



Kentucky Department of EDUCATION

Commissioner's Report
December 2022

KY Tech District of Area Technology Centers (ATCs)

The Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE's) 50 state-operated Area Technology Centers (ATCs) are continuing to provide relevant and rigorous career and technical instruction to over 16,000 students this semester. The ATCs are working to promote career and technical student organizations (CTSOs) which offer co-curricular resources and opportunities for students in the form of leadership development through activities, community service, and competitions.



Boone County ATC student, Spencer Staley, placed 1st out of over 300 students from 27 states and 3 countries who took the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) test at the University of Northern Ohio on November 5. Spencer earned a \$20,000 scholarship to Northern Ohio where he plans to attend starting this coming June. He plans to specialize in High-Performance Automotive and Medium/Heavy-Duty Diesel. His career goals include becoming a service driver for Indy Sports Racing or Formula One Racing. Pictured above is Spencer with his Automotive instructor, Bill Wagner, and on the iPhone is 2021-2022 Diesel Tech instructor, Tom Cahill.



Josh Heisner, Principal of the Mayfield-Graves County ATC, (left) was presented a \$5,000 donation from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) during the recent Graves County Economic Development Business and Industry Dinner at WK&T. The donation is to support skilled trade education for students at Mayfield, Graves County, and Carlisle County high schools. Making the presentation for TVA are Emily Jones, Regional Development Consultant, (center), and Josh Tubbs, Government Relations Specialist (right). (Mayfield Messenger photo)



Garrard County ATC students worked on a collaborative project with the Carpentry, Electricity, and Welding programs. Students in these pathways worked together to dismantle the Garrard County Fire District training building and rebuild it for them. Carpentry students completed the floor and wall framing, roof framing, and the interior and exterior finish work while Electricity students wired the entire building. The new training building will be utilized to teach fire prevention and safety in our schools and at community events.



Bryson Dennis and Collier Crouch, Murray-Calloway County ATC Electrical program students, showcased the skills they have learned at the Murray-Calloway Chamber of Commerce “Salute our Schools” breakfast.



Breathitt County ATC Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students had a great time at Trunk or Treat for Head Start. The students enjoy being an active part of their community.



The Morgan County School District hosted an open house for Morgan County High School and the Area Technology Center on November 13 in recognition of their new facilities. The community was invited to take part in the ceremony and tour both schools. Several students, parents, educators, and community members toured the ATC and the CTE programs. ATC students were on site to lead tours.



In late October, Floyd County ATC students attended the SOAR Summit in Pikeville, KY. There, Computer Science students showcased a project where they created working hands and arms for students with disabilities using a 3D printer. The students won a \$1,000 innovation award.



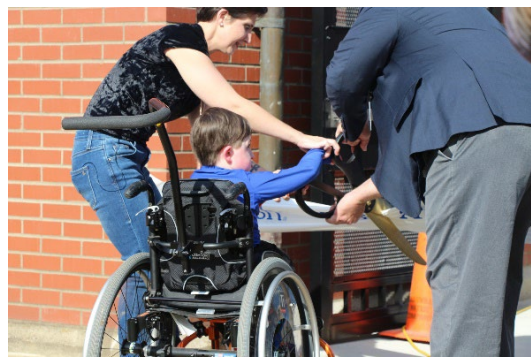
The Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) is working to support KDE's ATCs as they strive to create new opportunities for students to increase engagement and achievement. #UnitedWeLearn

Kentucky School for the Blind

KSB's school counselor focused on Gratitude in school during the month of November as part of the school's Mental Health Matters series. "Focusing on what is good in your life and doing things for others is a very effective way to increase our happiness and positive emotions" (from KSB newsletter). The KSB Boys Varsity Goalball team was undefeated at the North Central Association of Schools for the Blind Conference (NCASBC) Championships on November 5, 2022 and brought home a first place win for the first time since 2008! Goalball is a team sport played exclusively by the visually impaired. The game is played with two teams of three players who try to roll a ball which contains bells past the opposing team into a net to score points.



The new accessible playground, "Anthony's Wish," was dedicated on November 11th. Several years in the planning, the playground was a collaborative effort with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, other fiscal sponsors and KSB student Anthony.



On November 17th the Music Department hosted a Fall Music Concert showcasing the musical talents of the 9th and 10th grade students. Students showcased their talents on a variety of musical

instruments (drums, guitar, keyboard, etc.) with the help of their music teachers Mr. Honey and Mr. White.



Kentucky School for the Deaf

KSD hosted the Accreditation Team from the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD) November 13-15, 2022. The team toured campus, met with staff, students and community members, observed classes and reviewed documentation in considering accreditation status for the school. The CEASD accreditation process encompassed a two-year process of self-analysis and self-reflection in a means to drive continuous improvement in the education of students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

As KSD celebrates 200 years this school year, many events are scheduled as part of the celebration. The Jacobs Hall Christmas Tours take place on December 9-10, 2022. The KSD 200th Anniversary Banquet will take place April 15, 2023. Additional information is available on the [200th anniversary webpage](#).

The 4th Annual Gallaudet and Clerc Banquet will take place on Thursday, December 8th at 6pm at the Grow Hall Cafeteria at KSD. The guest speaker will be Heather Harker, Chief of Staff for the Office of the President at Gallaudet University.

Outreach staff organized the regional Deaf and Hard of Hearing Spelling Bee during October and November. Events were divided into elementary, middle and high school competitions.

