

Inside SAU Tech

Southern Arkansas University Tech

Fall 2016 Edition

SAU Tech Kicks-Off Fall Semester with Chancellor Search

SAU Tech's search for a chancellor is underway. Representatives from SAU, SAU Tech and the community are working together as the search committee to interview applicants and ultimately identify the best candidate for chancellor. The committee hopes to have a new chancellor hired and ready to start in January 2017. As the college prepares for the new leader, the fall semester started with Student Appreciation Day to welcome students to the campus. Each year local banks and other community groups prepare lunch for students and staff at the event, and students enjoy a few hours of activities before heading back to class. This year the event was held inside the Student Center to get out of the summer heat. During the event, the Student Life staff provided the first glimpse into a new student activity to be held later this fall—Tech Island. Tech Island is based on reality TV shows such as *Survivor* and *American Ninja*. The event is for college students and the effort is being led by the MUSED Drama Club. The photo below shows SAU Tech Recruiter, Laruen Ray, with students at the Tech Island booth built by SAU Tech staff member and MUSED sponsor, Steven Fry.



This newsletter provides information to SAU Tech employees and the community about the college. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please contact us by email at: kcoker@sautech.edu

Jim Golden Helps Students Make it to Class



Jim Golden, owner of Jim Golden Ford Dealership in Camden, Arkansas donated an eight passenger, XLT Ford Expedition to SAU Tech this past month. The donation came about after Golden was made aware of a need with regards to transporting students from campus housing to the College's Mechanical Maintenance program, which is located in a building owned by the Airport Commission on U.S. Highway 79N.

Many SAU Tech students who live in campus housing do not have transportation when they come to the College, and the need to go back and forth from the campus to the Mechanical Maintenance building can be a hardship. Eddie Horton, SAU Tech's instructor for the program, made Golden aware of the need, and the details were worked out with the help of Gaye Manning, the College's Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration and Gerald Manning, SAU Tech's Physical Plant Director. Horton also indicated that the vehicle will be used to take students on field trips to various industries as part of their training while in the program.

Golden had this to say about the donation, "I feel that it is very important that local business and the South Arkansas community support SAU Tech. I see SAU Tech as the hub of the wheel in the industrial area that provides much of the training for the area workforce. A strong SAU Tech is a benefit to all of us. We have an industrial park that is second to none and it continues to attract work and jobs from other states and areas. I feel with SAU Tech and the industrial park we have a unique team that we must help grow."

SAU Tech Career Academy Student Places at National Competition



Photo Contributed

Callie Young of Fordyce, Arkansas, recently participated in the SkillsUSA Championships. This invitation only event was for first place state medalists in 100 competition areas for career and technical students. It is the largest skill competition in the world.

Young was a competitor in the Medical Terminology competition representing Southern Arkansas University Tech's Career Academy and won Bronze in the High School Division. The SkillsUSA Championships, held in Louisville, Ky., took place June 22-23, 2016, as part of the SkillsUSA 52nd annual National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC), a showcase of career and technical education students. During the week, more than 6,000 outstanding career and technical education students, all state contest winners, competed hands-on in 100 different trade, technical and leadership fields.

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Student Places at National Competition Continued

Young is a recent Fordyce High School graduate. "The State of Arkansas, Fordyce High School, and CTE was well represented at the National level and the SAU Tech Career Academy's Health Science Department is very proud of Callie's accomplishments", said Jessica Young, Young's mother and advisor at Fordyce. Young, as well as Hannah Pettit and Austin Metcalf (additional FHS student contestants) who also participated in the national competition, are true champions in their dedication to excellence in their trade and their leadership skills. During the national competition, Young, Pettit and Metcalf worked against the clock and each other, proving their expertise in occupational areas like Medical Math, Nurse assisting, CPR/First Aid, and Medical Assisting. All contests are run with the help of industry personnel, trade associations, and labor organizations, and test competencies are set by industry.

Top student winners received gold, silver and bronze medallions. Many also received prizes such as tools of their trade and/or scholarships to further their careers and education. The SkillsUSA Championships is for high school and college students who are members of SkillsUSA. High scorers in the contests received Skill Point Certificates. The Skill Point Certificate was awarded in 86 occupational and leadership areas to students who achieved a high score defined by their industries respectively. The SkillsUSA Championships have been a premier event since 1967. Young and Metcalf received these honors, as well. Young is an entering freshmen this fall at SAU Tech.

Adult Education Division Wins Award



Photo Contributed

Southern Arkansas University Tech's Adult Education services improved drastically over academic year 2014-2015, according to the Arkansas Department of Career Education's Adult Education Division. SAU Tech Adult Education Centers received the state agency's award for the largest percentage gain and improvement for the Effective and Efficient indicators in the state of Arkansas among Adult Education program. The Center went from an Effective and Efficient indicator of 74.6 percent in academic year 2013-2014 to 109.91 percent in academic year 2014-2015.

To be considered effective and efficient, local adult education programs and literacy councils receiving adult education funds are required to meet or exceed 80 percent of the negotiated core indicators of performance. This means assisting students in making educational advancements in reading, writing, and math based on their entering functioning level. The measurement of gains also includes student outcome measures of entering employment, retaining employment, obtaining a GED and entering postsecondary (college) education.

SAU Tech Adult Education Director, Barbara Hamilton, had this to say about the recent award, "Our staff have been working extremely hard to improve outcomes for the program. Finding ways to improve student outcomes is our goal! The hard work has paid off and we are very proud and excited."

SAU Tech Offers New Programs

SAU Tech's fall academic semester marked the start of several new academic programs. The College also began offering its Computer Information Technology program online and many additional courses have been added to online offerings as well. Listed below are the new academic programs for fall 2016:

- **Production Technician:** This is an entry-level production training program with Manufacturing Standard Skills Council (MSSC) certifications included.
- **Medical Office Management:** The program's coursework provides skills that can lead to Medical Assistant, Professional Coder and Medical Billing Specialist certifications.
- **Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning:** This study track provides skills needed to work as in the field of heating and air and was developed in partnership with local HVAC providers.
- **Electronics and Instrumentation:** This programs provides the skills necessary to pursue an entry-level position as an instrumentation technician. Instrumentation and controls technicians install, maintain, troubleshoot, repair, and replace process control equipment used in the production field, and ensure environmental protection, safety and cost-effective operations.

SAU Tech is preparing to develop and delivery a Forestry Technician program by next fall. This program would meet a need identified by the timber industries in south Arkansas. For the latest information on SAU Tech's programs, go to www.sautech.edu.

SAU Tech Welcomes New Student Ambassadors



Each fall, Southern Arkansas University Tech awards Ambassador status to incoming freshmen who apply for the designation and meet the qualifications. The Ambassadors must have a minimum of 19 on the ACT, provide two letters of recommendation and complete an essay. Each Ambassador has to enroll in a minimum of 15 hours of college credit. The Ambassador applications are reviewed and chosen by the Director of Student Life. During the college year, the Ambassadors work with Student Life

to represent the student body during various events and activities. The fall 2016 SAU Tech Ambassadors are as follows: Rob Franks, Sparkman; Anna Reed, Jacksonville; Lauren McMahren, Harmony Grove; and Cody Bird, Crossett.

Employees Earn Awards



*Rebecca Hughes
Faculty Excellence Award*



*Dale Tommey
Professional Staff Award*



*Keisha Robinson
Support Staff Award*

2016 Taz Awards

Extra Mile Award

- Benny Ward
- Loretha Walker
- Debbie Tucker
- Cynthia Hendrix
- Lauren Ray
- Steven Fry
- Angela Fry



*Adjunct Faculty Award
Brenda Fickey*

*Adjunct Faculty Award
Donna Smith*

*Alumni Award
Philip Shirley*

Customer Service Award

Dr. Lisa Oden

Making a Difference Award

Brandon Briggs
Kelli Biggers

Employee Appreciation for fall 2016 was held on August 10, 2016. Employees were welcomed by Dr. Trey Berry, SAU System President, who also participated in the awards ceremony for the employees. The staff enjoyed lunch catered by the Tech Diner while listening to presentations from the vice chancellors regarding enrollment, accreditation and academics.

Faculty Member Presents at UK Conference



Contributed Photo



Contributed Photo

Dr. Lisa Oden, SAU Tech Teacher Education Instructor, recently presented at the 38th Annual European Association of Institutional Research in Birmingham, England. Dr. Oden said, "My research presentation went well. I met with higher education faculty and researchers from all over the world. It is remarkable to be reminded how all colleges struggle with the same issues. Thank you to the SAU Tech Foundation for making this trip possible." Dr. Oden traveled to Europe with long-time friend and former colleague, Sharon Scott.

Career Academy Instructor Awarded



Contributed Photo

Jessica Young, SAU Tech Career Academy's Health Sciences Technology Instructor, is the recipient of the 2016 Arkansas SkillsUSA Advisor of the Year. Young instructs high school students on the College's main campus in Camden and recently was awarded the National Career and Technical Teacher of the Year Award for her efforts. The SkillsUSA Advisor of the Year award is given to recognize and honor dedicated Career and Technical Education instructors who serve as local SkillsUSA Advisors.

Recipients of this award have made significant contributions toward training, motivating, and inspiring their peers and students while promoting involvement in CTE programs and projects that benefit their communities and state. Their outstanding contributions to both their students and to the SkillsUSA organization make them a valuable leader and shining example to the entire State of Arkansas.

SAU Tech Wants to Hear Your Story

If you attended SAU Tech in the past, we would like you to share your story with us. The College was started in 1968 and since then thousands of people have graduated from our programs. Tell us about your career and what you are doing and what attending SAU Tech meant to you. You can complete the form on the home page of our website, and we will use your story in our publications and online on our website. We want to hear from YOU! www.sautech.edu/mystory



Nursing Class Raises Exam Pass Rate



Photo by Stephanie Dunn King

The SAU Tech 2016 Nursing Graduates are raising the bar for others who complete the program. The group has earned a 96.2 percent pass rate on the Arkansas Licensed Nursing Exam which is up from the prior year pass rate of 94 percent. This is an outstanding achievement for the faculty and students of the program.