From Mastodons to World Music

Scholars explored a variety of different career fields, from paleontology to occupational therapy. The semester started with a workshop dedicated to Study Skills. Scholars learned about the psychology behind effective studying techniques, while also putting the skills into practice with various exercises.

This was then followed by a 123D Design Workshop. Here, scholars were able to learn more about the process of 3D printing. At the end of the workshop, they were able to design their own object. These designs were sent to CCCTC to actually be created by a 3D printer.

Other scholars journeyed down to East Liverpool to learn more about the field of Occupational Therapy. Scholars were challenged to complete activities that OT patients might face, such as throwing balls of different weights or physical activities for older patients with less mobility.

Next, scholars looked back into history to explore the great mastodons that roamed the Earth. Soil was brought in from a local excavation, and students were encouraged to search for hair, bone fragments, and plant matter from the time of the mastodon.

Finally, scholars were able to explore different cultures of the globe through an exploration of world music. They examined instruments from around the globe, discussing the different materials used worldwide. This workshop was wrapped up by a collaborative singing of a Nigerian Christmas carol, which can be viewed on the Rural Scholars Facebook page.

Spring 2017 dates:
- March 2: Info Night for College Bootcamp (11th grade)
- May 16: Heritage Thermal Workshop

Summer 2017 dates:
- June 11-16: College Bootcamp (11th grade)
- June 19-23: Makers and Mechanisms (9th grade)
- June 26-30: Locationology (10th grade)
- July 10-14: Risky Business (8th grade)
- July 17-24: Soil and Water (7th grade)

Pictured:
Left: Destiny and Trinity bat around a balloon while learning Occupational Therapy techniques.
Bottom Center: Kirstin tries her strength at bending pipes as part of the Electrician’s Workshop.
Anatomy of a Brain

The Rural Scholars Program at Kent State University of Salem prides itself on its ability to introduce students to a variety of career fields. Our scholars come to us with varying interests, from graphic design to criminal justice to mathematics. However, one field that has always been popular is health science. Our most recent workshop helped to address these interests. Anatomy of a Brain allowed scholars to dig in to the fields of biology and medicine.

Dr. Dan Dankovich from the Biology department hosted this workshop. He led the scholars through some important background information. Scholars learned about basic terminology, such as what different parts of the brain are called, while also learning about the functionality of the brain. They learned why our brain has so many folds, and what the different lobes control. After they learned these key concepts, they were able to begin the dissection. Scholars discovered the layers of fat designed to protect the brain, and then proceeded to explore the different lobes. Although some were a little squeamish about the process, many were more than willing to jump right in on this opportunity. After exploring the various parts of the brain, this workshop was wrapped up with a discussion on the importance of dissections for future doctors.

Fast Facts:

- 61% of all scholars identified their long-term goal as high school graduation or higher education.
- 100% of scholars attending a fall workshop said the workshop helped them better understand a career field.
- The average post-test score was a 91%, with scholars typically gaining 20% from their pre-test scores.

Pictured:

Upper left: Dr. Dan Dankovich shows scholars various parts of the brain during his Anatomy of a Brain Workshop.
Center: Camryn cuts into a sheep brain as part of the dissection process.
Bottom Top: Mentor Jon McCann with his new son, Emmett.
Bottom: Scholars from United gathered for a holiday party with their mentors in December.

Highlights

We are so proud of our scholars and mentors. Here are some exciting things happening in their lives today!

- Scholars Jon and Calie both had excellent semesters participating in College Credit Plus. Jon attended Youngstown State, while Calie attended Kent State Salem.
- Scholar Chris Pritt was invited to participate in the Buckeye Boys State program this summer as well as being admitted to EL high school’s NHS chapter.
- Mentor Jon McCann officially became a dad on December 27, 2016. We are so excited for his family as they welcome in baby Emmett!
- Scholar Kyra recently achieved one of her short term goals by successfully landing a gymnastics trick.

Questions?

Don’t hesitate to contact us! We are here to help you.

You can contact Program Coordinator, Wendy Pfrenger by phone (330-337-4246), or by email (wpfrenger@kent.edu).

You can also follow The Rural Scholars Program on social media!