Local high school students create Workplace Simulation Project

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Staff Writer

Students in the Algebra 1, Business, Computer Science, Culinary Arts, Integrated Chemistry and Physics and POE and IED classes from Springs Valley, Paoli and Shoals all teamed up for an interdisciplinary Workplace Simulation Project. The final presentation was held in the Clifton Ballroom at the French Lick Springs Hotel on Dec. 8.

The final presentation of the project was a charity event, with all proceeds collected going to the Angel Tree Foundation, which provides Christmas gifts to children of Orange and Martin counties. Approximately 200 students created a gingerbread village with a model of the French Lick Resort Trolley running through it. Students learned a lot about electronics and lighting, as the gingerbread village and its Christmas tree were set up to become a musical light display. They also learned about speed, testing what rate the trolley could run through the village. It took about four minutes for the trolley to make a complete trip.

Making the windows in the houses took some trial and error with the quantity of corn syrup changing the transparency. The gingerbread houses all had a wooden frame built by students, and the Shoals students used gingerbread bricks for construction as they did not have access to a larger oven.

The students had created display boards telling about the processes that went into creating the gingerbread village and talked to patrons about the work they did to make the project happen. Springs Valley teacher Leslie Drowe said, “I am so proud of them.”

Along with French Lick Resort and the three junior-senior high schools, other partners included Ivy Tech, DirectEmployers Institute, Indiana University School of Education Center for P-16 Research and Collaboration, WorkOne and SkillUp. Photo by Kathy D. Kelb - A model of the French Lick Resort Trolley winds its way around the gingerbread village in the Clifton Ballroom at the French Lick Springs Hotel. It was part of the Workplace Simulation Project undertaken by junior-senior high students from Springs Valley, Paoli and Shoals.

Photo by Kathy D. Kelb - The 200 students from Springs Valley, Paoli and Shoals junior-senior high schools set up a gingerbread village as part of a Workplace Simulation Project at French Lick Springs Hotel. The final project incorporated a musical light show with the gingerbread houses.

Photo by Kathy D. Kelb - Springs Valley Junior-Senior High students Gwen Parber, left, and Ella Hughes discuss calculating the optimum speed for the model of the French Lick Resort Trolley incorporated into the gingerbread village set up in the French Lick Resort’s Clifton Ballroom as a Workplace Simulation Project.
Students create lights for gingerbread village

by Tim Thome
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Students at Paoli High School’s Intro to Computer Science class worked with students from Springs Valley and Sheds to create a gingerbread village for the Workplace Simulation Project that was presented at the Clifton Ballroom at the French Lick Resort. Paoli’s students were in charge of creating the lighting and sound for the houses and trees.

The students used Arduino, a coding program, and NeoPixels, changeable LED lights, to create the display. The software was used to program each of the lights so that they would do a variety of tasks such as displaying a rainbow pattern or having the lights change each other. One of the challenges the students faced was getting the lights to react to sounds so they would follow the beat of different music. While the houses were on display at the French Lick Resort, people could request songs and see the lights react.

Paoli High School Industrial Technology teacher Jason Goodman stated it was a great learning experience for the students. They had to trust the project like a business with demonstrations of what they can do, as well as working with “customers” on how the project will be designed. They also had to cooperate with other students who were in charge of different aspects of the project to make sure everybody’s ideas would work together. Goodman said there was a lot of collaboration between the groups, which was interesting.

Goodman was pleased with how engaged the students were during the project and the improvements they made during the course of the year. Things started out slow because the students began with zero knowledge of coding. The students were able to learn how to manipulate the code and became excited about what they can accomplish.

The students were split into two groups: one worked with the gingerbread houses and the other with the Christmas trees. Since coding is picky, students had to check over and troubleshoot their code, and they would help each other out, too.

“They did a great job absorbing the knowledge,” said Goodman. “It was a good, hands-on project.”

The final presentation of the project was a charity event with all of the proceeds going to the Angel Tree Foundation, which provides Christmas gifts to children of Orange and Martin counties. Between the three schools approximately 200 students worked together to create the gingerbread village, which also featured a model of the French Lick Resort Trolley running through it.

Along with French Lick Resort and the three junior-senior high schools, other partners included Ivy Tech, DirectEmployers Institute, Indiana University School of Education Center for P-16 Research and Collaboration, WorldEd and SkillUp.
Gingerbread Houses Built By Shoals Students

Shown above, from left to right, are Chef Jeffrey Taber, from Ivy Tech Dubois County; Sous Chef from the French Lick Resort; and Audrey Gibson, Consumer Life Sciences Teacher at Shoals High School. They are standing next to the gingerbread house which shows the side of the Martin County Courthouse (formerly the Martin County Courthouse), in West Shoals. Students were on the drive to help construct the gingerbread houses. Five large gingerbread houses were built to model different area buildings around Martin County. Others modeled included the Shoals Methodist Church, B&F’s Drive-In, an old barn, and the Houghton House. The gingerbread houses were made by the students in the Culinary Arts Class, Algebra I Class, and Integrated Chemistry and Physics students, at the Shoals Community Schools. They were on display at the French Lick Resort on Wednesday, December 11th. The students of Shoals partnered with Spring Valley Schools and Paul Schools to host the Gingerbread Extravaganza. This collaboration was made possible through a workplace simulation project that was created by the Direct Employees Institute and the Indiana University Center for Philanthropy Research and Collaboration. A small gift grant helped provide the funds for the project and the project coordinator who traveled between the three schools to help plan the curriculum. Additional gingerbread houses are featured on an inside page of today’s newspaper.

The gingerbread houses were auctioned off and the proceeds will go to benefit the Angel Tree Foundations in both Shoals and Orange County. The displays were also shown at the Shoals-Logstown basketball game on Saturday night, December 9th, before the people who purchased them at the auction took them home.

— Photo Provided by Dr. Candace Roush, Superintendent
Additional Gingerbread Houses Built By Shoals Students Displayed Last Week At French Lick Resort

Shown above is the gingerbread house representing Bo-Mac's Drive-In, in Shoals. This gingerbread house was purchased for $80 by Cecil and Elenna Rapalee. Culinary Arts students taught by Mrs. Gibson, Algebra 1 students taught by Mrs. Flynn, and Integrated Chemistry and Physics students taught by Mrs. Phillips all participated in making the gingerbread houses. The Culinary Arts students who helped include Morgan Burke, Samantha Hombre, Isiah Biehler, Madison Burkhart, Hannah Davis, Taylor George, Hunter Hightower, Damien Holt, Sean Lantis, Kendra Lybarger, Dalton Parr, Kate Perry, Maggie Shaw, Lilly Thacker, Craig Tingle, Ethan Wagner, Dejah Watson, Dayton Wright, Cody Overton, Ainy Parke, Patrick Tolbert, Bryn Baker, Clay Berth, Eddie Brown, Alaina Royston, Braydon Sauerbrun, Bailey Tischer, Dayton Watson, Brittany Jones, and Abramino Rhodes.
— Photo Provided by Dr. Candace Roueh, Superintendent

Pictured above is the gingerbread house representing the Houghton House. Several students of the Algebra 1 class taught by Mrs. Flynn also worked on all the gingerbread houses. They included Brook Dobson, Jacob Gibson, Jacob Hornsman, Ashton Knapp, Zane Lake, Aaron Lantis, Andrew Newland, Bryce Tolbert, Jordan Wright, Bailey Tischer, Summer Fromm, Raider Jones, Madison Jones, and Elena Berkel. Jamie Shaw and Joy Gibson purchased this gingerbread house for $50.
— Photo Provided by Dr. Candace Roueh, Superintendent

The gingerbread Rox Ranch Country Barn is pictured above. Students in the Integrated Chemistry and Physics Class of Mrs. Phillips also participated in making the gingerbread houses, including the gingerbread barn. Those students were Brian Brown, Curtis Brown, Laryah Caw, Adrian Cole, Pearl Crowley, Ethan Fromm, Cheyenne Perry, Ethan Sexton, and Jeremy Wildfield. This Rox Ranch Country Barn was purchased for $22 by Sinner Murray.
— Photo Provided by Dr. Candace Roueh, Superintendent