

OHIO VALLEY ENERGY TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY



2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT



OVETA 2015-2016 School Year Annual Report

The structure of the OVETA program involves the use of a flexible and customized curriculum of blended learning of courses accredited through the International Association for Drilling Contractors including an opportunity to earn a high school diploma and to earn recognized energy industry certifications. The structure of OVETA is very student driven and provides a blended learning atmosphere that incorporates core courses with added education to prepare students for the workforce. Students attend either online, on-site, or a combination of both during alternate days or half days. Students punch a time clock and learn the importance of knowing and keeping a schedule just like on a job site.

The program is free for any Ohio high school student. Most attending students are from school districts in Jefferson, Belmont and Harrison Counties.

OVETA is one of the latest locally-based shale curriculums and provides blended learning to help put students on the fast track to jobs in the oil and gas industry. Students can begin their freshman year and continue in the program until they graduate. It operates under the Ohio Department of Education's guidelines which requires a minimum of 25 students, and OVETA averaged at least 50 students during the first year. Five seniors graduated from the program in 2016. Two of these students will go onto post-graduate schooling while the other three will go into the industry.

The school year featured a number of gas and oil events throughout the year. Speakers were invited into the school to make presentations to the students and discuss many aspects of the industry. Additionally, several on-site trips were made that provided students with hands on exposure to many components of the gas and oil industry that continues to develop in our

communities. OSHA 10/30 and SafeLand certifications were also provided in the school.

Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program (OOGEEP) presenter, Mark Bruce, visited OVETA in early September and conducted activities that demonstrated vertical and horizontal drilling. In October, a field trip to WVNCC gave the students a great look at their emerging Petroleum Technologies degree program. Mech-atronics, well control and welding labs at the core of that program were visited.

A breakthrough partnership with Gulfport Energy brought high level industry professionals into the class on October 30th to discuss regional geology, and state of the art drilling technology. A tour of a live drilling rig was scheduled.

BLHS alumnus, Tyler Kirkland, now at gas and oil specialty tool company – ThruTubing Solutions, visited as a guest speaker in early November. Tyler and his team discussed a variety of unique services they provide “down hole”. Twenty-five company hardhats were generously donated to the students. A question and answer session concluded as students were given shirts, hats and hoodies. A tour of their Imperial, PA facility was scheduled for spring upon its completion.

On November 23rd students traveled to Jewett, Ohio to tour Momentum Energies fractionation plant and saw how different gases are separated and transported. Gulfport Energy hosted a tour on a live drilling rig on December 7th at a Barnesville well pad. Hardhats, safety glasses and FR gear were donated to each OVETA student.

The second semester continued with a trip to JLE Enterprises facility in Benwood, WV in January 2016. The repurposed steel mill is now a pipe threading and inspection company where the latest technology is used to ensure the pipes integrity before it reaches the pad. February brought the beginning of OSHA training. Upper classman received OSHA 30 cards while underclassmen received OSHA 10.

March 16th we reconnected with ThruTubing Solutions to tour their now completed facility in Imperial, PA. Students saw demonstrations as skilled workers dismantled hydro driven motors and replaced internal parts. They also

demonstrated pipe connection inspections and had a variety of specific bits and tools they developed for retrieving items that get stuck in the well.

During the month of April, we were visited by Union Locals 798 and 809. Union leaders discussed their role in the gas and oil industry and the training and careers they offer to their membership. Both unions made apprenticeships available to OVETA graduates.

As the year ended in May, Safeland training was conducted and a number of students received their PEC card that is industry specific training required by employers to be on the job site.

OVETA held its first graduation ceremony on May 27th when 5 seniors were awarded diplomas. Jerimiah Kinsey, a Petroleum Engineer with industry giant-Baker Hughes, served as our guest speaker.