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MCKENZIE CENTER FOR INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY • JANUARY 2017

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MCIT receives prestigious Indiana Career & Technical Education Awards



McKenzie Center for Innovation and Technology has received three awards for excellence from Indiana Career & Technical Education. MaiLan Brown, a student at MCIT, received the Indiana Award for Excellence in the Student category; MCIT's IT-Networking along with instructor Kevin Kelly received the Award for Pathway; and Don Sheets and Clarence McGowen, instructors for Auto Service Technology and Collision Repair, received the Award for Excellence for partnership with Ed Martin Automotive Group.

CTE is a national education association dedicated to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for careers. Its mission is to provide educational leadership in developing a competitive workforce. CTE provides students of all ages with the academic and technical skills, knowledge and training necessary to succeed in future careers and to become lifelong learners. The Awards Program will be held February 17 at the Indiana Government Center.

MCIT student MaiLan Brown received the Excellence in a Student Award. She was nominated due to her excelling in Project Lead the Way (PLTW) pre-engineering classes with instructor Brock Morrison. Currently she is enrolled in PLTW's CIM (Advanced Computer Integrated Manufacturing).

Enrolled in predominantly male classes, Brown has successfully led projects and competitions within each course. "She has no trouble holding her own within these classes whether it be lab work, group work, presentations or competitions," said Morrison.

Brown, a senior at Lawrence North, started her freshman year at MCIT and instantly was hooked on chemical engineering. "Mr. Morrison really interested me in chemical engineering. That first day of class as a freshman, he introduced us to chemical engineering and drove me to look into it," Brown said. "Ever since elementary school, middle school and now high school, I have loved the creativity of engineering and how it combines all of the skills I enjoy. I love to problem solve."



Brown, a senior at Lawrence North, has received the Technical Honors diploma, is a member of the National Technical Honor Society, the National Honor Society, an Outstanding Character Kiwanis Club of Indianapolis recipient, and the MCIT

Outstanding Civil Engineering and Architecture student. She is also a U.S. Synchronized swimming all-star and volunteers in various community service projects.

"Mr. Svarczkopf has always been a great role model and sets a good example at MCIT," she said. "Both he and Mr. Morrison have both made an impact on my education and where I am going in life right now." Brown said she plans to continue her education at possibly Purdue, St. Mary's or Ohio State in chemical or biochemical engineering.



In the Pathway category, MCIT received the award for developing and implementing a four-year IT networking plan for students with national certifications and employment opportunities. Under the direction of instructor Kevin Kelly, the pathway is designed to provide students with skills and nationally recognized industry certifications that allow them to enter the computer technology field as certified computer technicians. It also prepares students to enter college to pursue a number of advanced degrees in computer science. Students are qualified to immediately earn top wages after their high school graduation, and in addition to completing CompTIA certifications, students earn dual college credit from Vincennes University.

“We graduate students who are ready for everything, ready for the workforce, ready for higher education, ready for the military,” said MCIT director Frank Svarczkopf. “Mr. Kelly’s networking pathway is a perfect example of this.” Kelly, who has been teaching for 34 years, is A+ certified as a Remote Support Technician, IT Technician, Depot Technician Security+, and Network+ and CISCO I and II certified. His A+ Computer Tech and Network Fundamentals courses are offered for Dual Credit with Vincennes University.

In the Partnership category, the award went to MCIT for its partnership with the Ed Martin Automotive Group. This partnership is designed to bring Automotive Service and Collision Repair classes into alignment with the current industry partners. The Ed Marin Automotive Group believes their deep relationship with McKenzie will raise the profile of the programs to students and close the gap between the high school classes and the supporting dealerships and repair shops. Additionally, students are exposed to all aspects of the industry, rather than only the skills and positions that are represented in their high school curriculum.



Sheets, who has been teaching for 25 years, is an ASE Industry Alliance Instructor, ASE certified, and has been awarded for Outstanding Dedication to Automotive Technology and Development of Tomorrow’s Automotive Professionals. He also teaches dual credit with Ivy Tech. McGowen, instructor for Collision Repair, is ASE certified, DuPont certified, Shoplink and Photolink certified. He has been teaching for seven years, and his courses are dual credit with Vincennes University.

“The partnership allowed us to update equipment that we would not have otherwise been able to do,” said Sheets. “This partnership puts current technology in front of the students so they will have advanced knowledge of how these systems work. This will shorten the learning curve for them. We were also able to



purchase supplies we needed for the shop activities and for MCIT’s Hot Rodders of Tomorrow contest team.”

The partnership was developed to build the physical parts of the program, where students begin with everything in place for classes that scale up to a post-high school career. Ed Martin representatives developed a logo reflecting existing logos throughout Lawrence Township, and students became part of a team as they worked for a specific set of dealerships.

“This model is the definition of Career and Technical Education well done,” said Svarczkopf. Ed Martin Automotive Group extended their commitment by making a five-year, \$375,000 donation to the program to assure that the standards in the program stay high for the students. “This long-term commitment exemplifies the most valuable aspect of career and technical education,” said Svarczkopf. “Working back and forth along a career path from educator to school to businesses to students, it is deeply-committed, well-connected and financially supportive of our students and teachers.”

