

Alcorn Career and Technology Times

Alcorn Career & Technology Center
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Rodney Hopper, Director
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Words of Wisdom

“Always do your best. What you plant now, you will harvest later.”

-Og Mandino

“What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.”

-Henry David Thoreau

“It is always the simple that produces the marvelous.”

-Amelia Barr

2,014 Donated in 2014

The annual ACTC Canned Food Drive was a great success! The ACTC Career and Technical Student Organizations of DECA, FFA, FEA, HOSA, SkillsUSA and TSA joined forces to help meet needs in our local community.

Each organization was asked to gather canned food items during the month of October. At the end of the drive, on October 30th, we hosted a Pack the Pickup Day (which turned into a Pack the Pickup and a Trailer Day) and took the items to our local AMEN food pantry on October 31.

The organizations collected a whopping 2,010 cans of food. Someone commented, “2,010 cans of food is great, but we are too close to 2,014 not to bring in four more items.” So, a faculty member brought in four more items so students could always remember we donated 2,014 items in the year 2014.

We had a little healthy competition between CTE organizations to see who could bring in the most items. The winning organization and recipient of the ACTC Community Service Trophy (for the period of one year) was FFA, which brought in 613 items. DECA came in a close second with 512. Other totals were FEA with 280, SkillsUSA with 234, TSA with 230 and HOSA with 141. This was an awesome effort by awesome students!

We would like to say a big “thank you” to all the parents and community members who helped with the drive. It is our hope that many needs will be met in our community, thanks to the efforts of all involved.



Great Work!

Students of the 2nd Quarter



Ag. & Natural Resources
Tyler Holland



Ag. Power & Machinery
Benjamin Marshall



Automotive Service Technology
Justin Bain



Business Fundamentals
Heather Hefner



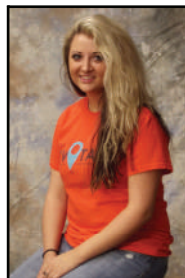
Career Pathway Experience
Richard Irvine



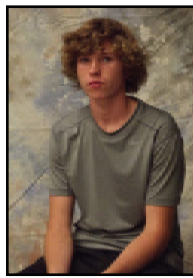
Construction
Clayton Rushing



Digital Media Tech.
DaShawn Farley



Health Sciences
Amber Powers



Metal Fabrication
Zac Robinson



Polymer Science
Cameron Newcomb



Teacher Academy
Matthew Turner

KHS FFA Places First

Submitted by Brad Gillmore, KHS Agriculture Instructor & FFA Advisor

The Mississippi State Fairgrounds hosted the State FFA Livestock Judging Contest on Saturday, October 4th. FFA members from across the state placed classes of beef cattle, goats, pigs, and sheep, and presented oral reason on those classes in hopes of earning a state championship and the opportunity to represent MS at the National FFA Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville, KY during National FFA Convention in October of 2015.

After placing 2nd last year, the Kossuth FFA Livestock Judging Team improved to take 1st this year. In the past four years, the chapter has placed second and won the contest twice each. Team members contributing to this year's 1st place finish were Kaitlin Stogner, Makayla Simmons, Sky Jackson, and Kayla Mercer.

Mr. Gillmore, agriculture teacher and chapter advisor said, "I am so happy for these young ladies and very impressed by them." "They took in a lot of information in a short period of time, and applied it at a high level."

Next October, the team of three juniors and one senior will compete at Nationals in Louisville, KY. In addition, for winning the contest, the girls have acquired a full tuition Career Incentive Scholarship to Northeast Mississippi Community College. "We would like to thank everyone who has supported us and given us the encouragement that we needed", says the team.

Shown, left to right: Tony Buchanan, State FFA President presenting 1st Place Trophy to Sky Jackson, MaKayla Simmons, Kayla Mercer and Kaitlin Stogner



CONGRATULATIONS 

Red Ribbon Week

The Alcorn Career and Technology Center sponsors Red Ribbon activities, each year, in support of the future of a drug-free workforce. Red Ribbon Week is held the last week of October and is the nation's oldest and largest anti-drug campaign. The following are the events which were held each day of Red Ribbon Week.

Monday

Explanation of why we celebrate Red Ribbon Week; decorate the school with red ribbons; "We Mustache You to Be Drug Free Day"

Tuesday

"Give Drugs the Boot Day"

Wednesday

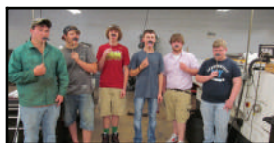
"Team Up Against Drugs Day"

Thursday

"Pack the Red Pickup Day"

Friday

"Red Out Day" and deliver food items to the AMEN Food Pantry



ACHS FFA CDE Winner

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 real-world 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.



Congratulations!

Teaching Healthy Habits

Submitted by: Katriena Burgess, ACHS Early Childhood Education and FCS Instructor

Students enrolled in the Contemporary Health class taught by Katriena Burgess, FCS teacher at Alcorn Central High School, took the time to use their creative abilities to write, produce,

and perform puppet shows for the Pre K and Kindergarten classes at Alcorn Central Elementary School.

During class, the high school students learned skills that promote healthier living. These students worked in teams to create puppet shows that were suitable for the smallest members of the campus to learn important hygiene skills and healthier eating tips. Each group wrote their skits, created their props, and produced their shows. After practicing them for the health class, each group went to the elementary campus and preformed the show for the children.



Boss's Day 2014

Mr. Rodney Hopper, ACTC Director, was honored on Boss's Day with a gift of appreciation and lunch with the faculty. Shown, with Mr. Hopper, is Mrs. Diane Daughtry, presenting the appreciation gift.



Haunted House

Submitted by Katriena Burgess, ACHS Early Childhood Education and FCS Instructor

As part of Red Ribbon Week Activities, Alcorn Central Early Childhood Education and Family and Consumer Science classes worked together with other members of the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America on Friday, October 31 to host the Don't Be Haunted by Drugs event. Members of the classes worked together to create displays that had a "haunted house" theme to provide an educational event to warn children of the dangers of drug and tobacco use.

Students in the Child Care Year I class created informational exhibits about drugs and tobacco. Child Care II and Contemporary Health students helped the Year I students in completing props that were also used in the haunted house display. Chrystee Hamilton, school nurse, and the Alcorn County Sheriff's Department Dare Officer, David Derrick provided items that were given to the children as they visited the displays. Each student was given a treat bag and was allowed to visit each display to receive items such as cups, beach balls, sunglasses, stickers, coloring books, and candy.

"We will begin planning for next year's event on Monday. The students in our classes have already begun to make comments about the changes and additions they want to make for next year," said Katriena Burgess, instructor.



NTHS Induction Ceremony

The Alcorn Career and Technology Center held its seventeenth annual National Technical Honor Society Induction on Monday night, November 17, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the Alcorn Education Center Board Room in Corinth. NTHS is America's highest award in workforce education.

Rodney Hopper, Alcorn Career and Technology Center Director, began the program by welcoming students and parents. Kaitlin Crum, NTHS vice-president, led the pledge of allegiance. Jennifer Koon, NTHS co-sponsor, explained the club purpose, official emblem, insignia, colors, motto and slogan and assisted Kristen Jacobs, NTHS president, with the candle lighting ceremony. Presenting certificates and pins to the students were Dennis Deaton, Ag Power instructor; Diane Daughtry, Marketing instructor; Tila Johnson, Health Sciences instructor; Nan Nethery, Teacher Academy instructor and Rodney Hopper, director. The new members recited the pledge of membership and Joyce Suitor, NTHS co-sponsor, closed the program. Refreshments were served following the ceremony.

Pictured are: Front Row (l-r) Kaitlin Crum, Karishna Roby, Kristen Jacobs, Amber Powers, Nikki Robertson and Jakob Carter. Back Row (l-r) Rodney Hopper, Alcorn Career and Technology Center Director, Jon Kevin Smith, Nick Crump, Tristan Rorie, Terry Ray Michaels, Austin Davis, Matthew Turner and Gina Rogers Smith, Alcorn School District Superintendent. Not pictured are Jasmine Lee and Gracie Smith.



The ACTC National Technical Honor Society officers for 2014-2014 are pictured with Mrs. Gina Smith. They are: Austin Davis—Secretary, Jasmine Lee—Reporter, Terry Ray Michaels—Treasurer, Kaitlin Crum—Vice-President, and Kristen Jacobs, President. Not pictured is Raven Friar, co-secretary.



Thanks to all the family members and friends which attended to support our students. More scenes, from the night, are pictured below:



Perfect Attendance Rewards

The Alcorn Career and Technology Center had 92 students with perfect attendance for the 1st nine weeks. Each student was rewarded with an ice cream cone from a local business. Names of students with perfect attendance were also put into a prize drawing for two Malco movie tickets, which were donated by a local business. The winner of those tickers was Lizette Martinez of Teacher Academy. Congratulations to Lizette and all students with perfect attendance!

Pictured making the movie ticket presentation to Lizette is Mr. Rodney Hopper, CTE Director.



Poster Design Contest Winners

Alex McGowan and Malina Hunt, second year Digital Media Technology students, submitted a poster design to the Office of Career, Counseling and Support Services at the Mississippi Department of Education. The Office was sponsoring a contest, among DMT students, for the creation of a poster design for the new MCAR model. Alex and Malina's design was chosen as the overall winner of the poster design contest. Congratulations to these students for representing us so well!



Man. Fund./Metal Fab.

Submitted by: Jesse Potts, Manufacturing Fundamentals/ Metal Fabrication Instructor

Manufacturing Fundamentals and Metal Fabrication have been studying blueprint reading, and how to operate the lathe and mill this 9 weeks. Students have been learning how to turn metal down to measurements within .002 of an inch tolerance. To accompany our studies, we traveled to Northeast Mississippi Community College to tour the Machine Tool and Die Technology Department. Instructors Stevie Lovelace and Mike Snowden showed us some of the new technologies that have made their way into post-secondary technology education which include CNC operated machinery and EDM wire machines. A

Pictured, below, are students on the NEMCC field trip.



Pictured, left, is Clayton Stevens shown with his class project. He used the mill and lathe to manufacture a C-Clamp.

Pictured, right, is Jacob Bradley with a Christmas Tree ornament he made using the lathe..



Tech Master Scholars

Mississippi Tech Master Scholars is a new incentive program for CTE students. The Mississippi Economic Council has announced it will sponsor a new “tech master” program that would recognize graduating high school seniors who meet certain standards in a technical curriculum.

Below are standards to be a Tech Master Scholar.

Current MDE Career Pathway Track - Academic Course of Study:

(4 Credits) English

*(3 Credits) Math - Algebra I - Math above Algebra I (Course has to be related to program of study) ****Geometry Mandatory**

(3 Credits) Science - Biology I and 2 courses above Biology I
(3 Credits) Social Studies - American History, Government and MS Studies

(1 Credit) Computer

(½ Credit) Health or PE

*(2.5) Electives of your program of study

*4 CTE Credits in the same area of study - Must take 4 CTE credits - Non-negotiable

Additional Requirements for Recognition of Mississippi Scholars Tech Master Listed Below:

- 40 hours of community or volunteer service during high school pilot year
- Minimum of 18 ACT composite score (overall score) or
- Minimum 36 ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test)
- 2.5 high school GPA
- 95% school attendance during high school years
- No out-of school suspension

Must attain a passing score, as established by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), on the Mississippi Career Planning and Assessment System (CPAS2) or a passing score on an MDE approved industry certification assessment. Mississippi Scholars Tech Master must complete any remaining State-Mandated high school graduation requirements. Dual credit courses are acceptable.



Construction

Submitted by: Fred Jackson, Construction Instructor

First year students have been studying hand tools. They each constructed a project of their choice using hand tools. Photos of their projects are shown below.



Second year student projects have included assembling bookshelves, constructing game boards and picture frames.

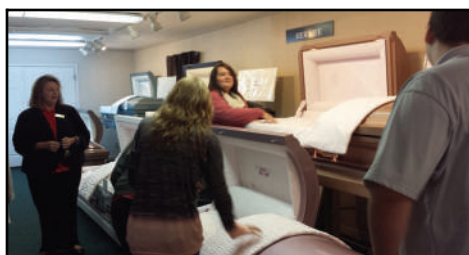
Congratulations to Jacob Brock, second year Construction student from KHS. He was named the Mississippi Construction Education Foundation's December Student of the Month for the North District.



Health Sciences

Submitted by: Nikki Robertson, HOSA Reporter

Our 2nd quarter in HST has been a busy one. The second year students recently took a field trip to Magnolia Funeral Home to learn about the process of preparing a funeral. We also were invited by MRHC to their skills fair to learn about all the processes the hospital staff has to do to accomplish certain skills.



We have had guest speakers come to talk with us about what they do. Charlotte Bryant, the state HOSA representative, spoke with us about HOSA competition and what we need to do to compete. Ms Zola Burgess with Mid-South Transplant Foundation, Inc. also spoke with us about the importance of organ & tissue donation and the gift of life. We very much enjoyed having her speak with us. Her organization is working very closely with this community right now as one of our own community members, Andrew Loyd, gave the ultimate gift of life to others and will be an Honoree on the 2015 Donate Life Rose Parade Float on January 1st.

Mrs. Bryant and 2nd block HOSA members are pictured, below, during HOSA Week.



Right: Mrs. Zola Burgess speaks to students about organ and tissue donation.



This year, we had seven students from our 2nd year class initiated into the National Technical Honor Society. We are extremely proud of their achievements!

MCEF Student of the Month

The Alcorn Career and Technology Center is pleased to announce that Jacob Brock, a second year student in the Construction Program, has been chosen as the Mississippi Construction Education Foundation December Student of the Month for the North District.

Jacob is currently serving as an Alcorn Career Center Delegate in 2014-2015 and represents the school at public events. He has already assisted with the Governor's Job Fair at Crossroads Arena and will also lead upcoming Career Center tours for area ninth graders. Jacob has an excellent GPA and exemplary attendance. He is a SkillsUSA member and plans to compete in a carpentry team event in the spring. He has also been a member of the Kossuth FFA for the past two years and an FCA member for the past three years. Additionally, he has helped with Vacation Bible School activities at his church. Mr. Fred Jackson, construction instructor at ACTC, had the following comments to make concerning Jacob: "Jacob is an outstanding student. He listens and follows instructions well. He has a great work ethic, work independently and is a creative thinker and problem solver."

Jacob's future plans include the possibility of becoming a student intern in Construction, during his senior year, through the Career Pathway Experience class. After high school graduation, he plans to attend Northeast MS Community College, and is considering a couple of areas of study. He is interested in both construction and mechanics.

Each Student of the Month is chosen from each of the three MCEF areas (North, Central and South). The following criteria is used to select the Student of the Month:- Grades- Attendance- Discipline in Class- Outstanding Achievements- Leadership Abilities- Post-graduation Plans.



Congratulations!

Teacher Academy

Submitted by: Nan Nethery, Teacher Academy Instructor

Recently, the Teacher Academy students, visited the Montessori School of Tupelo, MS. The school was founded in the summer of 2002 by Kira Grinspun. The school is open to children of all backgrounds, without discrimination in regard to race, sex, religion, or economic origins. Their purpose is to facilitate the full development of each child enrolled while helping each child to find his place as a contributing member of the group. The classrooms are family-structured open classrooms, with children of varying ages who have freedom to move about, to make choices within the prepared environment, and to participate in conversations with their friends. This was the perfect fieldtrip for Teacher Academy after having studied about Maria Montessori and her belief that the ideal school would be more like a home than an institution.

“Education is a natural process carried out by the child and is not acquired by listening to words but by experiences in the environment.” -Maria Montessori (1870-1952)



On October 14, 2014, Teacher Academy students attended the northern district - Mississippi Future Educators Association’s Fall Leadership Conference. The conference was held at Blue Mountain College. The keynote speaker was Joyce Helmick, President of MAE. She encouraged students to continue their pursuit toward being an educator. She also reminded everyone that “A special teacher is remembered forever.” Students participated in various workshop including

Opening the Doors, Autism Awareness, and Making Class Time FLY.



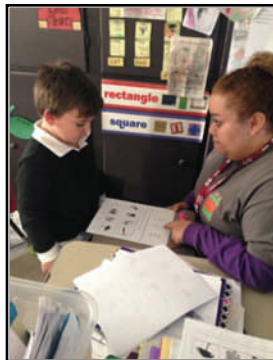
Teacher Academy students attended the November Alcorn School District’s Board Meeting. This experience allowed students to meet the board members, Superintendent, the school district attorney, and other administrative staff. Students received copies of the agenda in order to discuss and ask questions in class. Students were also given the opportunity to share with the board members about Teacher Academy projects, experiences, and advantages of our program.



During the month of November, Teacher Academy students participated in a Local Savings coupon book fundraiser. Proceeds from the fundraiser will be used toward our Future Educators Association competitions. Featured students are Malaysia Leach, Destiny Haynie, Sierra Kyle, and Daisy Perez.



Teacher Academy (TA) students have been busy in their Field Experience classrooms. With the partnering teachers, the students have yet to do the same activities. Mentoring teachers are asked to allow the TA student as much student contact as possible. In the pictures below, students are engaged in various classroom activities.



Teacher Academy students were invited to the Alcorn County District Reading Fair to provide activities for students awaiting their project judging. TA students talked about integrity through a puppet show and songs. Students were encouraged to work together to build a tower using marshmallows and toothpicks. TA students also discussed the effects of gossip while using activities that reflected the harmful impact it can cause. This was an awesome experience for Teacher Academy to put into practice all the components of creating a lesson and activities, in order to meet an objective.



Can Tab Donation to R.MH

The Alcorn Career and Technology Center made its first can tab donation to Ronald McDonald House on November 29. From August to November, the ACTC Career Technical Organizations had collected five gallons of can tabs for donation. Ronald McDonald House Charities of Memphis was very thankful for the efforts of our students. They, at no charge to their guests, provide supportive services and a home-away-from-home for St. Jude families and their children receiving treatment for cancer and other catastrophic illnesses.

Please remember that you may send can tabs by any ACTC student or bring them by the ACTC office. We will gladly get them to the Ronald McDonald House.



DECA Week

Submitted by: Diane Daughtry, DECA Advisor and Business Fundamentals/Marketing Instructor

DECA Week, November 10 - 14. DECA is a national student organization that prepares students to become emerging leaders and entrepreneurs. One premise of DECA is to learn while doing. One important aspect of the week is the students' community service project, which is Teacher Appreciation. Each class selected a day to prepare and present gifts to teachers at the Career Center in recognition of their hard work.



Tuesday night, the local DECA chapter held a meeting at Pizza Grocery. Terry Ray Michaels, President, explained upcoming events and gave a fund raiser progress report. After the meeting, students enjoyed pizza, calzones, and dessert.



Sundae on Thursday was a fun day where students made ice cream sundaes at the beginning of class. There has been a DECA chapter at the Alcorn Career Center since 1973. Every year the chapter and organization gets better!



Student Services

Submitted by: Joyce Sutor, ACTC Student Services Coordinator

On October 16, Keshia Washington, Program Supervisor for Student Services Coordinators, visited the ACTC Student Services Department. She conducted a Technical Assistance Assessment on the department. This is a comprehensive evaluation conducted at least every three years by the State Department of Education.

We very much enjoyed her visit to our center. Ms. Washington was pleased with her findings and very complimentary of our center.



The Student Services Coordinators also participated in two industry visits this month. We visited Caterpillar and Corinthian Furniture. The visits provided us with information which we will pass on to our students. As competitive as today's job market is, it is important to seek help from our local businesses so our students can be successful when they enter the job world. A big thanks to these businesses for taking time out of their schedules to provide tours of their facilities and vital information about their industries.

Business Fund./Marketing

Submitted by: Diane Daughtry, DECA Advisor and Business Fundamentals/Marketing Instructor

Marketing and Business Fundamentals Students attended the Mississippi State vs. University of Tennessee at Martin football game on November 8th. For many of these students, it was their first experience at a college game. The students had a great time, and the Bulldogs won the game, going 9 - 0 for the first time. The students pictured got to meet Bully during half-time.



First year students gained valuable experience in graphing and reading economic indicators during their unit on Political and Economic Analysis. The students prepared graphs of important indicators to gage the health of economic systems. The students pictured are hanging their graph of unemployment from 1900 - the present.



Digital Media Technology

Submitted by: Steve Shaw, Digital Media Technology Instructor

Digital Media Second Year, Second Block students, have been working with the BAGGERS organization, (Biker Awareness Group Giving Every Road Safety) to produce a video to educate the public to be aware of motorcyclists on the roadways. This video will be presented to students in the Alcorn County, Smithville, and Hardin Schools.

Pictured are: DMT Second Block students with Brad and Lisa Lambert, representatives of BAGGERS. DMT students and Mr. Shaw are shown sporting t-shirts provided to the class by the BAGGERS organization.



This quarter, Digital Media Technology has been learning Photo and Video editing. The students have been able to apply what they have learned through creating posters in a state-wide contest, making posters for the Elementary schools, creating Halloween Movie Trailers and Zombie Posters, and editing a video that will be presented to schools in multiple school districts. They have been encouraged to use their creativity in these projects while using the techniques and procedures they have learned in the classroom.

Below, is a special Holiday wish for our community from the ACTC Digital Media Technology Classes.



ACHS FFA Creed Speaking

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

Anna Kolby Mynatt placed third in the 9th Grade Creed Speaking Contest at the Northeast Federation FFA Contest held at Northeast Mississippi Community College.

Way to go!



Kossuth Christmas Lights

Submitted by: Brad Gillmore, KHS FFA Advisor and Agriculture Instructor

What do 41 Town of Kossuth Christmas decorations, with 55 lights each, have to do with Kossuth vo-ag students and FFA members? Everything! Students learn about electricity and teamwork, while engaging in service learning by replacing broken and burnt out lights.

If you do the math, that is over 2200 individual lights that need checked and potentially replaced. On average, 25%-30% need replaced each year, prior to the lights being hung on power poles during the holiday season. "Fixing the Christmas lights this year brought a feeling of appreciation for the hard work that goes into making this town so special during the holidays," said Abbie Clausel, student in Agricultural Mechanization, and Kossuth FFA member.



ACTC FFA & Agriculture

Submitted by: Dennis Deaton, ACTC Ag. Power & Machinery Instructor

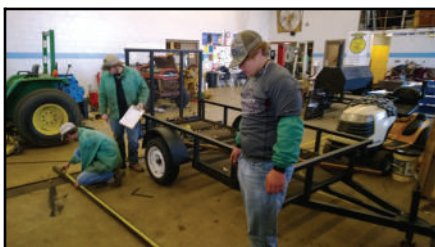
The second quarter has brought busy times. The development of leadership and career skills have been our focal point. FFA Members and officers have studied, practiced and competed with great success. Ag. Power and Ag. & Natural Resources student have developed and are working on many career related projects. However everyone is looking forward to the Christmas break.

The ACTC FFA has been very active this quarter. Practice, competition, and just a lot of fun are really making for a good year. Members had a great fun day on November 8 while attending the MSU homecoming game. MSU hosted FFA day and had a wonderful turnout. Students were able to see the campus and visit the FFA tailgate tent. The seats were great and the game was awesome. On Friday November the 21st, Officer team competed in the Northeast FFA federation Opening & Closing Ceremonies competition. This was the culmination of months of training and practice by the following students: Jordan Crum- President, Ashley Stutts-vice President, BreAnna Willis- Secretary, Nick Crump-Treasures, Logan Mitchell-Sentinel, Benjamin Marshall-Reporter, Logan Smith- Student Advosor, Brett Calvery-alternate, Bryan Smith- alternate. They well represented our chapter and themselves in this competition. I am sure the skills from this competition will lead to success in the students' future. Ashley Stutts also represented us in the Vice-President's position of the Federation's official Opening & Closing Ceremony and did a superb job. Other members that competed boldly in competition, that day, were Cortland Godwin in Extemporaneous Speaking and Cory Bascomb in Creed Speaking. Several other members like Jacob Morrison and Austin Spenser attended numerous meetings and practice in an effort to develop, practice and polish skills like parliamentary procedure. Our FFA chapter has been very active this semester in planning and helping with activities like the annual canned food drive, our annual mum sale, preparation for our spring fern sale, chapter fruit sale and a smoked chicken dinner.

The opportunity to learn and grow career skills, come in many forms. The Agriculture Technology & Mechanical Systems classes are working on a variety of curriculum oriented skills and projects. Nick Crump, Cody Clanton, Dillon Collins, Kirkland Moore along with Trevor Ballard are in the development of a small shooting house that has required both structural and metal working skills. Cortland Godwin is meshing wiring harnesses between a vintage garden tractor and a new engine. Benjamin Marshall is developing a Bio Diesel Generator kit. Trevor McAfee,

Matthew Scott, Austtin Dial, Lathan Rudd and Nathan Gibens are developing 2'X6' hexagonal smoker/ grills. Chazz Bain, Blake Butler and Sam Mitchell have split an International 574 tractor and installed a new clutch, along with some refurbishing. Greg Johnsey, Ryan Jacobs and Logan Smith have been diagnosing distributor/timing problems with a 1965 Ferguson 135 tractor. Students developing two utility trailers in the class are Will Stewart, Jordan Crum, Radie Mitchell, Blake Arnold, John Cummings Dakota Howse. The trailers require alot of design, problem solving, preparation and assembly skills . Jacob Morrison, Austin Spenser and Tylor Brock have reassembled a few small engines. To help develop additional work stations, Jarod Holley and Bryan Smith are building a new vice bench from recycled materials. Hunter Murphy has a real project on his hands with the replacement of a transfer case on his 4-wheeler. Arion Morgan, Corey Bascomb, Zack Parker and Brandon Rinehart have worked exhaustively in metal reorganization and program maintenance. Logan Coln , Dustin Glidewell and Cody Connell are continuing to develop their shielded metal arc welding skill. Ag. Power and Mechanics is a multi-faceted curriculum with many potential career areas. Hands-on learning is a great way to prepare for a career.

Ag and Natural Resources students have spent time this quarter preparing the greenhouse for annual production projects. Ashley Stutts, BreAnna Willis, Briana Baswell, were preparing for fall foliage as the quarter began with the care and maintenance of a beautiful crop of mums. Chelsey Crum, Jimmy Brentner and Brandon Curtis carried out daily management of the mum crop. Brett Calvery, Logan Mitchell, Riley Austin, Hunter Robins were responsible for planting an experimental fall garden in the greenhouse. Several types of plants were planted in a research effort, considering fall & winter hoop house production. Observation and data were collected by Newton Barns, Austin Malon and Tyler Holland on the project helping students better understand bed preparation, seed selection, growth habits, plant characteristics and more. Students were able to harvest the plants and recycle the soil materials for further use. Madison Jacobs and Miranda Drewery have been managing the overall day to day operations of the greenhouse. All ANR students have pitched in on the propagating, pruning, and replanting hundreds of ferns and a verity of houseplants. This work will put us in good shape for our spring sales. Projects like these really help students expand their science knowledge and career opportunities.



Polymer Science

Submitted by: Stephanie Parsons, Polymer Science Instructor

Labbing up Some Serious Science

Material Science involves a study of materials we find around us in daily objects. Our focus this quarter has been to make and manipulate as many different types of polymer materials as possible. Student cast epoxy resins using state of Mississippi molds, by first calculating the volume of the mold, then using a ratio of one part to another they calculated the mass of each part. Students then mixed the resin and cast their molds. The favorite parts of this activity are students get to use powdered pigment of their choice of colors, and of course the piece du resistances... glitter. They also enjoy the fact the cast resin cures very quickly, so they take their molded state home the same day.

When asked her favorite part of the lab, Brionna Crum said, "I enjoyed mixing the pigment into the epoxy resin and mixing in the glitter too."

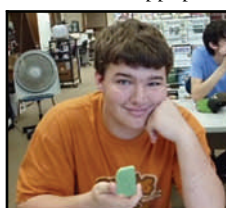
"I never knew our state was that small." Mercedes Hutcheson jokingly commented on the size of the Mississippi mold.

Mercedes also commented, "I was disappointed that my cast Mississippi overflowed, but I learned that I need to watch the clock and stir to the appropriate timing."

Savannah Wallace said, "I like my state so much, I put a ring on it!"



Above: John-Stuart Jones, CPE student and Polymer Science lab assistant, assists Mercedes Hutcheson in figuring the volume of the Mississippi mold. Mercedes is also shown cleaning up after pouring her mold. Below: A completed Mississippi part before product finishing and Austin Isbell holding his finished cast Mississippi product.



Kiln Plastisol Me a Coin Purse Please...

Using a dip mold to make a coin purse was big hit. Polymer Science students used the kiln to heat a metal dip-mold, they cured plastisol by heating a mold dipped in Plastisol, they safely cut purses from the molds and they drilled holes with a drill press to insert a key chain ring.

Austin Isbell was hard at work with this lab and made several coin purses. My comment to Austin was I'd never seen coin purses come out so clear. These students did an excellent job.

When asked for a quote about the coin purse she made, Kristen Jacobs said, "Mine is prettier than the sun, because it is orange."

When asked what her favorite parts of the coin purse lab were, T'Keya Ware said, "I liked putting the dip mold in the oven and watching it change from white to clear. I also like the way the purse went from a liquid to a flexible solid."

Mercedes Hutcheson said, "I agree with T'keya, the best part was watching the plastisol cure. I also liked drilling the hole in the coin purse for the key chain ring."

Brionna Crum said, "I enjoyed putting my mold in the kiln."



Above and Left: Mercedes, T'Keya, Brionna and Austin are all safely geared up to do the coin purse lab and Mercedes is shown dipping the heated mold in the plastisol.

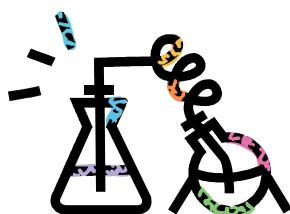
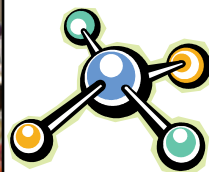
Next, the dipped mold is placed in the kiln to allow the Plastisol to cure. After the Plastisol cures in the kiln, the mold is quenched in water until the mold cools. Students then cut the purse off the mold, drill a hole for the key chain ring, put the ring on the purse, and... drum roll please... they have a coin purse.



Mixing It Up To Form Composites

Polymer Science second year students were caught preparing their knowledge base for making and testing beams for their first composites unit labs. Students are learning about modulus of elasticity AKA Young's Modulus and the specific stiffness of materials, as well as flexural strength AKA modulus of rupture, and specific strength of materials. After learning materials testing methods, students will apply lab experiences to the making and testing of fiber reinforced composites like fiberglass and carbon fiber composites using current composites manufacturing methods.

Pictured, below, during a lesson in the lab are second year students Kelsey Pitts, John Shepherd and Savannah Wallace.



Lincoln College



On December 2, 2014, Cindy Whitley, representative from Lincoln College of Technology (formerly Nashville Auto Diesel College), visited and spoke to our students concerning opportunities that are available at their school. She spoke about admissions and job opportunities available for Lincoln graduates.

New School Website



The Alcorn Career and Technology Center has a new school website which can be accessed at: <http://actc.alcorn.k12.ms.us/>

The new website features:

- Latest News
- Photo Galleries
- High School Class Information
- Adult Night Class Information
- Staff Contacts
- School Publications
- Career Resources

We hope to have you to visit us online soon!

KHS FFA Places in Contests

Submitted by: Brad Gillmore, KHS FFA Advisor and Agriculture Instructor

Northeast Mississippi Community College hosted the Northeast Federation Platform Contests on Friday, November 21st. FFA members from chapters throughout the northeast corner of the state competed in Junior, 9th Grade, and Senior Creed Speaking, Prepared Public Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure Team, and Opening and Closing Ceremony Team.

The Kossuth FFA Parliamentary Procedure team of six chapter members placed 1st. This contest is a way of evaluation members ability to properly conduct a professional business meeting. Marlee Turner finished second as a Junior Creed speaker, along with a second place finish from Claire Cornelius in Senior Prepared Public Speaking, and the Opening and Closing team of seven chapter members also placed 2nd. In the Opening and Closing contest, each member must memorize and recite the correct lines to open and close a meeting held by the FFA organization, and must be able to recite the duties of their office. Each of these individuals and teams has qualified to move on to the next level of competition later this year. In addition, Sky Jackson competed in the Senior Extemporaneous Speech Contest and place 4th, and Kathryn Steele place ninth in 9th Grade Creed Speaking Contest.

Mr. Gillmore , agriculture teacher and chapter advisor said, "I am so proud of these young people, this is the most teams and individuals that Kossuth has ever qualified to compete at the district level." "Each of this individuals and teams set a goal last summer and worked hard this fall to accomplish them!"



Congratulations!

Essay Competition Winner

Submitted by: Stephanie Parsons, Polymer Science Instructor

An accomplished student already, Kristen Jacobs, Kossuth High School Senior and Polymer Science first year student, won Second Place in Mississippi Polymer Science Program's Essay Competition for first year students among all the Polymer Science programs in the state. The University of Mississippi at Hattiesburg hosts the competition each year. USM Polymer Science Graduate students graciously develop, run and host this competition in support of the High School Polymer Science Programs throughout the state. The first place winner attends Madison County Career and Technical Center in Madison, MS.

Right: Mrs. Parsons is shown presenting Kristen her awards. She received a certificate and a graphing calculator.



Our Christmas Wish To You



**Newsletter compiled by:
Jennifer Koon,
Alcorn CTE Counselor**

The Alcorn Career and Technology Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries should be directed to the Alcorn School District Superintendent at P.O. Box 1420, Corinth, MS 38835, (662) 286-5591.