

Culinary and IT Students Discover Career Possibilities



(front l to r) Aaliyah Harbin, Kyla Parks, Diamond Steele, Jakiya Robinson, Tabith Brown, (back l to r) Miriam Crump, Shelby Burchfield, Tara Williamson, Emily Newton, Alicia Mayweather, Brianna Cashaw, Haley Conley, Ashlyn Hill, Safari Booker, and Instructor Lindsey Kelly

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Student Services Coordinators

GCTC students in Information Technology and Culinary Arts classes recently toured several businesses and schools discovering the many career possibilities in their subject areas.

On October 26, Mrs. Jennifer O'Brien's IT students took part in a technology competition called Digital Dawg Byte at Mississippi State University with other schools across the state. They participated in the Snap It and Kahoot It events. In the Snap It competition, they took photos across MSU campus and created a 20 second video using the photos. In the Kahoot It competition, student teams used their smart phones to answer questions about MSU facts learned on the tour including information about college program majors. Some of our students were featured in a video news clip on WTVA News.

IT students attended Fall Conference at Northwest Community College on November 7 and participated in the Skills USA t-shirt and pin design contest. They have participated in several additional contests such as the MCEFWorks Video Contest by the Mississippi Construction Education Foundation and the Google Doodle Contest. Students leading in these projects were Joseph Dunn producer of the MCEFWorks video; Tristan Peacock, leader of the group at the Snap It competition; and Dylan Birdsong, designer of the Skills USA logo. Currently, they are preparing for several competitions in the Skills USA District Competition with

Auto and Welding students.

December 2 was particularly exciting for IT students, Colby Hodges, Aalyria Wright, Kourtney McNatt, and Xiavion Bankston as they experienced virtual reality (VR) in the classroom. Each student donned the VR goggles brought by Casey Wiggins of Grenada. They experienced situations such as walking across a plank 90 stories up in the air between skyscrapers in a game atmosphere where they could change some of the components.

"When students are exposed to these current technologies, they learn about many of the career possibilities available in the job market such as web design, software game design, networking, and programming," explained Mrs. O'Brien. Students have also been learning about innovative technologies and gaining valuable experience during job shadowing at UMMC and Tech Smart.

Mrs. Lindsey Kelly's Culinary Arts class visited the Viking Cooking School and The Alluvian Hotel in Greenwood on December 7, 2016. The students toured the cooking school workstations where cooking demonstrations and classes for the public are conducted.

Next, they toured the Viking prep kitchen where the kitchen manager and Chef Instructor Loren Leflore prepares for each class. They also toured the large walk-in stock refrigerator and freezer.

Browsing through the Viking store, the students saw various items such as Viking pots, pans, equipment, cookbooks, and specialty items.

The Alluvian Hotel is across the street from the cooking school and includes a restaurant and spa. Students were amazed

to see the large, ornate hotel rooms, banquet areas, and guest services where guest meals are served and numerous events such as weddings and receptions are hosted. After the tours, the students enjoyed dining at the Crystal Grill.

The students enjoyed the demonstra-

tions of the various careers available in the culinary industry including chef, waitress, server, hotel clerk, and manager.



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