

DYW Junior event is Saturday

The Green County Distinguished Young Woman Junior program for girls in pre-K through fifth grade will be held this Saturday at the Green County Primary School.

Registration will begin at 11 a.m. CT with camp from 12 to 4:30 p.m. The program will be presented to the public at 4:30 p.m. CT. Students will learn a short opening, fitness, talent as a group, and self-expression

routines. The girls will perform the routines they have learned for family and friends. The performance is not judged. The goal is to offer a fun-filled day with friends while gaining self-confidence.

The DYW Junior participants will also perform at Green County Distinguished Young Woman program in September and walk in the Cow Days parade. For more information call 270-932-1374.

ATC preps students for careers

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Montgomery, production associate, holds two American Welding Society certifications; DeSpain, registered nurse, has a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Western Kentucky University and Milby, a machinist, holds a NIMS certification and will complete an associate degree from Elizabethtown Community and Technical College in computerized manufacturing and machining this spring.

Each credited their family members as being influential in their decision to continue pursuing a technical career.

Regarding their future plans, advancement in their careers is of utmost importance. DeSpain said, "I plan to continue working to gain experience and expertise in my present role and return to school to obtain a Master's degree in Nursing."

Montgomery remarked that he would like to become a salaried employee with the company and Milby is considering pursuing additional options relating to other technical areas.

These former students offered advice to someone who might consider pursuing a technical education.

Montgomery said, "A postsecondary technical education has less expense compared to a traditional college and the work is very rewarding and the pay is excellent. Find a program you like and stick with it."

DeSpain responded by saying, "The Health Science program at the ATC allows students opportunities to learn about multiple health careers and helps guide them into making career choices."

Milby noted that acquiring good skills in a trade will provide many opportunities.

Each talked about the challenges of their jobs. Being empowered to think outside the box was challenging and rewarding for Milby in his work.

DeSpain spoke about responsibilities of a health care professional in an effort to help sustain the life of an individual while providing comfort.

Montgomery mentioned his challenge on the job as being capable to manufacture each part to specific tolerances.

The assistance provided by their instructors was very beneficial in helping them transition into the world of work.

Montgomery said, "Mr. Thomas provides multiple career oppor-

tunities for his students and Ms. Joy Coffey helps with the application process, resumes, and prepares graduating students for job interviews.

"Ms. Compton always shares with her students' job opportunities that are available within the local area," DeSpain said.

Milby's response was, "Mr. Porter helped me to find my first job as a machine operator and assisted me in making the transition to post-secondary education."

Each interviewee noted that their job salaries and benefits were adequate.

DeSpain talked about some of the perks of becoming an RN as having excellent pay and benefits, flexible work schedules, and a variety of employment opportunities; Montgomery said that the starting salary of a welder where he works is about \$15 per hour along with benefits such as insurance and retirement.

Milby commented that a machinist's starting pay where he is employed is in the upper teens with full benefits including retirement.

DeSpain, Montgomery and Milby asserted that finding jobs after being certified from the ATC in their area was rather easy.

DeSpain said, "Nursing, as a career, is in much demand and fosters job security. You will always have a job."

Montgomery credited Mr. Thomas and his connections with area businesses and industries in making it possible for students with certifications in welding to secure employment.

"It wasn't difficult for me to find a job prior to graduating from Green County High School because of the extensive support and training I received from my instructor at the local ATC," Milby said.

These ATC instructors had absolute praise for their former students.

Welding instructor Steven Thomas said, "Seeing a student like Wyatt after graduation working and being a contributor to society is the greatest reward to teaching a skilled trade. I knew that Wyatt would be successful because of his work ethic and those who helped mold him into the young man he is today."

Referring to her former student, Karen Compton said, "As a Health Science instructor, it is such an honor to work with students like

Julie and watch them grow in confidence. It is very rewarding to be a part of growing health care professionals! As a student, Julie was always very hard-working and focused on detail, as an RN she continues this much desired work ethic and I am so proud of her accomplishments."

"Nathaniel was an outstanding high school student and graduated from the program with the ability to enter the future workforce and college; he's going to the top in the manufacturing field," said Computerized Manufacturing and Machining Instructor Barry Porter.



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