



Miami Valley Career Technology Center Press Release

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Youth Connections Helps Disconnected Miami Valley Youth Find Success in School!

Dayton, Ohio -- Youth Connections means a second chance at a bright future for many young people of the Miami Valley. “We offer a traditional high school curriculum, in a non-traditional way, which leads to success,” says Mr. Jay Byrne, Youth Connections Principal. This year Youth Connections has many reasons to celebrate. High school student that had been on the verge of dropping out of school are now getting their high school diploma and earning college scholarships to Sinclair Community College. Through a partnership with the Fast Forward Center, Youth Connections graduates have earned \$480,000 in Sinclair scholarships, the most in Youth Connections history.

Youth Connections, an alternative high school located in Dayton, OH, was created as a joint venture among local politicians to address the high dropout rates in Montgomery County, OH. To achieve this, the Montgomery County Commissioners created a task force to develop recommendations on what actions the community should take to serve at-risk youth. The task force decided to develop Youth Connections with the Miami Valley Career Technology Center (MVCTC) in 2000 as a small, personal, alternative high school with the flexibility to meet the needs of the students and provide them with career opportunities that lead to long-term employment.

Youth Connections serves thirty-two school districts in the Miami Valley area, and targets students that are:

- disconnected from school due to non-attendance or an inability to succeed in a regular school setting
- lacking in credits for his or her age group
- deficient in the areas emphasized in the Ohio Graduation Test
- under expulsion for non-violent reasons

All students enrolled in Youth Connections are a part of the Career Based Intervention (CBI) program, which is the largest one site for a CBI program in the state of Ohio. While attending Youth Connections students are still considered a part of their home school, and are able to participate in extra-curricular activities and graduate with their home high school.

Originally, Youth Connections was designed for students age 15-19, however in 2007 the need for an 8th grade program was realized. MVCTC and Youth Connections met this demand by adding a new program similar to the original concept but with the goal of helping eighth grade students, who had fallen behind in school, get back on track and find success in school where previously they had only found failure.

Youth Connections will be celebrating this year's graduates with an end of year ceremony on Friday, May 15, 2009, at the Dayton Job Center. Student awards will be handed out and the Sinclair Fast Forward Program Scholarship recipients will be announced. Youth Connections Principal, Mr. Jay Byrne, and the rest of the Youth Connections staff will be in attendance as will MVCTC Superintendent, Dr. John Boggess, and the family and friends of the Youth Connections students.

MVCTC YOUTH CONNECTIONS HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

- 585 students have completed high school graduation requirements through Youth Connections since the programs beginning in 2000. We will go over 600 after this school year.
- During the 2008-2009 school year, Youth Connections students have earned college scholarships to Sinclair Community College through the Fast Forward Center totaling \$480,000.00.
- Youth Connections has been featured in the following periodicals:
 - June 2004 American School Board Journal
 - 2nd Edition 2004 The Buckeye Report
 - December 2004 Principal Leadership Magazine.
- Youth Connections has won two National awards.

- The National Dissemination Center for Career and Technical Education at The Ohio State University has awarded Youth Connections the “Promising Program” designation.
- Leadership for Learning Awards for 2002. This national award is sponsored by the American Association of School Administrators and is designed to honor programs in education that increase student achievement and fuel learning.
- Youth Connections was one of 100 schools across the nation, out of 12,000 entries, to receive \$10,000.00 worth of Samsung equipment.
- Miami Valley CTC Youth Connections created a Career Based Intervention store. This store presents the students with a great opportunity to work and understand all the aspects of a small business. The store provides the students the opportunity to purchase a breakfast and/or lunch to eat.
- The students completed approximately 700,000 hours in the Career Based Intervention program since opening in August of 2000 and earned approximately \$1,800,000 in the paid component.
- Approximately 115 students have completed the Certified Nurse’s Assistant Program since August of 2000. Miami Valley Career Technology Center’s Adult Education provides the program.

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