



HILLYARD TECH TALK

To prepare Hillyard Technical Center students for workforce success and continuous learning

St. Joseph FFA attends 88th National Convention



The St. Joseph FFA had an amazing time at the FFA 88th National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Students learned how to amplify their lives. St. Joseph FFA took nine students and two advisors this year, and were proud to be part of a record-breaking year. The FFA teaches the basic fundamentals for constructing a successful life after becoming an adult. We applaud our young people working to better their own lives.

Congrats to **Raven Payne** for advancing to Districts with her sheep speech! Raven is a Freshman from Central High School, and one of our Ag Science I students in Ms. Keefer's class. Raven gave a sheep producers speech at Area 1 FFA Contest in Savannah, Missouri, and later competed at the NW District FFA Fall Speaking in Cameron, Missouri. We are proud of you Raven!

AJ Windmeyer's harmonica skills brought down the house during the talent competition in the second session of the convention! This brave young man NAILED it in front of 50,000 plus of his peers — OUTSTANDING! AJ is a Junior from Plattsburg High School, and one of our CAD students in Mr. Mapel's class. You can check out his performance on our website at www.hillyardtech.com.



Students work on an auto body project at Hillyard Technical Center.

LOCAL WORK READY STATUS NEAR COMPLETION

(Courtesy of St. Joseph News-Press)

Hillyard is partnering in a new program for St. Joseph and Buchanan County that aims to attract, retain, and develop a skilled local work force. This workforce development strategy was two years in the making and is set to bear fruit for the St. Joseph and Buchanan County economy in 2016. The Missouri Certified Work Ready Program has already taken shape in several regional communities, with an assertion by supporters that it will flourish locally and in other counties next year. The voluntary initiative relies on the National Career Readiness Certificate as a means of attracting, retaining and developing a skilled workforce — against the backdrop of a current, transitioning and emergency workforce.

The program also links workforce development to education, with Hillyard Technical Center as one of the partners —along with the Heartland Foundation, St. Joseph School District, St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce, Missouri Career Center, and others. Two years ago, Gov. Jay Nixon approved Missouri's membership as one of eight states to pursue a Work Ready designation. "As a result, we looked toward Northwest Missouri," said Steve Johnston, director of the Community Alliance of St. Joseph and a "champion" for Work Ready in Buchanan County. "The process is one in which area businesses register, if you will, for the Missouri Career Ready Certification process," he said. "This process allows businesses to hire the right person for the right job." Buchanan County's goal is to sign up a minimum 128 businesses of all sizes as members. A business must have at least five employees to become a signatory through an employer partnership letter. A total of 319 students are needed to undergo a WorkKeys assessment.

Testing continues this month, with Hillyard itself logging 89 students completing the exams, according to Dr. Dennis Merritt, the center's director. Johnston said having a stable, skilled, productive and motivated workforce has vaulted to the top in resources sought by communities. "From a business perspective, it's about a return on investment," he said. "It's important for employers to understand the process" who—when they understand the advantages—get on board, he added.

The nationwide certification can assist students with instituting seamless job searches in other states that have adopted the standards. Employers in the program recognize skills in reading for information, applied information and locating information—traits that have been found to be required by 77 percent of jobs based on ACT's database. A list of supporting employers can be found at www.workreadycommunities.org.

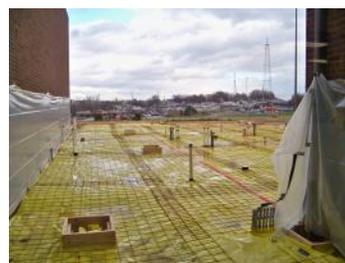
HILLYARD
TECHNICAL CENTER



Nov / Dec
2015

ADVANCED SCIENCE CENTER

Construction is well underway on our new Advanced Science Center at Hillyard Technical Center.
Check out the progress!



The Faculty and Staff at
Hillyard Technical Center
would like to wish each of
you a very
Merry Christmas
and a safe and
Happy New Year!



Hillyard Technical Center is looking for an HVACR instructor to join our evening team!

This course includes basic electricity with applications of wiring, wiring diagrams, use of electric meters, and testing controls. The following are integrated into all shop activities: basic mechanical cycle is taught parallel with tubing operations, brazing, soldering and trouble-shooting systems.

If you are interested, please call our Human Resources Department at (816) 671-4000.

**"The price of greatness is
responsibility."**

- Sir Winston Churchill

DECEMBER:

Dec 18 End of 2nd Quarter Grades
Dec 21-Jan 01 Christmas Break



JANUARY:

Jan 4 Professional Development (NO SCHOOL)
Jan 5 Scholarship Information distributed to Programs
Jan 18 Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday (NO SCHOOL)
Jan 22 Progress Reports

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