

CU to host Summer ‘Bot Camp’

JOAN C. MCKINNEY
DIRECTOR OF CU COMMUNICATIONS

Campbellsville University announces an Inaugural 2019 Summer Honors Academic Robotics Event (aka “Bot Camp”), scheduled for June 2-7.

Campbellsville University is offering high achieving high school juniors (advancing to their senior year fall 2019) the opportunity to experience the world of robotics and consider placing the study of computer science and robotics, at Campbellsville University, on their radar.

The week-long exper-

iential learning event will include the creation of an autonomous vehicle (hardware and software), time-trial competition, boarding at Campbellsville University, meals, evening events and a tour of corporations that utilize robotics.

Students will learn to use micro-controllers, an assortment of electronic sensors and actuators and a basic set of hardware and software controls.

Through a series of team-based experiential learning activities (three students per team), attendees will create an autonomous vehicle capable of self-

guided as well as controlled navigation.

The culmination of this event is a time-trial competition demonstrating each team’s autonomous vehicle’s ability to successfully navigate an obstacle course.

At least three applicants per high school are encouraged. The represented winning high school will be given a trophy indicating “Top Honors in 2019 Bot Camp Competition.”

Each member of the winning team will be awarded a \$100 gift certificate. Parents will be invited to witness their son’s and/or

daughter’s participation in the final competition.

There is an attendance limit to the top 30 high achieving high school juniors (advancing to their senior year fall 2019).

You can apply by April 30 to Campbellsville.edu/botcamp. Deadline for application is April 30, and deadline for commitment to attend is May 6.

Contact Dr. Vincent Scovetta, at vascovetta@campbellsville.edu or Dr. Robert Street, professor of computer information systems, at rastreet@campbellsville.edu for more information.

KHEAA provides financial literacy info, resources

April is Financial Literacy Month, and Kentucky students can make use of financial literacy resources from the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

KHEAA’s “It’s Money, Baby” booklet helps students learn the basics of banking, credit cards, interest and protecting themselves from fraud. Free copies are available by emailing publications@kheaa.com. Please remember to include a mailing address.

The agency’s regional outreach counselors can also present “It’s Money, Baby” programs for schools and for other groups. KHEAA has 13 coun-

sors across the state. To find the counselor for your county, visit www.kheaa.com and click on the KHEAA Outreach Services link under the Counselors tab.

Games and links to sites that teach students about finances can be found under the Money Management tab on www.kheaa.com.

KHEAA is the state agency that administers KEES, need-based grants and other programs to help students pay their higher education expenses.

For information visit www.kheaa.com; write KHEAA, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602; or call 800-928-8926, ext. 6-7214.

GCHS is seeking SBDM parent nominations

Nominations for parent representatives to the Green County High School Site Based Decision-Making Council are now being accepted.

Nominations can be mailed to Principal, Ben Davenport, P. O. Box 278, Greensburg, KY 42743 or nomination letters may be dropped

off at the high school at 302 Brummal Avenue.

The deadline for nominations is at the close of the school day May 3. The election is sched-

uled for Friday, May 10, 2019 between 7:30–3:00 p.m. CT at the school.

For additional information call 270-932-6610.

ECTC opens new agriculture program

BY TREY CRUMBIE
NEWS-ENTERPRISE

Elizabethtown Community and Technical College has added a new program to its offerings this semester.

An agriculture program, which began this spring semester, includes three associate degrees in applied science in agriculture, with concentrations on agricultural technology, sustainable agriculture and agriculture education. Certificate versions of the degrees also are available. Depending on which degree or certificate a student pursues, they can take courses on crop production, soils and horticulture science.

“All of our classes are a good balance of hands-on and textbook,” said Ben Smith, agriculture program coordinator.

Classwork in the

program this semester includes construction of a greenhouse, which will be used for produce such as tomatoes, green beans and peppers that students in ECTC’s culinary program can use to cook dishes.

“We kind of got a farm-to-table model going on and we would really like to open that up to the community, too,” Smith said.

He said the agriculture program also will begin farming tilapia in the fall.

“All the fish that we can farm is less than we have to go out and catch from the open waters,” he said.

Smith said 13 students are in the agriculture program and 16 have applied to enroll next semester, with most of the students being female. Smith said the 13 students do not include dual-credit high-schoolers and

other college students outside the program taking agriculture classes.

“We do see some growth coming,” he said.

The degrees can lead to careers such as food processing and precision agriculture technology. Pay can vary depending on the career path, but the median annual pay for agricultural workers was \$23,730 in May 2018, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Smith said Hardin County’s location and a lack of agriculture programs in the area were reasons why it was created.

“We’re obviously in a fairly rural region,” he said.

About 76,000 farms were in Kentucky in 2017, according to the state Department of Agriculture. In 2012, more than 1,300 farms

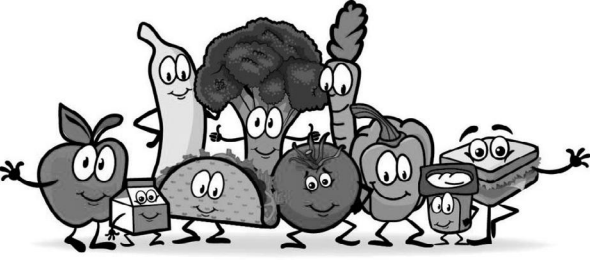
were in Hardin County, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ECTC student Chloe King plans to enroll in the radiology program at ECTC, but said she is planning to get a certificate in sustainable agriculture. King worked at the Thompson Family Farm in Rineyville when she attended Central Hardin High School and discovered one of her favorite aspects about farming is the animals.

King said she is taking agriculture courses to retain her knowledge about farming.

Smith thanked ECTC for investing in an agriculture program.

“It’s not a question of ‘Do we need agriculture?’” he said. “That’s like saying, ‘Do we need to eat?’ The question is: What are we going to grow and how are we going to grow it?”



GC School Lunch

Menu 4/25 to 5/1

The Green County school lunch menu for April 25-May 1 is:

Thursday, April 25: Chicken noodle soup/ grilled cheese or pizza, fresh broccoli cup/ranch, corn, mandarin oranges, banana and choice of low fat milk.

Friday, April 26: Chili cheese dog or chicken nuggets, bread, potato smiles, baby carrots, ranch dip, pineapple, apple, sidekicks, and choice of low fat milk.

Monday, April 29: Boneless chicken wings/bread or hamburger on bun, cheesy potatoes, peas, mandarin oranges, apple and choice of low fat milk.

Tuesday, April 30: Nacho, beef, cheese or pizza, lettuce, tomato, refried beans, applesauce, orange, Jello, choice of low fat milk.

Wednesday, May 1: Mini corn dogs or breaded chicken tenders, breadstick, potato wedges, garden spinach salad, pears, grapes and choice of low fat milk.

Vocational schooling can pave the way to high-paying jobs

SPECIAL TO THE R-H

Many students believe that the next natural step after graduating from high school is to go off to college. Secondary education has become such a common transition that many parents begin saving for college tuition as soon as their children are born. Although college can be the next chapter in a student’s education, many teenagers still choose to attend trade school.

Television personality Mike Rowe says the country is in the midst of a skilled labor shortage because workers lack the necessary training to fill the hundreds of thousands of available jobs. Lack of information may drive the notion that trade jobs are nothing more than a backup plan if college doesn’t pan out. However, by realizing that trade jobs, along with short-term vocational training, is a smart investment - and eventually a lucrative career choice - attitudes about trade schools and labor-intensive jobs may shift.

A number of college graduates enter the

workforce with degrees that may not help them land jobs. Many college grads are underemployed and working in jobs that aren’t even in their fields of study. Career and technical schools help students develop specialized skills that make graduates immediately marketable in their chosen fields, and trade salaries can be very competitive.

The following are some of the fastest-growing and highest-paying trade careers to consider, based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Forbes magazine.

- Construction manager: Construction professionals with great organizational and communication skills can enjoy high earning potential as construction managers. Expected growth of this career over the next 10 years is 5 percent. The average income of a construction manager is \$87,000. However, with a top-end hourly pay of around \$75 per hour, it’s easy for managers to earn into six figures.
- Elevator installer and repairer: This career is listed as a

top-earner. These employees can earn anywhere from \$74,000 to \$105,000 per year. Elevators are in demand as urban centers increase, so this career has staying potential.

- Rotary drill operator: The oil and gas industry relies on rotary drill operators to extract oil or natural gas from underground sources. Salaries for these jobs can range from \$30 to \$40 per hour.
- Dental hygienist: Cleaning teeth and inspecting mouths for disease is an important role. Job growth is still hovering around 20 percent, and hygienists can expect to earn up to \$98,000.
- Electricians and plumbers: Electricians and plumbers are continually in demand. With a short amount of trade school and apprenticeship, it’s possible to earn up to \$90,000 per year.

These are just a few of the many skilled professions that vocational schools prepare their students for. Scholarships and funding programs are available to help make vocational training an affordable possibility.

Fixed Annuity Could Help Extend Lifespan of Retirement Accounts

It’s almost impossible to save too much for retirement. After all, you could spend two, or even three, decades as a retiree. And retirement is not cheap – even if you maintain a relatively modest lifestyle, some of your expenses, especially those involving health care, may continue to rise over the years. Consequently, you will need several sources of reliable income – one of which might be a fixed annuity.

Fixed annuities are essentially contracts between investors and insurance companies. When you purchase a fixed annuity, the insurer will guarantee the principal and a minimum rate of interest. This means the money you invest in a fixed annuity is designed never to drop in value. (However, this guarantee is based on the claims-paying ability of the insurer that issues the annuity.)

You can structure a fixed annuity to pay you for a certain number of years or for your entire lifetime, which is the route many people choose. This is advantageous not only because of what it provides you – income for life – but because it also may allow you to take out less money each year from your other retirement accounts.

Here’s some background: Once you turn 70½, you are required to begin taking withdrawals from your traditional IRA and your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. (This requirement does not apply to Roth IRAs.) You must take out a minimum amount, based on your age and account balance, but you are free to exceed that amount each year. But the more you withdraw from these accounts, the faster they are likely to be depleted. So, when you reach retirement, it’s a good idea to establish an appropriate annual withdrawal rate, based on your retirement plan balances, Social Security, lifestyle, lon-



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gevity expectations and other factors. You may want to work with a financial professional to determine a withdrawal rate that’s suitable for your needs.

If you can count on the income from a fixed annuity, you might be able to take out less each year from your traditional IRA and 401(k), giving these accounts more tax-deferred growth opportunities. Plus, if you don’t withdraw all the money from these accounts during your lifetime, you can include the remainder in your estate plans.

A fixed annuity’s potential to help you extend the lifespan of your IRA and 401(k) can clearly be of value to you. Still, a fixed annuity does carry some issues about which you should be aware, such as surrender charges for early withdrawals, along with other fees. Also, if you take withdrawals before you reach 59½, you likely will face a 10% penalty. And annuities can have tax implications, so before you start taking withdrawals, you will want to consult your tax advisor.

Is a fixed annuity appropriate for you? There’s really no one correct answer because everyone’s situation is different. However, if you consistently max out your IRA and 401(k) contributions, and you still have money left to invest for retirement, you might want to think about an annuity. An income stream you can’t outlive – and that may help you protect your other retirement accounts – is worth considering.

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