate. Some of the criteria for this position would be that they have served as a district and/or affiliate president or served on state committees.

Your district presidents will be scheduling the Spring District Meetings soon. I encourage you attend. They work hard to plan these events, and I hope you will attend these informative, networking meetings. You will receive a memo from your president as soon as the meeting dates are set. I will also post the date, time, location, and speaker on our web site.

Thanks for your support of ACTE by being a member of your professional organization. Please contact me if I can be of service to you.

Hinds CC Vicksburg-Warren Campus Automotive Technology Receives Donation



Cannon Honda of Vicksburg donated about \$12,500 in parts to Hinds’ Vicksburg-Warren Campus Automotive Technology Department. Pictured are Blain Lee of Cannon Honda in Vicksburg, left, and instructor Dave Ellison, who accepted the donation on behalf of the college.

Marvin Moak, dean of the Vicksburg-Warren Campus, said the donation is significant for the program. “It allows us to train our students using current parts and equipment, giving them a real experience,” he said.

Lamar Technical Center News

submitted by: Melissa Graham

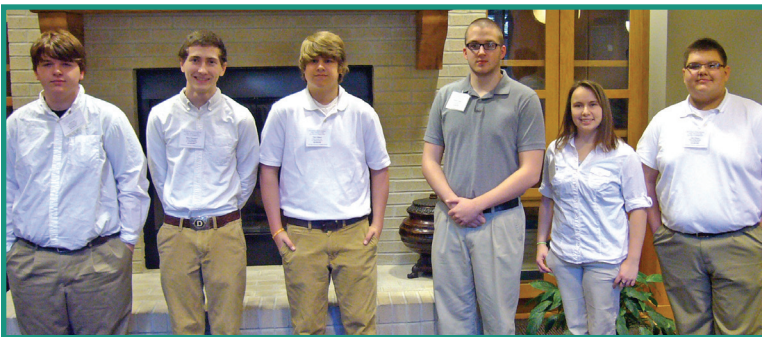
Student Gains Industry Certifications

Dustin Coker, former Automotive Service Technology student at Lamar Technical Center, recently passed nine national certification tests through ASE. Based on his high state test scores in Automotive Service Technology, Dustin qualified for free testing in the ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) program. Dustin passed all nine areas of certification on his first attempt: maintenance/light repair, manual drive train/axles, automatic transmission & transaxle, heating/AC, engine repair, engine performance, electrical/electronic systems, brakes and suspension/steering. Leslie Brown, Automotive instructor at Lamar Technical Center, stated "This is such a good opportunity for Dustin. These certifications will definitely benefit him as he pursues a career."



TSA Winners!

The Lamar Technical Center chapter of TSA (Technology Student Association) has several awards to display from a recent district competition held at the Lowery Woodall Technology Advanced Technology Center. The following students competed and won in various categories.



J.D. O'Brian (2nd place) and Kristal Bethe (4th place)
– Computer Aided Design

Blake Ray, Trace Claburn, Kristal Bethe, Cantreal Barnes (2nd place as a team) – Manufacturing Prototype

Dylan Davenport and Braxton Eubanks (1st place as a team) – Structural Engineering

These students will proceed to state TSA competition in Jackson March 16, 17 and 18.

Fire Safety Training

Students at Lamar Technical Center receive training in fire safety every year. Mr. Chris Shivers, Safety Specialist with Farm Bureau, speaks with students about the importance of smoke detectors, evacuation plans and the proper use of fire extinguishers. As a part

of his presentation, he allows students to demonstrate different types of fire extinguishers.



Mississippi Culinary Arts Teacher Chopped Challenge

Debbie Miller and Tricia Griffin proudly represented Lamar County placing 1st and 2nd in the Mississippi Culinary Arts Teacher Chopped Challenge. Debbie received a serving tray to be used in her classroom for first place and Tricia received a chef knife for second. Debbie teaches Culinary Arts at Oak Grove High School and Tricia teaches Culinary Arts at Sumrall High School.

A Look at Hazlehurst High School's CTE Programs

submitted by: Michelle Richardson



Leake County Career & Technical Center Student Receives Certification

Submitted by: Pamela Peoples

Curt Smith (left) is ASE Certified. Smith completed Automotive Service Technology II at Leake Tech in Carthage, MS last spring. His advanced scores on the MSCPAS2 Test made him eligible to take the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Exam. "This certification gives customers and employers more confidence in the skills of trained individuals," said Automotive Service Technology Instructor, Ben Pope (right). The ASE certification indicates that a person has reached a specific level of knowledge and expertise in automotive maintenance and repair.



Simpson County Technical Center Student Receives Certification

submitted by: Carol Ann Drane

Jean Cook has earned Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification by successfully completing all test criteria set by the Automotive Youth Educational Systems (AYES), the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) and SkillsUSA. Jean is a senior at Mendenhall High School and a Career Pathways Experience student at the Simpson County Technical Center.

Lamar Technical Center Health Science Students Learn About PPE

submitted by: Melissa Graham



Health Science I students at Lamar Technical Center had first-hand practice with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Instructors, Laura Fails and Deanna Dunaway, demonstrate the proper technique in using PPE and then students practice in class. PPE is used daily in medical environments and students enrolled in Health Science are planning to pursue health care careers after graduation.

Lamar Technical Center VEX Robotics Winners!

submitted by: Melissa Graham

Lamar Technical Center Engineering students Michael Evans, Caleb Stanford, Derrik Harvey and Perry Hopstein won the Engineering Excellence Award at the district VEX Robotics Competition in Richton, MS. These students are sponsored by Engineering instructors, Bruce Lampe' and Teresa Sappington. Long hours were put in by students and engineering instructors alike in order to prepare for this competition. Winning at the district level allows the team to advance to state VEX Robotics Competitions in March. When asked about the importance of students participating in competitions, Bruce Lampe' replied, "All of the planning, building and trouble-shooting the students did for this competition will definitely help them in their future technical careers."



ACHS FFA CDE Winner

from the Alcorn Career and Technology Times, Volume 4, Issue 2, December 2014

Submitted by: Brandon Derrick, ACHS Agriculture Instructor and FFA Advisor

On October 28, 2014 – November 1, 2014, Megan Robinson of the Alcorn Central FFA chapter represented Mississippi in the Job Interview Career Development Event at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, KY. Out of the 43 states competing, she placed 6th and received a cash prize of \$550. The National FFA Job Interview Career Development Event is designed for FFA members to develop, practice, and demonstrate skills needed for seeking employment in the industry of agriculture. Each part of the event simulates, as closely as possible, real-world activities that will be used by realworld employers. Prior to competing, the students submit a cover letter and resume for an agricultural employer. Over two days the students have to complete a standard job application, complete a telephone interview, face a panel of three interviewers, complete a one on one interview, a networking activity, and follow-up correspondence.

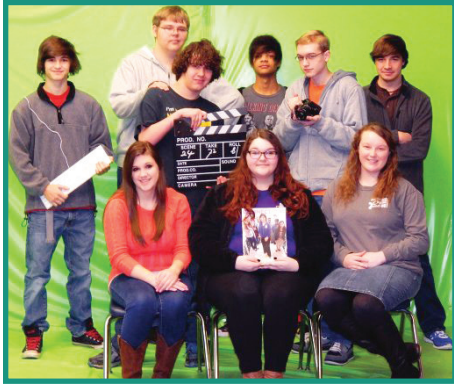


Center prepares students for the future

by Kimberly Shelton • from the Daily Corinthian, Saturday, January 24, 2015

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A recently featured cover designer for Connections education magazine, second-year Digital Media Technology student Brianna Flemming collaborates with fellow students on a film project.

This is the first in a four-part series profiling programs at the Alcorn Career and Technology Center.

It was lights, camera and action as students and instructors at the Alcorn County Career and Technology Center gathered on a soggy Friday morning to dive into current projects as they prepare for Career and Technical Education (CTE) month in February.

Now in its second year at the center, the Digital Media Technology class is putting the world at the fingertips of aspiring artists, actors and filmmakers.

"I have taught this class since its inception," said instructor Steve Shaw. "Prior to that I taught Graphic Arts, from which DMT evolved, for 23 years."

Geared toward creative people who enjoy working with state-of-the-art technology, the class teaches photography, photo-manipulation skills (photoshop), music editing and digital composition, animation, video production and motion graphics.

"Basically it is an editing class where we can take still images, video, cartoons, or audio and combine them, change them and make a separate creation," Shaw explained.

While anyone with a passion for graphic design, the cinematic arts, or photography would enjoy the class, an affinity for computers is definitely a plus.

A two-year program, students register with their school counselor or in the spring and begin the class in the fall semester.

According to Shaw, the students work on various projects depending on the year they're enrolled.

First year students are completing Photography/Photoshop projects where they have created a clone project, magazine covers, and other photo-enhancement projects. Next week they will begin a month-long unit on animation creation.

Second year students have completed several film projects including Halloween and Christmas movie trailers starring their classmates and teachers; the filming of ACTC events; the production of tornado and other disaster drill instructional videos and the completion of a PSA video about "Motorcycle Awareness for Drivers" for the B.A.G.G.E.R.S (Bikers Awareness Group Giving Every Road Safety) Motorcycle club.

"We're storytellers who spin tales through our pictures, videos and music," said Shaw. "We take photos change them up, make movies and play with the coolest technology you can get. Sometimes it's a bit tedious, but it's always fun."

"The best part for me is watching a student take an idea from thought to a finished professional image or production," he added. "I've got some folks I believe we'll all be hearing great things from in the future."

"An exciting yet challenging course, career tech students believe dedication and perseverance are the keys to success.

"We have a lot of fun, but its not

just something you can goof off at," said Connor Scott Smith, a 17-year-old senior at Kos-suth High School. "Prospective students should realize it requires a great deal of dedication and should only come into it if they are serious about learning the effects we do."

Smith deemed his favorite aspect of the class as having the opportunity to interact with the equipment and have access to creative designs to make his visions come alive.

Echoing his sentiments, his fellow classmates Robert Spencer Chandler, Kelsey Roach and Dashawn Farley said they are excited to have the technology at their disposal and plan to use the skills they acquire in their future careers.

"I hope to one day teach a class just like this," said Chandler.

Praised by his students as an awesome teacher, Shaw said it is the students of digital media who are the real superstars.

"They are able to do things I have no idea how they do," he said. "Things I can't even do."

A self-described old country boy at heart, Shaw has a favorite saying he uses when his students ask permission to begin a task.

"When they ask me if they can do something, I always say 'fog it to it'," said the instructor with a laugh. "They have actually titled one of their film projects 'fog' in my honor. I don't know whether to be flattered or to scratch my head and come up with a different expression."

Instilling in students the importance of shop safety, construction math, blueprint reading, machining with the metal lathe, press drill and milling machine, those enrolled in Manufacturing Fundamentals/ Metal Fabrication are creating sparks and fabricating works of art.

Formerly called Metal Trades, the classes main focus is machining metal.

"It picks up where manufacturing leaves off since it is a class for second-year students," said Jesse Potts who has instructed the manufacturing class for its entire three years and the Metal Trades class the three years before. "Second years learn more about welding, cutting with the torch or plasma cutter and building projects."

Current and past projects include the making of a ball peen hammer, metal deer blind, c-clamp, metal storm door, lathe puzzle, a model of a metal duck call, trellises for the Alcorn County Superintendent's office, a horse-shoe pumpkin for a cancer patient's benefit and even the model of a Civil War cannon.

"We take on community projects which require a machined part. Metal Fab students built structures like deer stands, towing hitches and grills which involve the welding and cutting of metal. We've even chopped and rebuilt bicycles," said Potts.

In addition to building structures, the class also does community service projects for those who need things welded back together or machined, but lack access to necessary equipment.

Geared toward any student interested in learning manufacturing, welding and fabrication skills, the class aligns with Northeast Mississippi Community College's Machine Tool and Die Program.

"It's a great thing because it means those interested in the next level are already a step ahead of others when they enroll there," said the instructor. "If a student completes two years of this class they don't have to take Power Machinery I in college."

Students are currently practicing their

welding skills for an upcoming regional competition in Skills USA, a national student organization club.

"We have a class-wide competition to pick the student with the best skills," revealed Potts. "The student selected will have the opportunity to travel to Northwest Community College to compete against other schools in our region. Those who place compete at the state level in Jackson. Finally, the winner in that bracket will compete in Kansas City, MO at the national level."

According to Potts, many sign-up for the class having never welded or machined before so each new session starts off with the basics.

"My favorite part of the class is watching students develop skills which will accompany them for a lifetime. I love hearing from former students who are succeeding in the machining or welding field," he said. "One of the best moments for me is seeing the turn on as a student finally 'gets it,' the look of satisfaction on their face when they run that perfect weld or machine the perfect part is magical."

"If nothing else, I hope each student leaves this class knowing what employers will expect from them as employees," added Potts. "I hope they carry the work ethics I teach them to wherever they decide to work. I think those are important even if they decide not to enter the metal fab field. I hope they carry the safety skills they learn as well."



The Manufacturing Fundamentals/ Metal Fabrication class takes a break from welding and machining to discuss their upcoming projects.