Two NTC students recently earned a trip to a world robotics competition. Nathan Beck, a Pre-Engineering student in NTC’s program on the Claremore High School Campus, and Gavin Wallace, a first-year graphic design student in the Business Administration, Multimedia & Graphics program at the Pryor Campus, are two of three Claremore High School students who make up the Claremore Robotics team.

Beck and Wallace, both juniors, have been a part of the Claremore Robotics team for three and four years respectively, and have competed in the Technology Students Association’s Advanced Robotics Competition every year.

In February, they competed in a state robotics competition against the top 32 teams in Oklahoma, where they made it as far as the quarterfinals. And while they didn't win, they are still known for their impressive robot. In fact, the Claremore Robotics Team boasts the highest-scoring driver and programming skills in Oklahoma. Thanks to that record, Wallace and Beck recently had an opportunity to take their robot to the VEX World Competition in Louisville, Kentucky, to compete against the top 500 teams from 33 countries, including five from Oklahoma.

The team has a goal of finding what sets them apart. They constantly strive for improvement in hopes of obtaining the most intricate design, the most impressive robot and the most accurate results. Much of that is determined through trial and error, learning from mistakes and redesigning as needed.

The problem presented for competition required the team to build a robot designed to compete in a game shooting 4-inch balls on a 12’ x 12’ field. The Claremore team built their 18” x 18” x 18” robot with the ability to shoot the balls through a double fly-wheel propulsion system. When they started it could shoot a ball every two seconds, but they have improved that time to one ball every half-second.

The students were judged on three components, the results of the robot competition, their notebook documenting the building of the robot and an interview.

They take a great amount of pride in their notebook, where they document changes to the robot's physical form, show the work on all math equations and display CAD design changes and 3D models.

Outside of his robotics team competition, Wallace also competed in the BPA state competition and will be competing at the national level for two events.

Beck also recently competed in the Oklahoma SkillsUSA competition where he placed third in Related Technical Math.

Greetings All,

At this time of year we enjoy the bittersweet experience of saying goodbye to co-workers that are retiring and starting a new chapter of their lives. At our April 11th Board meeting, the following employees were recognized for their service:

• Jeanie Fox, Human Resource Coordinator
• Earlene White, Student Advisor, Pryor Campus
• Jerry Hollenback, Maintenance Supervisor, Kansas Campus
• Delano Coppage, Maintenance, Kansas Campus
• Bryan Merit, Custodian, Afton Campus

Please, wish these folks luck and happiness in their retirement.

As we close out this school year, we are planning and strategizing for next year. Everyone is aware that our state funding has been reduced, resulting in a very conservative approach to spending. We will try to “carry over” as many dollars as possible. No concrete numbers have been offered regarding funding levels from the state for next year. We know they will be lower; how much lower would only be a guess.

“At my age, I don’t buy but a half a loaf of bread, you know?” — Merle Haggard

Keep up the good work!

Fred Probis
Superintendent
Northeast Technology Center
With the help of NTC’s Business & Industry Services staff, Oklahoma State University Fire Service Training recently offered rope rescue training to several firefighters from this area of the state.

The class was a partnership between Northeast Technology Center, OSU Fire Service Training, Pryor Fire Department and GRDA Police.

In all, 25 firefighters attended the class, which consisted of four hours of classroom instruction followed by 12 hours of hands-on training. The participating firefighters represented the Pryor Fire Department, Chouteau Fire Department, Osage Fire Department, GRDA Police, Tri-District Fire Department and Illinois River Fire Department.

Rope rescue training is just one of several training programs NTC can provide to area fire departments, other public service entities and even industrial clients.

For more information on rope rescue training, or the other training options NTC BIS provides, visit www.netech.edu or contact Safety Coordinator Daniel Shaw.

Afton - Construction Trades and Electrical students at Afton recently completed construction of a house, under their instructors’ supervision, from framing to wiring to finish out. The 1,560 sq. ft. house has three bedrooms and two full baths. The energy efficient home also has attractive details like oak trim and a vaulted ceiling finished with clear coated knotty pine planks in the main living area. The cabinets are also made of oak with birch interiors. The kitchen has an island bar that seats four, and the master bedroom includes a walk-in closet with a custom clothes hamper. The house is plumbed, wired and includes a 3.5-ton central heat and air unit. It also features recessed can lights in the main living and kitchen area, ceiling fans in the living room and bedrooms and outdoor lighting. The house will go up for auction on Saturday, May 21.

Kansas - The Welding program at Kansas recently hosted a local competition allowing for great practice, certification opportunities and friendly competition. Two high school and two adult students from each of our Kansas and Afton Campuses and Indian Capital Technology Center’s Sallisaw and Tahlequah Campuses, four of the same tech centers that would be competing against one another at the district level for sanctioned contests, were invited to compete in both TIG and stick welding categories. Five trained welders, including our very own resident welding superintendent, Fred Probis, served as judges for the event. Vendors including Fastenal, Metabo, Mathey Dearman and Lincoln Electric provided great prizes to competitors. Interested students were also given the opportunity to submit their welds for state certification.

Pryor - Culinary Arts students from NTC Pryor recently shared their time and talents with the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. Under the direction of Instructor Scott VanTuyl, the students spend at least one day each semester volunteering at the Food Bank in Tulsa. This time around, they even used a percentage of a fundraiser they held to donate meals to the Food Bank. The Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma distributes food and other grocery items to 450 partner programs in eastern Oklahoma, including food pantries, emergency shelters, soup kitchens, senior citizen centers and after-school programs. In 2015, the Food Bank distributed more than 21.6 million pounds of food throughout the 24 counties of eastern Oklahoma. Good job students! We are proud of both your generosity and your commitment to fight hunger!