

Weather Record						
Date	1-22	1-23	1-24	1-25	1-26	1-27
High	49.4	55.4	33.8	28.6	41	45.1
Low	20.2	33.8	24.8	14.9	19.7	28
Prec	0	0.93	0.03	0	0.01	0

Reporting period for each day runs from midnight to midnight. Statistics from Kentucky Mesonet's Bengal Station.

GC ATC showcases renovated facility

BY CLEVIS JEFFRIES
STAFF WRITER

The Green County School District and Green County Area Technology Center celebrated the renovation of the technology center made possible by a Kentucky Work Ready Skills Initiative (WRSI) grant amounting to some \$1.52 million with an open house January 22 that included guest speakers, a luncheon and tours of the newly renovated facility with approximately 130 in attendance. Total cost of the renovation project was \$2.12 million.

"The area technology center has been vital to increasing the workforce in our community for many years. We are thrilled to be a recipient of the Work Ready Skills Initiative grant. With this renovation and equipment upgrades, the center will continue to serve the needs of the local workforce for many years," said Green County Schools Superintendent Will Hodges.

The initiative was funded by the Kentucky General Assembly and administered by the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet under the leadership of Secretary Derrick K. Ramsey.

Secretary Ramsey, with reference to technical education, said, "We get an opportunity to learn; We get an opportunity to work with our hands. What we're doing is we're preparing our kids to be competitive for the 21st Century."

According to GCATC principal Dr. Lee Ann Wall, "The Green County School District was one of 40 WSRI projects awarded in the state to help train students and adults in high demand, high paying jobs. The initiative provided resources to expand career and technical education facilities and upgrade equipment in schools through local partnerships between business and education. Our project was selected because it was locally driven and tailored to meet the workforce and industry needs of our communities."

The project was a joint endeavor between the Green County School District, Green County Area Technology Center and several businesses, industry, secondary, and postsecondary schools involved in the partnership.

Dr. Wall said that the grant's application identified the desire to

address the growing demand for a more skilled, modernized workforce in Kentucky's primary sectors, including Health Care, Computerized Manufacturing, Welding Manufacturing and Automotive Technology.

Former Green County Schools Superintendent Jim Frank said, "This grant has given us the opportunity to put the money where it's needed. That's what it's all about is the kids and giving them the opportunities to learn a skill." "The investment of this grant into our community will help insure that our students have the skills necessary to thrive in the workplace as well as meet the demands of several career sectors," the ATC principal said.

Students also now have expanded dual credit opportunities with partnering colleges and universities. These advancements provide students with opportunities to become more employable, along with impacting communities with a more skilled workforce while opening lines for collaboration and ongoing discussions with business and industry leaders.

The ATC originally began receiving students from Green and Taylor Counties on August 26, 1968 and was at that time named the Tim Lee Carter Vocational School with an additional building added in 1971.

Today, the technology center serves approximately 580 students from the Campbellsville, Green County and Taylor County School Districts.

The facility is also available to offer adult night classes.

The principal noted that the school currently offers programs in the areas of Wood Manufacturing, Health Science, Allied Health, Industrial Maintenance,

Automotive Technology, Marketing, Computerized Machining and Manufacturing, and Welding Technology.

The grant money was used to modernize the ATC's facility and to purchase additional equipment for the advancement of programs.

She stated, "We still are teaching technical skills, and with the modern improvements and new equipment it shows how far technical education has advanced since the school first opened to students in 1968."

The local educational technology facility at that time offered students programs in automotive mechanics, industrial electricity, building trades, business and office education, and health occupations, including practical nursing.

Health occupations, during that first year, served as a pilot program selected by the State Department of Education.

Mr. Jim Evans was the vocational school's first director.

Students were required to be 16 years of age and a junior or senior in high school to take classes.

The facility was an extension of the local school system and under the supervision of the State Board of Education, offering after-school programs for out-of-school youth between the ages of 16-21.

Adult training was also offered beginning in September of that year.

During the dedication and open house ceremony on August 25, 1968, Fifth District Congressman Tim Lee Carter served as the featured speaker.

Some 50 plus years later, students are continuing to pursue their careers by learning skills and acquiring certifications in various programs of technical education.



Photos by Angelina Alcott

ATC welding student Colton Moore demonstrated how the robotic welder is used to those who toured the Area Technology Center last week. New welding equipment was purchased through the Kentucky Work Ready Skills Initiative grant.



Cole Edmonds performs maintenance in machine tool as Maintenance Director Adam Whitlock tours the shop.



A number of welding students demonstrate the different skills learned.



Nursing student Lexi Beard checks off on skills during her CNA class. Beard, with a number of classmates, will take the state boards test in March.



Derrick Ramsey, Secretary of Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, toured the facility and spoke with a number of attendees about the importance of vocational training.



Dr. Wall discusses the programs offered at the Green County Area Technology Center with Taylor County Superintendent Charles Higdon and Taylor County Workforce Development Specialist Chris Goodin.



Senior Briley Cox demonstrates robotics to one of the tour groups. Area Technology students gave tours through each program that is offered at the technology center.