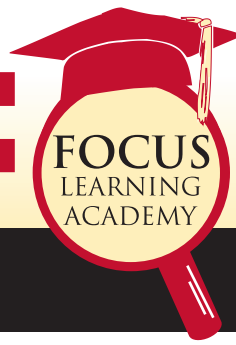


THE FOCUS



Newsletter...

Summer 2011

Focus Students Attend HOBY Leadership Conference



Focus North student Wayne Pruitt and Focus East student Mykayla Terry attended the Hugh O'Brien Youth Conference.

Wayne Pruitt, a junior at Focus Learning Academy North, and Mykayla Terry, a sophomore at Focus Learning Academy East, were chosen by the Focus administration to attend the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership (HOBY) Conference. The conference took place from May 19 through May 22 at Denison University in Granville, Ohio.

The mission of the HOBY Conference is to inspire and develop the community's youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service and innovation. HOBY programs are conducted annually throughout the United States, serving local and international high school students. The conference programs provide youth with unique leadership training, service-learning and motivation-building experiences.

Both students said they were in shock when they found out they were chosen by Focus staff to attend the conference.

"My first words were 'No Way! Are you serious?'" said Pruitt. "I was so excited I walked in the hallway praying and clicked my heels while jumping the air."

The students were able to meet people from all over and listen and learn from speakers educating participants about becoming strong leaders.

"My favorite part of the conference were the speakers Superman and Chris the Comedian," said Terry. "It was a really great learning experience."

Pruitt and Terry took a lot from this experience and consider it life changing. They said if they could share one thing they learned from this conference it would be that if you want to be a leader, lead by example and you shouldn't be afraid of failure because if you do fail, you will still be in the same place before you tried and then you will never have to worry if you made a mistake by not trying.

Focus North ESL Program Continues to Grow and Succeed

The Focus Learning Academy North ESL program has grown substantially this school year with students who are experiencing great success in school.

The ESL program at Focus North is a great opportunity for those students who are new to the American culture. The format makes it easier to adjust and modify the curriculum for the needs of a particular student.

Focus North is privileged to have students from Somalia, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Haiti, Iran, Liberia and Mexico.

Focus North is celebrating the graduation of the first ESL student, Najmo Mohamed who passed her last OGT segment this Spring. Congratulations Najmo!

The ESL department is looking forward with great anticipation to next year with plans for more participants and improvements in their overall effectiveness.



Focus Learning Academy North students enjoy friendly interaction around the community study table in the ESL lab with ESL Teacher Mr. Paddock and ESL Teaching Assistant Asha Jamal.

School Notes

The latest news

Focus Learning Academy East

Focus East OGT Score Night

On May 16, Focus East held its biannual OGT Score Night. This is the night when students who took the OGTs come to school with their families to receive their scores. The school celebrates the success of some students and encourages the students who may have missed the mark. Many students were shocked to find out that they have overcome a hurdle they have been trying to cross for years! For some students, this cleared the way for them to graduate in June.

Focus East College Visits

Four students from Focus East visited Chamberlain College of Nursing for a campus tour. Students received information about the Navigate to Nursing program that high school seniors can enroll in during their senior year. Three students also toured Lincoln College of Technology for High School Lab Day. Students interested in Business and Computer Networking Systems worked together as a team to put a computer together.



Focus East student Jalen Mims at Lincoln College of Technology for High School Lab Day.

Focus Learning Academy North

Focus North Right to Read Week

Focus North held Right to Read Week from May 9-13. Each day Mrs. Wallace, FLA Literacy Specialist, held Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) in the content labs. The students would pick a book, magazine or newspaper to read silently for 20 minutes. On Thursday, the students worked with Ms. Bader, FLA Art Instructor, to create art projects based on what they had been reading during SSR. The students could choose to do an illustration of a scene or character, an interpretation out of pictures or a drawing of the cover of the book. The students had a great time working with Ms. Bader on the art projects.

Donors Choose

Mrs. Wallace, FLA North Literacy Specialist, created a Donors Choose project (<http://www.donorschoose.org>) this winter for the Focus North Literacy Program requesting some basic supplies. Donor's Choose is a web site that puts donors in contact with educators who need supplies for their classroom. Some projects are based around certain thematic units in classrooms and some, like Mrs. Wallace's, are requests for a number of other supplies. She requested 15 Encyclopedia Britannica dictionaries, 10 subscriptions to Current Events magazine, teacher resources including 3-Minute Assessments and Quick Flip Questions for Comprehension, poster board, construction paper and notebooks. In just under 3 months, this nearly \$500 project was funded by donors who either knew Mrs. Wallace and/or our students personally or found our project through the Donors Choose web site. This has been a great experience and it is truly inspiring to see the support from the community. Please see the project website at <http://www.donorschoose.org/andrea.wallace> to read more about her project and to be updated on other projects that will be coming.

Focus Learning Academy Southwest

Focus Southwest Students Explore the Meaning of Controversy

On May 13, six social studies students from Focus Southwest, along with Mr. Owens and Mrs. Lorraine explored the meaning of controversy at the Controversy Exhibit at the Ohio Historical Society. Students had the opportunity to view and discuss a Ku Klux Klan robe, a cage that was used to hold mentally ill patients, a thumb cup to prevent children from sucking their thumb and a 150 year old condom. Perhaps the most controversial exhibit was an electric chair used in Lucasville Prison from 1897 to 1963. The objects were displayed without any text to encourage viewers to establish their own meaning and thoughts. Upon their return to school, students discussed the meaning of controversy and how our minds create meaning for objects. They discussed how points of view about racism, speech, mental illness, treatment of children and capital punishment change over time.

Focus Southwest Student's Videos premiered at Columbus Museum of Art

Focus Southwest Students Noah Palm and Channie Russell presented videos they created at the Art Lab Premier and Celebration on May 7 at the Columbus Museum of Art. Channie's video focused on how colors are used in the CMA galleries and Noah's focused on Alternative Culture in Art. Both videos will be used as a resource for the museum's permanent collection and/or special exhibitions.

Congratulations Noah and Channie!



Focus Southwest Student Channie Russell at the Art Lab Premier and Celebration on May 7.

and events from the Focus Learning Academies.

Focus Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program



Focus East students Kayla Crowder and Kenneysha Mallory at the FLA East School Readiness Fair.

CTE Sponsors Post-Secondary Readiness Fairs

During the month of April, the CTE Department sponsored post-secondary readiness fairs to help students learn more about how they can continue their education and training after graduating from Focus Learning Academy. Community colleges, technical and trade schools, four-year colleges and military branches were represented. There was also a "dress for success" component sponsored by the Huckleberry House. Young ladies were engaged in a presentation on proper attire for different settings and young men were taught how to properly tie neckties. The main purpose of the fairs was for Focus students to realize that ALL of them can go to college if they so desire. There are many colleges that are ready to meet the needs of our students and help them succeed!

CTE Honor Society

This academic year, the CTE Department began inducting students into the Focus Learning Academy Career and Technical Education Honor Society. In order to receive this prestigious honor, students have to take, and pass, at least four credit hours of elective coursework in the CTE curriculum, including CBI, if eligible, and keyboarding. These diligent students have excelled with the goal of improving their workplace and post-secondary readiness. The first awards ceremony was held in February where nine students were recognized. The second ceremony was held on May 24 and 39 students were honored!

Congratulations students, on your worthwhile achievement!

CTE Step Team

This year was the first year for the CTE step team and they were dynamic. These students put their best foot forward and showed off their skills with teamwork, determination and creativity. The CTE Steppers started the year off with a challenging and extraordinary performance in front of the whole school and ended in an explosive performance at the CTE Awards Banquet. These students hard work and dedication paid off and they were asked to perform at the REBEL All Night Teen Summit!! GREAT JOB TEAM!!



The CTE Steppers put on an explosive performance at the CTE Awards Ceremony on May 24.

CTE 2010-2011 Honor Society Inductees

Pratt Alexander	Ebony Lamar
Ayah Aware	Myeshia McBroom
Michelle Bankhead	Jasmine Mitchell
Anna Barber	Carmesha Mix
D'Andre Beasley	Ruben Morales
Andrew Blakely	Ashley Morris
Herman Blakey-Anderson	Tynesha Murphy
Sherman Blakey-Anderson	Desoray Patilla
Jazmin Bristol	Paris Peppers
Dante Brooks	Brittany Petrey
Bryant Brown	Jordan Price
Kyireskia Carey	Wayne Pruitt
Melanie Chambers	Nichelle Ritz
Christopher Coleman	Yaneth Ruiz
Kayla Crowder	Charlissa Shaw
Antwon Dent	Nancy Skelton
Brittney Donston	Denzel Smith
Sasha Easley	TiMia Terry
Tyniqua Forrest	Santina Thompson
Katasha Frizzell	Jasmine Tucker
Monik Gause	Charnessa Urbanczyk
Brittney Jones	Donald Walker
Marquilla Jones	Carson Willis
Javonna Jordan	Katrina Wooden
Taquisha Ladd	



Focus Southwest Student Herman Blakey-Anderson and Lead Vocational Instructor Herb Gams at the May 24 CTE Ceremony.

Teacher Spotlight

Genna Mutz, Focus Southwest

What is your position/title?
Language Arts Instructor

How long have you been with FLA?
First Year

What is your favorite thing about FLA?
Getting to know the students and helping them earn their diploma.

What do you want students to accomplish while they attend FLA?
I want them to be confident individuals and regardless of what they have gone through in the past, they can succeed.

What advice or insight do you want to pass on to students?
Don't doubt yourself.

Favorites:

Color: Orange

Food: Mexican

Animal: Dog

Sport: Basketball

Hobby/Interest: Running/Hiking

Season: Summer

Music: Country

Vacation Destination: Jamaica

School Subject: Language Arts

Memory of your childhood: Crashing my bike into my sister's bike and as a result, she broke her arm. It is not the best memory but something we still laugh about to this day.

Student Spotlight

Robert Westmoreland, Focus Southwest

I chose to attend FLA because...
I heard it was a good school and I wanted to come back and finish school so I can make something of myself.

My favorite thing about FLA is...
that we can do our own work on the computer and still get help if we need it.

The teachers at FLA are...
very nice and helpful and they care about the students.

I want to be...
a businessman when I get older.

I am thankful for...
being able to come back to school.



Focus Learning Academy East International Club

The International Club at Focus Learning Academy East is opening the eyes of students. Mrs. Waldon, Mrs. Amrine, Mr. McCain and Ms. Coca have started the club with 10-15 students attending weekly. The club strives to promote student awareness and appreciation for the diverse cultures and heritages in our school and community. The club offers exposure to the world and it's cultures. The intent is to be educational and interesting for its members. The club helps to look beyond the doors of our own school and hearts to touch the lives of others and be open to diversity coming into our lives.

The Club has already "traveled" to Brazil, Germany, Italy and Australia. The students have enjoyed learning about the cultures, landmarks, monetary systems and even tasting foods from those countries. Ms. Coca has also been helping the students learn common phrases in the countries language. The students have not enjoyed all of the foods that they have tried though. When the club was asked what foods they did not enjoy, they all yelled collectively, "Vegemite!" which is an Australian spread. Students did enjoy the fruit and nuts native to Brazil and coconut cookies or anzac cookies from Australian.

Students also decided help out after the devastated earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Students helped sell Krispy Kreme donuts to staff and students at all of the Focus locations. A check was donated to the Red Cross for \$100 on behalf of the International Club.



The Focus East International Club with a check donated to the Red Cross to help out with relief efforts in Japan.

**Thank you for a GREAT school year everyone!
Congratulations Graduates! Have a safe and fun summer!**

Important Dates

June 3 Graduation

June 10 Last Day for Students

June 17 Grade Cards

