



Miami Valley Career Technology Center Press Release

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For Immediate Release – *May 2009*

MVCTC Student Works with Alternative Fuel

Clayton, Ohio – Miami Valley Career Technology Center (MVCTC) student Kurtis Forman (New Lebanon) has taken his required senior project seriously, learning the process to create biodiesel fuel. Kurtis, a senior in the Environmental and Natural Resources Technology Tech Prep program, completed his MVCTC senior research project on “The Pros and Cons of Biodiesel”. Biodiesel is an alternative form of energy created by using material such as used cooking oil and converting it to an alternative form of fuel. Kurtis has learned the process to create biodiesel and has even worked with Northmont Food Services, the cafeteria service at MVCTC, to convert used cooking oil from the cafeteria to biodiesel. The batch of biodiesel created by Kurtis has been used to operate a diesel truck and tractor on the MVCTC campus.

MVCTC, in partnership with the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency (RAPCA), was the recipient of an Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) grant to produce biodiesel from used cooking oil. The OEEF grants are sponsored by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The grant proposed the purchase of equipment to produce biodiesel from used cooking oil and use the biodiesel in MVCTC diesel vehicles. Also included in the grant, was the production of an instructional video to show the process of converting used vegetable oil to biodiesel. Students will also monitor changes in emissions of vehicles used in the grant. The grant has allowed MVCTC students the chance to work first-hand with the alternative form of energy by producing the biodiesel and using it in the diesel equipment on campus.

When asked about what he has learned from his project, Kurtis replied, “It is surprising the things biodiesel fuel can be made from”.

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, Plant 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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Photo: Kurtis Forman (New Lebanon), a senior in the MVCTC Environmental and Natural Resources Tech Prep program, demonstrates how they are producing biodiesel fuel on the MVCTC campus.