



Miami Valley Career Technology Center Press Release

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MVCTC Students Demonstrate How Nature is Connected to Technology

Clayton, Ohio – Miami Valley Career Technology Center (MVCTC) Environmental & Natural Resources Tech Prep students are working with naturalist from the Five Rivers MetroParks to show the connection of technology with the outside world. MVCTC students will be featured in a presentation given by the Five Rivers MetroParks titled “John Muir Meets the Internet – Technological Connections to Nature”. The presentation will highlight MVCTC students using motion sensitive trail cameras in lab to collect data, study wildlife management, and analyze animal behaviors. MVCTC instructor Mike Buchanan says of the project, “(it) connects student’s natural infinity for being outside with the technology. The cameras get students excited about the learning process and cause them to ask questions they may not otherwise ask.”

The presentation given by Five Rivers MetroParks, is in response to the concerns some naturalist have that today’s students are “driven by technology” and are not always as interested in going outside to play. The lab projects conducted by the MVCTC students show how young people can combine the interest in the latest technology with being outside. The MVCTC students have started using the Cuddleback™ cameras to observe and study animal behaviors. The students help to select where on the MVCTC Land Lab to place the cameras, they then check the cameras often and discuss their findings. This discussion may include identifying species of animals observed on the camera, charting seasonal activity periods, or even a study of coyote activity.

Starting with the 2009-2010 school year, a student in the Environmental and Natural Resources Tech Prep Program will be a part of the new MVCTC Center Of Science in Agriculture (COSA). COSA will allow students to experience all potential career areas of agriculture in the junior year curriculum (Animal Science, Business Operations, Plan Science, Engineering, Environmental

Science, and Food Science). Then the senior year gives students an opportunity to specialize in a senior year COSA program (Veterinary Science, Animal Science Management, Ag Resources Management, Plant Science, Power Technologies, Environmental Engineering, and Food Science). COSA opens many doors to college opportunities and prepares students for a professional career. For more information about COSA or any of the exciting 50 career programs offered at MVCTC, please visit www.mvctc.com.

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