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Livingston Area Career Center

CAREER EDUCATION

the VOC NEWSLETTER

Welding Technology

By: Jodi Lancaster

Hello! Welcome to another look at the Livingston Area Career Center's Welding Technology Program. This has been an incredible year with a group of boys and girls who are hardworking and excited about the field of welding. This year our Wednesday's are dedicated to learning about machining and manufacturing through a partnership with Caterpillar Inc. So far we have toured several areas of the Caterpillar Plant located here in Pontiac, IL, learned about metallurgy and the heat treatment process used at the plant, and all the differences between welding carbon steel and stainless steel (both of which are used in the production of Caterpillar's products). Students will be using this knowledge to start welding stainless in our shop as well. We are also working with the City to build light sculptures for this year's holiday season.

As we move into the second semester students will begin preparing for our annual competition season which will include a competition at Local 597 pipefitters Union, one at Illinois Central College, one at Midwest Technical Institute and finally the most important is the SkillsUSA State and National Competitions.

We will also be working with a school in South Africa to produce rocket stoves which will be shipped to the school for the families of some of their students. We have learned that it can take people walking up to 10 miles a day to collect fuel for cooking which leaves the people in constant danger of many different types of predators. The rocket stoves are made to produce long lasting heat production with very little fuel which will help families to conserve the fuel they collect and limit the amount of time they have to expose themselves to danger to collect the fuel.

Last but not least, we are working on building interviewing skills. We are developing our resumes and cover letters and preparing for the senior interviews which are hosted at the Livingston Area Career Center each year. This gives our senior students the opportunity to interview with real professionals from their chosen career fields. It is always a pleasure to welcome the community into our school. I look forward to seeing what next year will bring and the opportunity to tell you all about it!

Welding Instructor Wins Big

Over the summer, our Welding Instructor Jodi Lancaster worked tirelessly to apply for Harbor Freight Tools for Schools' Prize for Teaching Excellence. On October 24th 2019, everyone at the LACC was pleased to learn that Jodi had won the 2nd place prize. A representative from Harbor Freight surprised Jodi at school, and presented her with a check written for \$50,000. \$35,000 of that goes directly back to her program, and she gets \$15,000 for herself. We are so proud to work alongside such a dedicated and selfless teacher as Jodi. Jodi is quoted in saying "My goal has always been to provide my students with as many pathways as I can, so they can get to where they want to be no matter what obstacles they may have in their way." Awesome job, Mrs. Lancaster. You've earned this.



Pictured above: Mrs. Lancaster is shown here holding her winnings proudly.

Regional Students of the Month "October"

Sydney Hoselton Prairie Central High School Class: Orientation to Industrial Technology Instructor: Alan Dunahee	Brady Van Weelden Pontiac Flanagan High School Class: Computer Applications Instructor: Jon Siedentop
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Career Fair 2019

The LACC held our 13th annual Career Fair at the end of October, and it was another successful one. We welcomed over 400 freshmen from 6 high schools in Livingston County, and more than 20 local businesses provided informational tables. We were lucky to utilize 60 of our current LACC students to work for us the entire day, and assist in set up and take down. A special "thank you" to all of the businesses that participated this year. We are always grateful. We are already looking forward to our 14th year, so please help us save the date for next year. We hope to see you on October 21, 2020!

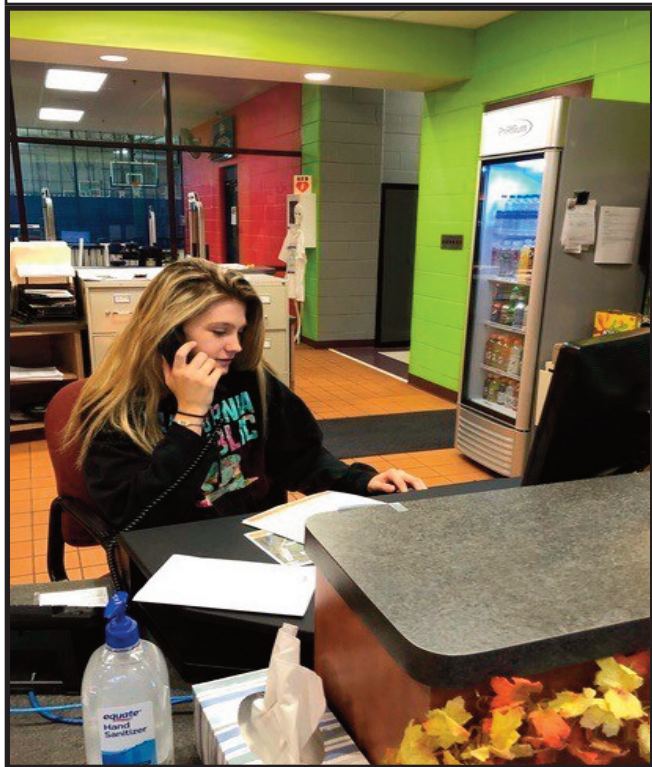


Pictured above: Our Co-Op students working at the Career Fair

Pictured below:
Our wonderful Career Fair student workers



Co-op Student Spotlight



Pictured above: Co-op student Cassidy Ringle at work at the Pontiac Recreation Center.

Quotes...

"The best way to predict the future is to create it." —Abraham Lincoln

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Students of the Month "October"

	Timothy Runyon Pontiac Township High School Class: Law Enforcement II Instructor: Jack Bristow
	Logan Roe Pontiac Township High School Class: Engineering and Architectural Design I Instructor: Ryan Woith