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***MVCTC Dental Assistant Students Design Special Needs Toothbrush***

**Clayton, Ohio** – Students in the Miami Valley Career Technology Center (MVCTC) Dental Assistant program coordinated with MVCTC academic and career technical instructors to plan and design a special toothbrush grip handle for special needs patients. The design is called Dentagrip and will be presented at the Sinclair Tech Prep Showcase competition on April 19, at Sinclair Community College and again for the SkillsUSA State Competition April 27-28, in Columbus.

The Tech Prep Showcase according to their website, [www.mvtechprep.org](http://www.mvtechprep.org), is an annual competition, “to develop contextual learning projects based on the skills and knowledge (students) have gained in their Tech Prep classes. Teams are judged according to a rubric using the following criteria: Project research and development, Authentic work based learning, Academic/technical skills, Professional relationships, and Presentation skills.”

Students on the Dental Assistant Tech Prep team are Melanie Wilson (Arcanum), Samantha Blevins (Miami East), Brittany Phillips (Brookville), and Mycaela Slade (Arcanum). Their dental assisting instructor is Mrs. Cheryl Johnson, CODA. The students produced the product themselves, presented it to industry, and tested it with patients in local facilities. The Dentagrip proved to be very helpful to the patients in improving their dental hygiene as well as their personal independence. The students gained valuable experience and developed organizational, citizenship, leadership, communication, and work ethics skills.

For more information about the MVCTC Dental Assistant program, visit [www.mvctc.com/de](http://www.mvctc.com/de).

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