The Pioneer Academic Center for Community Engagement will host its semi-annual Engagement Poster Day on Wednesday, Dec. 5 in Velzy Commons in Ullsvik Hall. Stop by and see these accomplishments of UW-Platteville students.

Students gain first-hand experience and get a head start on their career by engaging with a community and faculty partner in completing a PACCE project. Ranging from ag to art, from education to engineering, each and every project benefits a community partner in some way.

More than 75 posters will be displayed showcasing this semester’s PACCE projects. Here are a few projects you can learn more about at Engagement Poster Day on Dec. 5.

**EXPANDING THE ALL SKY CAMERA NETWORK FOR METEOR DETECTION**

Faculty Partner: Paul D. Strycker; Chemistry and Engineering Physics

Community Partner: New Mexico State University

The All Sky Camera Network is a collection of upward-looking cameras that record the flashes of light due to meteors entering earth’s atmosphere. The cameras operate continuously and, when triggered by a change in brightness, send the video file of the event to a central database at New Mexico State University (NMSU). The goal of the network is to monitor as much of the sky as possible so that (1) meteor events can be confirmed with multiple cameras and (2) a meteor’s brightness and trajectory may be observed as a function of time.

**CAPRI COLLEGE COSTUME DESIGN PROJECT**

Faculty Partner: Peter Flanary; Performing and Visual Arts

Community Partner: Capri College

Students created two full-size figurative sculptures to serve as “bodies” in collaboration with Capri College’s costume design class. Students provided appropriately sculpted figures to Capri College, where costume design students applied “wounds” to complete the “victim bodies”. These were delivered to UW-Platteville’s forensic house for use in the 2012 Horrific Crime Scene event.

**INVESTIGATION OF SELECTED PHYSICAL AND MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF BLENDING LIGNIN WITH POLYETHYLENE THROUGH EXTRUSION**

Faculty Partner: Majid Tabrizi, Industrial Technology

Community Partner: American Science and Technology

Using lignin as an additive to polyethylene, the resulting material may be able to change both the physical and mechanical properties of the polymer. By conducting several tests and experiments, the students will look to see how differing blend percentages of lignin in polyethylene affect the properties of polyethylene. Through this research the goal is to create a more recyclable version of polyethylene.

For more information about engagement and entrepreneurial events at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, contact Kevin Bernhardt, Director, at 608.342.6121, or Kathy Neumeister, Senior Marketing Specialist, at 608.342.6020, or visit the website at www.uwplatt.edu/pacce.
On Nov. 14, the UW-Platteville entrepreneurship program held its third Annual Elevator Pitch Competition. The goal of this competition was to have students deliver their product idea to a panel of judges and sell them on their product in a maximum of two minutes. The winners received cash prizes and the first place prize went to Jordan Riemer. Other top winners were Tom Aronson, Amadou Hanne, and Brian Blanchette. Congratulations to all who competed.

**ELEVATOR PITCH COMPETITION**

Jordan Riemer, first place winner

UW-Platteville students had a unique opportunity to meet and dine with a group of inspiring entrepreneurs at “Meet ’n Eat with an Entrepreneur” on Monday, Oct. 22 at the Nohr Art Gallery.

Moderator Melissa Pahl, Executive Director of the Platteville Area Industrial Development Corporation and owner of her own marketing firm, was joined by Dr. Kevin Bernhardt, Director of PACCE. They were joined by business leaders and entrepreneurs Teri Fairchild, owner of Fairchild Business Coaching; Brock Waterman, (UW-Platteville, 2010), Owner of Fundunity LLC and GeNext Software; Bob Brancel (UW-Platteville, 1984), Owner of Brancel Charters and Capitol Express Transportation; Wayne Willkomm (UW-Platteville, 1966), who had a career in aerospace/defense industry in addition to multiple entrepreneurial endeavors; Michael Fenchel, Founder and Director of Create US and co-CEO/co-CTO of hoos.in, a budding social platform; Dr. John Busby (UW-Platteville, 1975), President of Affiliated Dentists, S.C.; and Adam Weigmann, (UW-Platteville, 2009), Founder/Owner of 4x Innovations and Night Glow Productions.

Designed to help students take the next step by offering inspiration, “Meet ’n Eat” was the first of a series of entrepreneurship events being offered this academic year. The Elevator Pitch Competition was held in November. Business Planning Workshops and a Business Plan Competition will be held in the spring. To register or to learn more, go to www.uwplatt.edu/entrepreneurship.

**MEET ’N EAT WITH AN ENTREPRENEUR**

The Pioneer Launch Lab, located on the fifth floor of Pioneer Tower, is an entrepreneurial setting providing a “low risk—high touch” nurturing environment for students, recent alumni, and faculty/staff for development of business ideas, launch, and/or operation.

The lab is intended for those who have a creative concept or for those who are already operating a business, but want to expand and take it to the next level. It is a network of people who dedicate their time, expertise, and experience to provide resources, consultation, connections, assistance, and mentoring to members.

Student members of the Pioneer Launch Lab are Jordan Riemer, Tom Aronson, Micah Binns, Zachary Voelker, Ryan Paul, Josh Inglett, Rachel Gogin, Rob Hupperich, Kyle Shisler, and UW-Platteville alumnus Joseph Schoettler. This semester’s Advisory Panel includes Chris Geyer, Owner of NETUX Solutions; Thomas Geyer, Partner/Attorney at Kopp, McKichan, Geyer, Skemp; Michelle Thomson-Henry, C.P.A. at Honkamp Krueger; Melissa Pahl, Executive Director of PAIDC; Deb McWilliams, Vice President of Clare Bank; Ed White, Executive Director of Platteville Business Incubator; and Bart Neis, Vice President of Delta 3 Engineering. In addition to the Advisory Panel, each student is paired with a business coach who offers guidance to the student as he/she pursues their idea. Students are being coached this semester by Lou Schweigert, Richard Moninski, Melissa Pahl, Carole Spelić, Tom Gantz, Kip Schreck, Jen Schweigert, Adam Wiegmann, and Brent Johnson.

For more information or to apply for membership in the Pioneer Launch Lab, visit www.uwplatt.edu/entrepreneurship.

**COLLEGIATE ENTREPRENEURS’ ORGANIZATION AT UW-PLATTEVILLE**

The CEO Club is a group of UW-Platteville students who have organized to practice and promote entrepreneurship. They are creative innovators who are interested in business ownership and are driven by their passion to be entrepreneurial in everything they do.

Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:15 p.m. in the Pioneer Launch Lab on the fifth floor of Pioneer Tower. Recent speakers have included Wayne Willkomm, 1966 UW-Platteville grad and serial entrepreneur; Tom Sigwarth, owner of Dairy Queen and Country Kitchen; Joseph Pometto of Modern Woodmen of America; Brock Waterman of Fundunity LLC; and Kathy Kopp, Executive Director of the Platteville Area Chamber of Commerce.

If you’re interested in knowing more, join us at an upcoming meeting.