

Alcorn Career and Technology Times

Alcorn Career & Technology Center
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Rodney Hopper, Director
Russ Elam, Assistant Director
Volume 7, Issue 2
December 2017



Words of Wisdom

“A dream doesn’t become a reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination, and hard work.”

-Colin Powell

“Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work.”

-Aristotle

“Work hard, be kind, and amazing things will happen.”

-Conan O’Brien

Video Contest Winners

Local Students Earn Statewide Honors in MCEF Video Contest

PEARL, Miss. –Members of the Alcorn Career and Technology Center are first place winners in the statewide #MCEFWorks video contest.

Sponsored by the Mississippi Construction Education Foundation, the competition invited Mississippi students in grades 7-12 to make short videos highlighting the many ways that construction and manufacturing education programs are helping students achieve their dreams.

Instructor Steve Shaw discovered the contest online and approached photographer Duke Peebles and editor Tyler Phelps about entering. The winning video features interviews with craft students Justin Simmons and Jordan Chadwell.

Peebles and Phelps employed a creative blend of graphics and work demonstrations to show how success is being redefined for more than 5,000 career and technical education students throughout Mississippi. For their impressive work, they are being awarded cash prizes and a set of sporty new #MCEFWorks T-shirts.

“Participants were encouraged to be creative and communicate a clear, cohesive and memorable message about how career and technical education programs are preparing Mississippi students for successful futures,” said Mike Barkett, MCEF president. “The students at Alcorn Construction and Technology Center did an excellent job of telling our story in a fresh and engaging way.”

In addition to impressing a panel of industry judges, team members finished high in a public voting campaign. The process brought together students in a social media initiative that spotlighted the class video while raising awareness of how MCEF is helping build Mississippi’s workforce of the future.

“Making the video was truly a team effort, and we thank MCEF for allowing us to share the many positive ways that our students are preparing for the future,” said Shaw. “It is our hope that our entry will inspire younger students to pursue opportunities through career and

technical education.”

Counselor Jennifer Koon agreed. “We chose two outstanding students to tell our story,” she said. “Both are active in our center’s dual credit program, and it’s easy to see their excitement about learning skills they will use for years to come.”

Pointing out Mississippi’s need for more than 80,000 craft professionals by 2019 to support the state’s growing construction industry, Barkett said his team is working to ensure those jobs are filled by qualified Mississippians who have graduated from one of the state’s accredited career and technical education programs.

“MCEF offers world-class training programs that give students a solid foundation for the future,” Barkett said. “Many high school graduates go on to earn degrees, start businesses and contribute to the growth and prosperity of our state. We congratulate Alcorn Career and Technology Center and their fellow students from around the state for celebrating the many success stories made possible by career and technical education programs in Mississippi.”

The mission of the non-profit MCEF is to promote careers, recruit capable individuals and train a quality workforce for the construction and manufacturing industries in the state of Mississippi. MCEF also offers workforce training and credentialing in construction, industrial maintenance and manufacturing trades.

To view the Alcorn video, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XE-ofjGkZIs>. Learn more about MCEF at <http://mcef.net>.

(L-R) Lane Bell of MCEF, Duke Peebles, Tyler Phelps and Steve Shaw.



Students of the 2nd Quarter



Ag. & Natural Resources
Halie Posey



Ag. Power & Machinery
Emily Barnes



Automotive Service Technology
Gerald Jones



Marketing
Alea Feathers



Construction
Tyler Johnston



Culinary Arts
Destiny Sides



Digital Media Tech.
J'Lista Pams



Health Sciences
Breanna Spencer



Law & Public Safety
Shianna Lokey



Metal Fabrication
Bryant Marsh



Polymer Science
Robert Dilworth



Teacher Academy
Lyn Cummings

Rotary Student

The Alcorn Career and Technology Center is pleased to announce that Lili Wall has been named the ACTC Rotary Student of the Month for December. Lili, the daughter of Kim Wall, is a senior at Alcorn Central High School. She is a program completer in Digital Media Technology at the ACTC and is currently enrolled in Career Pathway Experience. She was nominated for this honor by her CPE instructor, Mr. Phil Smith.

At the Alcorn Career and Technology Center, Lili is a Technology Student Association member as well as a member of the National Technical Honor Society. She served as Treasurer for the NTHS during the 2016-2017 school year.

Lili performs well academically and scored a 23 on the ACT. At Alcorn Central High School, she is currently a member of the Beta Club, Math Club, and Academic Team. She was also a member of the Theatre Club for two years.

Lili is a member of Strickland Church of Christ Church, where she serves as a child care volunteer during regular services as well as during Vacation Bible School. Her community service also includes helping with Rotary Club Food Baskets, the food drive at the Alcorn Career and Technology Center, and using her video production skills in creating a video for the ACTC Health Sciences program.

After graduation, Lili aspires to be accepted into an art school and major in film/video production. Her career goal is to work as a camera operator or a film editor.



Congratulations, Lili!

Attendance Rewards

Congratulations to Tyler Phelps of Digital Media for being the winner of two Malco movie tickets from the first nine weeks attendance prize drawing. Tyler's name was drawn from among the 82 students with perfect attendance. All students having perfect attendance received a frozen yogurt coupon from Gooseberry Yogurt.

Many thanks to Malco and Gooseberry Yogurt for providing our prizes. Pictured (l-r) are: Russ Elam, Assistant CTE Director, Tyler Phelps and Steve Shaw, DMT Instructor.



National Guard Visits



Sgt. Justin Ward, recruiter for the Mississippi National Guard, visited with our students on October 19th and spoke to them regarding career opportunities within the National Guard.

Sgt. Ward also provided the faculty and staff with an appreciation lunch on that day.

Emojis

Several of the faculty and staff members dressed as one of their favorite emoji for Halloween. The students enjoyed seeing the emojis which were chosen.



MCEF Student of the Month

Congratulations to Jordan Chadwell, of Mr. Tim Bradley's Construction: Carpentry Program, for being named the October Student of the Month for the Mississippi Construction Education Foundation's North Area.

Winners are chosen based on grades, attendance, discipline in class, outstanding achievements, leadership abilities, and post-graduation plans. All will compete for student of the year honors at the foundation's annual awards program next May.

"We congratulate our student of the month winners for being such excellent representatives of high school career tech programs in Mississippi," said Mike Barkett, MCEF president. "We're proud of each of them for helping ensure our state has a highly skilled workforce to support the state's growing construction and manufacturing industries."

Jordan is the son of Paul and Amy Chadwell and is a junior at Kossuth High School. He is a member of SkillsUSA and placed in the area of Carpentry in the regional SkillsUSA Competition, last year. He is also a member of NTHS, where he serves as Vice-President of the ACTC chapter. Jordan is a member of Souls Harbor Apostolic Church, where he serves as a singer and bass player. His future plans are to attend NEMCC and MSU to become an engineer.



NTHS Ceremony

The Alcorn Career and Technology Center held its nineteenth annual National Technical Honor Society Induction on Tuesday night, November 14th at 6:00 p.m. in the Alcorn Education Center board room in Corinth. NTHS membership is America's highest award in workforce education. Students are selected based on teacher recommendation, good attendance, good character, grades, and alignment for program completion.

Rodney Hopper, Alcorn Career and Technology Center Director, began the program by welcoming students and parents. Jordan Chadwell, 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 Gracie Hinton, NTHS president, with the candle lighting ceremony. Presenting certificates and pins to the students were Tila Johnson, Health Sciences instructor; Nan Nethery, Teacher Academy instructor; David Nowell, Agriculture and Natural Resources Instructor; Tim Bradley, Construction instructor; Dennis Deaton, Ag Power and Machinery instructor; Skylar Mincey, Marketing instructor and Rodney Hopper, Director. Joyce Suitor, NTHS co-sponsor, closed the program. Refreshments were served.

NTHS Members

Pictured in the photo are: Front Row (l-r) Lydia Marshall - Health Sciences; Hope Jones - Health Sciences; Breanna Spencer - Health Sciences; Maggie Porterfield - Health Sciences; Brittani Lambert - Ag and Natural Resources; Faith Rorie - Health Sciences and Alea Feathers - Marketing. Back Row (l-r) Gracie Hinton - CPE and Teacher Academy; Kaleb Wilbanks - Ag and Natural Resources; Molly Mullins - Teacher Academy; Hunter Bullard - Ag Power and Machinery; Autumn Sartain - Marketing; Jordan Chadwell - Construction; Carleigh Holt - Digital Media Technology and Rodney Hopper - ACTC Director. Not pictured are Tanner Marlar - Marketing and Brady Spencer - Marketing.

2017-2018 NTHS Officers

Front row (l-r) Hope Jones - Reporter; Molly Mullins - Secretary; Jordan Chadwell - Vice-President; and Gracie Hinton - President. Not pictured is Greg Miller - Treasurer.



Student Services

Submitted by: Joyce Suitor, Student Services Coordinator

Several of our students were involved in taking their state test. Many of them took advantage of the extra tutoring offered by Student Services. We wish them the best on the exam and hope all of them will receive a passing score. We would like to thank our instructors who allowed these students time out of their class to come and receive this extra help. We always look forward to working with our students and seeing them excel.



Red Ribbon Week 2017

The Alcorn Career and Technology Center Celebrated National Red Ribbon Week in order to promote the future of a drug free workforce. Students and faculty took part in various activities which included: decorating the school with red ribbons, wearing red ribbon stickers, Team Up Against Drugs Day, Give Drugs the Boot Day, Wear Red Day, a food drive for the AMEN Food Pantry and Pack the Pickup Day. The following are a few scenes from the events.



2017 Food Drive

The Alcorn Career and Technology Center CTE organizations had a friendly competition to see which organization could bring in the most canned food items for the AMEN (Alcorn Meeting Emergency Needs) Food Pantry. The students collected items throughout the month of October and ACTC hosted a Pack the Pickup Day on October 26th and delivered the items to AMEN Food Pantry on October 27th.

Throughout the month, students charted their organization's progress and the results of the food drive were:

FFA— 460
HOSA— 291
DECA— 207
SkillsUSA— 185
Educators Rising— 168
TSA— 104
FCCLA— 48
Total: 1,463

Congratulations to our CTE organizations on a job well done! The winning organization was FFA and they won the ACTC Community Service Trophy for the period of one year.



Marketing

Submitted by: Skylar Mincey—Marketing Instructor

ACTC DECA celebrated National DECA week November 13-17. DECA members had a busy and fun-filled week. Students kicked off the week by preparing royal cookies wrapped with a special message to show appreciation to ACTC school administration, Mr. Larry Mitchell, Mr. Ritchie Williams, and Alcorn District school board members. These tasty treats were made just in time for the monthly school board meeting.



Marketing and Business Fundamentals students have spent part of this quarter learning the importance of etiquette in both formal and informal settings. They have been developing skills to implement the proper etiquette concept at places such as weddings, funerals, restaurants, and in the office. One concept they have been exploring is how to properly eat while at a dinner meeting. Upon learning these techniques, students had to demonstrate that they not only could learn each restaurant etiquette concept, but they could do it as well. To do so, the Marketing and Business Fundamentals class went to Cracker Barrel during each block. Students had to show their teacher the table manners and etiquette concepts that they learned and were given a test grade for their performance.



DECA day was celebrated Tuesday. All students were encouraged to wear their DECA t-shirts. "Waffle Wednesday" marked the middle of the week. This day was designated to selling waffles in efforts to raise money for DECA. Students met at Mi Toro on Thursday evening for their monthly DECA meeting. They enjoyed food and fellowship. Last but not least, members celebrated "Sundae on Wednesday." Mrs. Skylar Mincey provided members with ice cream and toppings, and they made their Sundaes to their own likings.



Teacher Academy

Submitted by: Nan Nethery, Teacher Academy Instructor

Teacher Academy students attended the Educators Rising Fall Leadership Conference on October 19 at the Madison Career and Technology Center in Madison, MS. Students were able to visit with various college exhibits as well as attend workshops. The workshops included "Literacy: Sculptors Today Writers Tomorrow," "Mathematics: Number Sense," Teacher Education: So You Want To Be A Teacher?," and Technology: Digital Literacy In The Classroom". Students received a wealth of information about the field of education and the steps to pursue a teaching degree. Mrs. Nan Nethery and her students also made a stop to a local cotton field for a perfect photo opportunity.



On November 13, Mrs. Nan Nethery and her Teacher Academy students attended the Alcorn County School District's monthly meeting. The experience allowed students to see firsthand the decisions being made for the school district. Some of the topics included approval of fundraising and field trip requests, hiring of new substitutes, bus drivers, and certified teachers, as well as, the process of students transferring from school to school. Superintendent, Larry B. Mitchell, recognized the students of Teacher Academy and commended them for choosing the teaching profession. attended the Alcorn County School District monthly meeting. This experience allowed students to see firsthand the

decisions being made for the school district. Some of the topics included approval of fundraising and fieldtrip requests, hiring of new substitutes, bus drivers, and certified teachers,.



Engaging in community service provides Teacher Academy students with the opportunity to become active members of their community and has a lasting, positive impact on the society at large. Community service enables these students to acquire life skills and knowledge, as well as provide a service to those who need it most. Recently, the TA students assisted with the Alcorn School District Regional Reading Fair as they provided fun games and activities for students as they awaited the judging of his/her project. In addition, Excel by 5, a community-based organization designed to improve a child's overall well-being by age five, recruited the help of several TA students by preparing items for the upcoming Christmas events in the community.





Teacher Academy is shown packing Jolly Jog bags for participants.



The students have participated in the Alcorn County Natural Disaster Drill, where they got to participate as patients and were actually transported to the hospital by ambulance.



They have received firsthand information from the Wildlife Conservation Officer Ricky Barry. Officer Barry spoke to the class about careers with the Mississippi Wildlife Fisheries & Parks, they received information about the training to become a conservation officer, what day to day operations are like, type equipment used, and hunting and fishing laws.

Law & Public Safety

Submitted by: Shianna Lokey, Class Reporter

The second nine weeks has been very interesting in Law & Public Safety; first year students have learned about the US Constitution and Bill of Rights. Students have focused on the 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, and 14th amendments and have had to explain the importance of each. They have also analyzed Supreme Court cases that have impacted the citizens in the United States. The students have learned the classifications of crimes such as misdemeanor or felony and have determined the appropriate punishments for various crimes based on MS Code of 1972.

The second year students have recorded the Alcorn Career & Technology Center with a diagram of all emergency exits and labeled the exit routes down to the very inch for their fire evacuation and tornado drill. The students have also learned about emergency medical services, such as the difference between an EMT and paramedic. Second year students have learned what HIPAA stands for and why it is important having the HIPAA law in place.



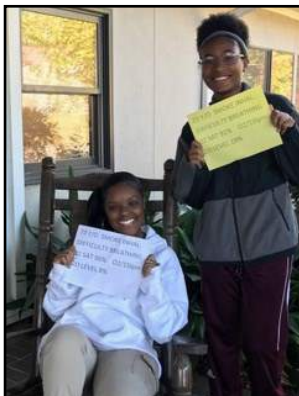
Health Sciences

Submitted by: Kristen Crum, HOSA Class Secretary

We are almost at the end of the first semester. This year we have over twenty-three students planning to attend the district HOSA competition in February. We previously finished our first fundraiser of selling first aid kits. Congratulations to those who sold the most! We started our first competition practice this past Tuesday.

The second year students had the opportunity of touring the Magnolia Funeral Home. This was an experience for them learning what all goes on at the funeral home. They were able to tour front office, see caskets and vaults and the prices for these, the dressing room, the embalming room, and the conference room where they speak to the family about funeral arrangements.

Both first and second year students got the opportunity to assist in the Alcorn County Disaster drill that took place at the nursing home. They acted as if the nursing home was on fire and they needed medical assistance. From the nursing home they were transported by ambulance and sent to triage at the hospital. We also have been helping with "Blessing Boxes." We have sent these boxes to local schools to receive help in filling them to give to those in need. We asked for hygiene products such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant, along with other items such as clothes.



December 9th MRHC plans to host the Winter Wonderland for the community, held at the Crossroads Arena. Many students are preparing to assist at this, from being Christmas characters such as elves to going during the week to help set up. We are excited to assist and be a part of the many things our community has to offer.

ACTC Agriculture

Submitted by Hailie Posey, Ag and Natural Resources Student

FFA members competed in the Northeast Federation Contest at Northeast Community College on November 17th. The Alcorn Career and Technology had 10 members represent the local chapter in various platform contests. Tyler Laier was our Prepared speaking, James Carter was our Extemporaneous Speaking, Halie Posey was our Creed Speaking, and our opening and closing team consisted of Kristen Nichols, Brittini Lambert, Drew Musard, Alexa Strickland, Matthew Ligon, and Halie Posey



To begin our inspiring second 9 weeks, we began preparations for the FFA Platform Competitions that had been selected at an earlier date. Through memorization and preparation we were prepared very well for the upcoming contests. By the participation in the competitions, we had expanded our knowledge of the FFA.

Ag and Natural Resources students have been busy preparing fern pots for the spring sale. Members transplanted two plugs into each pot, packed with a soil mixture that the class developed. Members then studied and performed proper irrigation and fertilization to enhance ferns growth and health. Temperature regulation and check points were established to make sure the ferns would survive over the North Mississippi winter. The students will constantly monitor the performance over three months and make adjustments as necessary.

The Ag Power and Ag and Natural Resource classes will host a booth at the local Tractor Supply Store on December 9th. The local ag classes have partnered with TSC over the last few years to

promote FFA in the county and surrounding areas. The FFA members plan on providing hot chocolate to customers and offer fruit for sale. This activity allows local members to interact with local community members and provide the public with information about their FFA programs.

FFA members were treated to a meal December 7th, sponsored by the officers and advisors of the ACTC FFA Chapter. Each class enjoyed the fellowship and meal.

Ag Power and Machinery classes have focused on welding and construction techniques during this quarter. Students were busy repairing farm equipment and preparing for upcoming welding and tractor operation contests.

Our FFA chapter would like to thank everyone that participated in the fruit sale and wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

TSA

Submitted by: Steve Shaw, TSA Advisor

On Saturday, December 9th, the Technology Student Association members met for a time of fellowship, bowling and team building. A good time was had by all.



FFA Fruit

The FFA Chapter at the Alcorn Career and Technology Center has some fruit for sale. They have the following, which they are selling by the case.

- Red Apples \$35
- Clementines \$35
- Naval Oranges \$30

If you would like to purchase, please call David Nowell at (662) 286-7727



Polymer Science

Submitted by: Stephanie Parsons, Polymer Science Instructor

Ceramics is New to all of us in Polymer Science

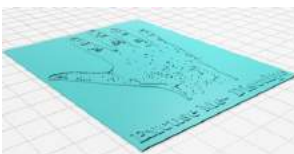
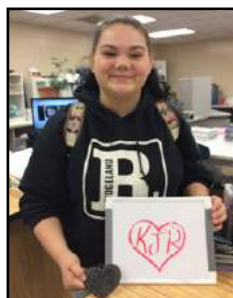
The new Polymer Science curriculum has the addition of the chemistry, properties and manufacturing processes for metals and ceramics. We started with ceramics so we have played with clay and had a great time doing it. We then bisque fired and glazed fired test tiles to learn the appearance of the glazes and the changed properties of the clay and then we started blowing bubbles with glass. We have studied the compounds that make up ceramics and we have cut and ground glass. We still have more cool things to do and metals will follow!



Draw a picture then 3D... then Print it! What??

Below, our Assistant Director, Mr. Elam is admiring Kansas Riddle's handiwork. So! Yes, we did! Students drew a picture, took a photo of it, then uploaded it to pictosvg.com. Pictosvg converts a photo to a svg file, which can then be opened in Tinkercad for editing. The svg file makes the photo able to become a 3D object in TinkerCad, or whatever 3D modeling software you choose to edit with. There are many choices, but TinkerCad is super user-friendly. We are printing completed objects with New Matter Modt printers acquired through a grant won a couple of years ago. The Modt is an awesome and inexpensive 3D printing solution for home, work or the classroom. Students printed a multitude of lovely items which will be pictured in the next issue!

Students love printing 3D objects!



Memory in Polymers!

Students love this lab! They heat an acrylic cube, smash it in a hydraulic press, drill holes in it, insert resin pigments in the holes, then reheat it and watch it rise back to its original height. What's not to like? The next step involves product finishing with varying grades of sandpaper, polishing with the polishing wheel and voila, students have a neat object to take home. The take-aways from this lab are that it introduces students to the amazing versatility and strange properties that polymers possess. One - many thermoplastic polymers have the property of polymer memory and return to their original shape under certain circumstances, and two - Many polymers, thermoplastic and thermoset can be product finished like a piece of wood.

One favorite of this lab is students love using the hydraulic press to compress the cube, another is using the drill press; at first it is a little scary, but it grows on them quickly.



Applying Scientific Method

Observing and Experimentation is an essential practice for students. A lifetime of applying scientific method in daily life would still not be enough to know it all but you will certainly attain mastery. Polymer students learn to recognize through discussion, observation and reflection that application of scientific method isn't just a series of words and a series of steps memorized to get the next science fair project done.

Daily life is full of observation, hypotheses, questioning, developing procedures, experimenting, collecting data, analyzing and developing conclusions. Just think of the last time you decided what to have for lunch and it didn't quite work out... you won't eat there again, will you? Or, what to wear on a day that was supposed to be HOT, and it wasn't... We all apply it, and we all use it daily.

To develop the chemistry side of scientific method, students made initial observations using a prescribed amount of three different chemical substances, then developed hypotheses and questions to determine what happened and which compound was responsible. Student made their discoveries and really enjoyed this investigative process.



ACTC Receives ARC Grant

The Mississippi Department of Education has been awarded Appalachian Regional Commission grants to improve advanced manufacturing programs. The Alcorn Career and Technology Center received a portion of those funds to upgrade Construction, Metal Fabrication and Automotive Service Technology programs. The funds will insure that these programs maintain NATEF and MCEF certifications. Pictured, below, is Mr. Hopper (far right) receiving the ceremonial check.



Welding Contest Winner

Congratulations to Bryant Marsh, second year Metal Fabrication student. He won the welding contest at NEMCC's CTE Day. Shown presenting a certificate and prize to Bryant are NEMCC Associate Vice President for Career and Technical Programs, Jason Mattox; Jesse Potts, ACTC Metal Fabrication Instructor and Russ Elam, ACTC Assistant Director.



Video Interview

Justin Simmons of Metal Fabrication and Jordan Chadwell of Construction were interviewed for the winning Mississippi Construction Education Foundation video created by Digital Media students, Tyler Phelps and Duke Peebles. Both students did a great job during their interview. The Mississippi Construction Education Foundation presented each of them with an MCEF t-shirt and ACTC presented them with a Subway gift card for their efforts.

Pictured (l-r) are Lane Bell of MCEF, Justin Simmons, Tim Bradley, Construction Instructor, and Jordan Chadwell.



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.

Merry Christmas, from ACTC!

