

# Inside SAU Tech

*Southern Arkansas University Tech*

Spring 2016 Edition

## SAU Tech Career Academy Instructor Wins National Award

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) announces Jessica Young, a health science technology education instructor at Southern Arkansas University (SAU) Tech Career Academy in Camden, Arkansas, as the 2016 ACTE New Teacher of the Year.

As the Region IV winner of ACTE's New Teacher of the Year award, Young was one of five finalists considered for the national title. The ACTE New Teacher of the Year award recognizes CTE teachers with three to five years' experience (at the middle, secondary or postsecondary level) who have made significant contributions toward innovative and unique CTE programs and shown a professional commitment early in their careers.

As a Health Science Technology Education instructor at SAU Tech Career Academy in Camden, Arkansas, Jessica Young enjoys implementing non-traditional methodologies in her classroom. Young has been a licensed nurse for the last 15 years, and in the first part of her career she gained hands-on experience in long-term care, home health and hospital environments. As part of her course, she brings students into these environments, which she says "can be uncomfortable," but provides a vital reality check for those interested in pursuing a career in the high-stakes



healthcare profession. She assigns project-based learning assignments, not just to develop necessary skills, but also to foster compassion for patients. For one such assignment, her students were tasked with interviewing nursing home patients and writing about their lives. "I never saw nursing homes as real homes until I did that assignment," says former student Taylor Watkins. "I gained a new perspective on life, giving thanks, compassion, and especially the safety and security of a home."

In addition to being an active member of ACTE, Young is also an avid supporter of SkillsUSA, for which she has held various leadership responsibilities. Her students have competed at the state level and earned four gold medals, and seven of her students have been chosen as state officers. Young employs humor, music and games in the classroom and minimalizes use of the textbook. Her interactive, hands-on methods have resulted in high course scores and requests from peers to teach them how to incorporate similar methods into their classes. To learn more about what the SAU Tech Career Academy has to offer, call 870.574.4487.

## AETA Signs With TEEEX

Safety professionals in Arkansas will have easier access to safety and health training thanks to a new agreement between the Arkansas Environmental Training Academy (AETA) at Southern Arkansas University Tech and the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX).

The two organizations signed the agreement on Feb. 25 on the campus of SAU Tech in Camden, AR. The agreement officially recognizes the

Arkansas Environmental Training Academy at SAU Tech as a host training organization for the TEEEX Region VI OSHA Training Institute Education Center. Under the agreement, the Arkansas Environmental Training Academy is approved to teach TEEEX courses using its own verified instructors and facilitators.

"The Arkansas Environmental Training Academy is excited about the opportunity to partner with TEEEX to provide safety and health training for the state of Arkansas. This partnership will allow the Academy to assist facilities statewide in providing quality health and safety training to their workers," said Randy J. Harper, Director of the Arkansas Environmental Training Academy at SAU Tech. The agreement was signed by Harper and Ron Peddy, Director of the Region VI OSHA Training Institute Education Center. "We're excited to partner with the Arkansas Environmental Training Academy to provide more opportunities to meet the demand for safety and health training and ultimately reduce workplace incidents in Arkansas," Peddy said.

Other TEEEX personnel attending the signing ceremony were TEEEX Safety & Health Program Director Bill Stansbury, JB Gregory and Laura Shehan. Representatives from SAU Tech included Executive Vice Chancellor Robert Gunnels and Vice Chancellors Gaye Manning, Valerie Wilson, David McLeane, and Diane Betts. AETA Advisory Board Members attending included Kathryn Catlin, Michael Grappe' and William Wright. AETA staff in attendance included EHS Program Coordinator and Asst. Director Rickey Cole, Ken Nutt, Jay Northern, Letitia Rusch and Mitzy Bynum.

The TEEEX Region VI OSHA Training Institute Education Center provides OSHA-authorized safety and health training in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, and New Mexico.

*(Photo L-R: Rickey Cole, AETA, Asst. Director, EHS Program Coordinator/Instructor; Robert Gunnels, SAU Tech Executive Vice Chancellor; Randy Harper, AETA Director; Ron Peddy, Division Director of TEEEX Infrastructure & Safety Training; and Bill Stansbury, EHS Program Director at TEEEX.)*



## SAU Tech Prepares for College Day

SAU Tech's College Day is on March 31 from Noon to 4:00 p.m. The event is for anyone who is thinking about attending SAU Tech. College Day activities include lunch, meeting faculty, touring program and facilities. SAU Tech staff will be on hand to answer any questions and to provide guidance about the various technical, transfer and online programs offered by SAU Tech. Register at [www.sautech.edu](http://www.sautech.edu) or call 870.574.4712. Join us and bring a friend or family member!



[www.sautech.edu](http://www.sautech.edu)



3.31.16

@Noon-4:00 pm

## Show Off Your Welding Skills

SAU Tech is pleased to announce the dates for its annual Welding Academy Competition. The SAUT Welding Academy, located in Magnolia, Arkansas inside the Harvey Couch Business Park, will be hosting a welding skills competition on Saturday, April 2, 2016.

The annual event will begin at 10:00 a.m. and finish around 3:00 p.m. First prize is a full tuition scholarship to the SAUT Welding Academy, second prize is a Victor Journeyman Torch kit and third prize is a Miller Pro Hobby Auto Darkening Welding Hood. The entry fee is \$25 and includes lunch. The event is open to all ages. For more information call 870.390.0353.



Southern Arkansas University Tech  
2016 Welding Competition

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Full Tuition Scholarship to the SAU Tech Welding Academy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
Victor Journeyman Torch Kit
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize  
Miller Pro Hobby Auto Darkening Hood



Saturday, April 2, 2016 - 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Open to welders of all ages!  
Entry Fee: \$25 (Lunch is Included)

Bring a welding hood, gloves, safety glasses and wear appropriate welding attire to compete. You can pay the entry fee by phone by calling 870.574.4461 or send your fee by mail to SAU Tech Business Office- Welding Competition, P.O. Box 3489, Camden, AR 71711. For competition information call, 870.390.0353. The competition location is at the SAU Tech Welding Academy in the Harvey Couch Business Park in Magnolia, Arkansas -103 Business Park Drive.

**COME OUT AND SHOW OFF YOUR WELDING SKILLS  
FOR A CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF THREE PRIZES!**

## Supporting the College



# Change Lives by supporting students at SAU Tech



On April 7, between 8 am and 8 pm, go to [www.ArkansasGives.org](http://www.ArkansasGives.org) and make a donation to support students at SAU Tech! Donate through this giving campaign to make your donation worth more! Look for **Southern Arkansas University Tech Foundation** and make your gift!

## Why your support Matters



" I am currently working as a LPN after completing SAU Tech's Nursing Program. I chose Tech because it was close to home, more affordable and it was a better choice overall. I have always wanted to be a nurse and help people. Tech's nursing instructors were very understanding and helpful to me so that I could obtain my goal of becoming a nurse. This program has given my son and myself a chance at a better life."

*Keyana Flint, SAU Tech graduate*

The SAU Tech Foundation supports students like Keyana by providing the technology needed for the delivery of the nursing program, scholarships and more. Support students like Keyana today and change a life!

Donate on April 7 at [www.ArkansasGives.org](http://www.ArkansasGives.org).

## Earnest Green Shares His Experiences



Southern Arkansas University Tech hosted its annual Black History Celebration on February 18, 2016 on the College's campus in East Camden. Over 600 people were in attendance to the dinner/speaker event to hear Earnest Green speak.

Ernest Gideon Green was one of the Little Rock Nine, a group of African-American students who, in 1957, were the first black students ever to attend classes at Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Green, now 74, shared with the audience what the experience was like for him as the only senior in the group of nine and how he was targeted by those who didn't want to see the integration happen. Green spoke about his experiences and how the mob made threats to kill him if he participated in commencement and how Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. encouraged him to go ahead and participate in the ceremony. Green stated that he never imagined that after 57 years he would still be talking about that experience.

Despite one member of the group being deceased now, Green stated that he and the others have stayed in touch even though they live all over the county and two live out of the country in Sweden and Canada. Green focused his speech to the group on the political events that were happening at that time in the country and his experiences as the first black senior to attend Little Rock Central High School.

The Black History Celebration event raises money for the Betty J. Lewis Minority Scholarship, which is managed by the Southern Arkansas University Tech Foundation.

## SAU Tech Multicultural Student Association Hosts Talent Show

The Multicultural Student Association at SAU Tech hosted its 2016 Talent Show at the Ross Center on Tuesday, February 23, 2016. Six contestants shared their talent with those in attendance. Judges Phillip Allison, Anthony Jackson, and Jolantha Keys had the task of selecting the winners who received cash prizes ranging from \$50-\$200. Tasha McIntosh, a local gospel artist, served as the MC and provided entertainment for the evening.

*Photo: left to right: MC Tasha McIntosh; First Place, Na'Jyrae Gordon (praise dance); Second Place, Jalen Gordon (song); and Third Place, Jennifer Page (song).*



## SAU Tech Eligible to Apply for ASPEN Prize

SAU Tech was recently notified that it is eligible to apply for the coveted Aspen Prize. The Aspen Institute has named the College as one of the 150 Community Colleges in the United States eligible to compete for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and \$1 million in prize funds. SAU Tech was chosen to apply in the previous round of competition from the Aspen Institute in 2015.

Community colleges are considered based on the following criteria:

- student success in persistence, completion and transfer;
- consistent improvement in outcomes over time; and
- equity in outcomes for students of all racial/ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Overall only four community colleges in Arkansas were chosen by the Institute out of 150 colleges chosen nationwide from 35 states. SAU Tech will submit the application to compete for the prize that will be awarded in 2017. "The students we serve work hard to complete their degrees, and our staff and faculty work equally hard to help them achieve that educational goal. This honor confirms our effort of putting our students first," stated Robert Gunnels, SAU Tech's Executive Vice-Chancellor, when notified about the College being eligible for the second time to compete for the prize.

Ten finalists will be announced in the fall of this year, and the list of eligible colleges and previous winners can be found at [The Aspen Institute](#).

## Creating an Advanced Manufacturing Worker Pipeline

As part of the Arkansas Workforce Training Initiative funded by the state of Arkansas in 2015, SAU Tech applied for and received a planning grant to develop a career pathway to train workers for the field of aerospace defense advanced manufacturing. The grant award provides funds for a coordinator to provide support for the process which was placed under SAU Tech's Executive Vice Chancellor, Robert Gunnels, and Director of Workforce and Community Education, Ophelia Lindsey. The grant award also provides funds for faculty training and for the activities required to develop the career pathway. The pathway creation process was kicked off last fall and several meetings with project partners are underway. The process of creating the career pathway involves Arkansas Workforce, area public schools, the SAU Tech Career Academy, and Highland Industrial Park industries. The end result of the planning phase will include memorandums of agreements between all partners with regards to services and roles as participants in the career pathway and a clear graphic depiction with entry and exit points for the process of training a skilled workforce for the industries that reside in the Highland Industrial Park. The next phase of the Arkansas Workforce Training Initiative involves SAU Tech submitting an implementation proposal to create a production technician program and to augment current programs with much needed equipment updates as part of the career pathway development. The deadline for the proposal for the next phase is June 1, 2016.

## SAU System Creates Welding Processes Technology Program

SAU Tech began offering a degree in welding process technology in fall 2015. The program now has a new component only the Southern Arkansas University System can offer. SAU is preparing to offer the last two years of this unique degree program under its division of science and technology as a bachelor's degree in welding engineering technology. The degree path requires that students start with SAU Tech and complete basic core courses, including attending the College's Welding Academy, and then transfer to SAU to complete the last two years of this specialized degree. SAU's bachelor's degree portion of the program is scheduled for approval by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education in April of this year. The uniqueness of this program is offset by the rarity of the degree itself. A degree in welding engineering technology is found only at a few institutions in the country. The program is for those individuals who not only want to be an expert welder, but also want to move to the supervisory level of a welding career.

The program has several built-in options for incoming students. Individuals who already possess extensive years of welding experience will have the opportunity to test out of the Welding Academy portion of the degree and obtain college credit under SAU Tech's credit for prior learning option. Students who do not have extensive welding experience will be required to attend the Welding Academy and can take the general education requirements of the degree online while attending the Academy or before or after attending the Academy.

Marketing efforts for the program will kick-off once the last stage of the four-year degree is approved in April. A meeting between the academic officers, dean and marketing personnel took place in February to start the process of preparing materials and information to promote the program. For more information on the already approved SAU Tech part of the program go to <http://www.sautech.edu/academics/welding.aspx>.

## 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](http://www.sautech.edu/mystory)



## Meet Our Graduate

"I graduated from SAU Tech's Aviation Maintenance program in May 2010. Going to school at SAU Tech was like being in a family. During that time I met several great people and some of them are still some of my closest friends! After graduation, I tested for my FAA licenses and received them! I begin working with a company that serviced airplanes all over Arkansas and then in September of 2011, I moved to Hot Springs to join AAR Aircraft Services. In the two years I worked with AAR, I was able to work my way up to a lead mechanic position where I was responsible for overseeing twenty-five other mechanics. During my time there I also completed the necessary training to be able to do engine runs and taxi aircraft before and after heavy checks were completed. In September 2013, I left AAR and moved to Little Rock to join the Central Flying Service. I have been here for two years and during that time I have joined the elite team of guys that work contract maintenance for all of the airlines that fly in and out of The Bill and Hilary Clinton National airport. I love every minute of it! I haven't had any second thoughts about choosing SAU Tech for my education. I am still growing as a mechanic and currently I am working towards completing my private pilot's license as I have recently purchased my first airplane. This career path has allowed me to reach so many goals I never thought possible! I encourage anyone who is trying to decide on a career in the mechanical field to pick aviation! I always find it funny when people ask me what I do for a living and I get to tell them I am an aircraft mechanic! They don't expect that! I cannot say it enough, I would never change the decision that I made to join the SAU Tech's Aviation Maintenance program!"



Daniel Castleberry

# Southern Arkansas University Tech

## TITLE IX

### NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Southern Arkansas University Tech does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnic origin, sex, age, disability, or protected veteran’s status in employment or the rights, privileges , programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

This statement of non-discrimination applies to educational programs, educational policies, admissions policies, educational activities, employment, access and admission, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 or other civil rights laws should contact one of the following individuals:

#### TITLE IX Coordinator

#### TITLE IX Deputy Coordinator



**Olivia Clack**  
Human Resources Director  
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870.574.4481  
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#### TITLE IX Deputy Coordinator



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**TITLE IX Deputy Coordinator**  
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Student Issues

For more information on Title IX go to [www.sautech.edu/institution/titleIX](http://www.sautech.edu/institution/titleIX)