ENGAGEMENT POSTER DAY

The Pioneer Academic Center for Community Engagement hosted Engagement Poster Day on Wednesday, April 27 at the Markee Pioneer Student Center.

More than 70 posters visually showcased this semester’s PACCE projects. The posters represented the work of 594 students. Students explained their displays and their projects to fellow students, community members, faculty and staff. Added attractions at this semester’s Poster Day were a presentation of the Kang Family Scholarships and the first-ever PACCE Community Partner Award.

Laurie Geyer and Ann Terrill have been involved in 13 PACCE projects since the program’s launch in 2008. Geyer, an occupational therapist, and Terrill, a physical therapist, are employees of the Platteville and Cuba City school districts. Lisa Riedle, a UW-Platteville engineering professor, made the following remarks in presenting their award. “This duo has dedicated their careers to helping children – but little did they know that their enthusiasm would spill over to young adults in a mechanical engineering class. The course is entitled Mechanical Engineering – Mechanical Systems Design. Here Dr. Daryl Logan combines his expertise in design, with the needs of children identified by Terrill and Geyer. Together they engage mechanical engineering students to brainstorm, design, many times redesign, construct and troubleshoot equipment to benefit others. The mechanical engineering projects result in new or specialized apparatus to be used by Terrill and Geyer’s students. The equipment created may make OT and PT more fun, work a muscle, stretch a tendon or encourage other children to approach a wheelchair because that is where the new rocket launcher is attached. Their dedication to PACCE projects, along with all their many talents, has touched the lives of many students – I am referring to little students in the elementary schools and bigger students at UW-Platteville. When you combine their knowledge, insight and passion with the talents and skills of faculty and students at UW-Platteville many good things emerge," Riedle said.

Projects range in focus from agriculture to education to engineering. All projects benefit a community partner in some way, and in turn afford real-life experience to the students involved. PACCE provides a link between UW-Platteville students and the surrounding communities. Students were able to help their community as well as gain firsthand experience for their future careers. For more information about this semester’s projects, visit the PACCE website at www.uwplatt.edu/pacce and click on “Past PACCE Projects.”

For more information about engagement and entrepreneurship events at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, contact Kevin Bernhardt, director, at 608.342.6121 or Kathy Neumeister, communication and events coordinator, at 608.342.6020 or visit the website at www.uwplatt.edu/entrepreneurship.

University of Wisconsin-Platteville students, Jeremy Stephens (left) and Kalee Crist (second from right) are pictured with Sunny Kang (second from left) and Denee Hirsch, UW-Platteville Foundation (right). Kang presented each of the students with a scholarship in memory of his father, Dr. Peter Kang, professor emeritus in political science at the UW-Platteville from 1969 through 1997. He served as the Department Chair of political science for nine years. Tera Montgomery, a professor in UW-Platteville’s School of BILSA, received the Peter Kang Faculty Development Award (not pictured).
The University of Wisconsin-Platteville's Pioneer Academic Center for Community Engagement hosted a campus-wide Business Plan Competition on Tuesday, April 5. According to, Kevin Bernhardt, director this event was the culmination of a series of entrepreneurial events. "We kicked off with the Extreme Entrepreneurship Tour last spring. Since then, we have offered students a number of opportunities to get creative, innovative and involved. CEO Roundtables and Meet ‘n Eat with an Entrepreneur events provided a chance for our students to get up close and personal with CEOs and entrepreneurs," said Bernhardt. “These leaders were willing to share their secrets of success. The Elevator Pitch Competition gave students the opportunity to articulate their ideas. The Business Plan Competition saw students research and develop their own plan. Many of the students dream of making their plans a reality. It’s been an exciting year as we have grown and nurtured our own university’s entrepreneur supply chain.”

Undergraduate students were invited to participate and competed for cash prizes in the business plan competition. Business leaders along with UW-Platteville faculty and staff served as coaches for the students as they developed their plans. First round judges included Mark Dunavan, Tammi Jantzen, Carl Babler, Cheryl Vandenburgt, Ron Brisbois, Susan Hansen, Tom Sigworth, Rick Terrien and Scott Skelly. Steve Kosnick, Tracy Warren, Cindy Tang and Lou Schweigert served as judges in the Finals Round. Tang, who serves on the UW-Platteville Foundation board and is the president of the MainStreet board, supports entrepreneurship in our university community. “It’s great that students have the opportunity to participate in this kind of a real-life event,” said Tang. “We want to encourage students to make it real and we want them to know that there are resources in our community to help them do that.”

“PACCE is a great incubator for young entrepreneurs said Sigworth, owner of Dairy Queen and Country Kitchen in Platteville. “It gives these students opportunities and encouragement. We need that next generation of entrepreneurs in America.”

David Parr, UW-Platteville agriculture business major, was selected as the winner of the competition and was awarded a $1,000 cash prize. Parr entered the business plan competition after hearing of it at the elevator pitch competition, also sponsored by PACCE. Parr created the plan for his business, Parrfection Produce, LLC, after a school district wanted to buy local produce, but lacked a staff to process it. Parrfection Produce provides order buying and management services.

Second place winner, Adam Kolb, received $750 for his business, Fiber Solutions, LLC, and third place winner, Kate Olsen, received $500 for her business, Photography by Kate.

“This was a great opportunity for students to get their business plans out there,” Jantzen, chief financial advisor of Batelle Ventures, said. “PACCE encourages entrepreneurship in the community. I live in the venture capital world and I see business plans on a daily basis. I think it’s great that UW-Platteville is pioneering this Business Plan Competition. It’s great for students’ development.”

These entrepreneurial initiatives were funded in part by a Wiscontrepreneur Statewide Seed Grant.* Northwestern Mutual/The Kosnick Financial Group, Gro Alliance and Platteville’s Main Street also sponsored the business plan competition.

*These events were funded by the Wiscontrepreneur Statewide Seed Grant. Wiscontrepreneur statewide seed grants are intended to provide seed funding for projects that have a high potential to create a sustainable change in entrepreneurial thinking at a Wisconsin college or university through curriculum, activities and programs aimed at students.