



# Register-News

## Celebrating Career and Technology Organizations Week



Mt. Vernon Mayor Mary Jane Chesley speaks to officers and sponsors from the five career organizations at Mt. Vernon Township High School Thursday morning. The students gathered to commemorate Career and Technology Organization Week.

TESA CULLI/REGISTER-NEWS

## Mayor addresses MVTHS students


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MT. VERNON — The lessons learned by being in career and technical organizations at Mt. Vernon High School go beyond the classroom, according to members of the five organizations which are celebrating Career and Technical Organization Week.

The organizations are the FFA, Future Business Leaders of America, Health Occupations Students of America, Family Career Community Leaders of America and Skills USA.

"They are all fine groups and very active and involved in the community," MVTHS assistant principal Rob Knutson said. "Each club has officers and activities they under-



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MT. VERNON MAYOR MARY JANE CHESLEY

take each year."

For Maria Diaz, president of the FCCLA and member of FBLA, being part of the organizations is about working in the community.

"I've learned that I don't have to get paid to help somebody," Diaz said. "I get the satisfaction that I helped people and the com-

munity. And, I've gotten to meet a lot of people."

Diaz, a senior, said her favorite activity since she has been involved in the organizations as a freshman is Adopt A Grandparent.

"We did it last year," the 17-year-old said.

see STUDENTS/Page 3A

## STUDENTS

continued from 1A

"I really liked that, and they really liked us. They would tell us about when they were younger and we just talked to them.

"All they wanted was to talk to us. They liked talking to us better than they liked the games we played."

Diaz said she thinks all high school students should be involved.

"People don't want to do stuff after school, but you get to meet a lot of people and get to do a lot of things," Diaz said.

That opinion was echoed by HOSA president Charlie Clark. The senior said she has been in HOSA for two years, and not only has she gotten to participate in community projects, but discovered what her career choice after high school will be.

"I knew I wanted to be something in the health field," Clark said. "I wasn't sure what until I started the

classes and that helped me decide I want to be a funeral director. ... I highly recommend it to anybody, even if you're not sure what you want to do. If you want to go into a health field or even if you want to be a vet, it helps you learn terminology and about what area you may want to look into."

Skills USA member Daniel Chambliss said he loves the competition and being able to hone his skills in an AVC class.

"It's about any type of skills for the workforce," Chambliss said. "You can compete in any area you want."

For Jeremy Anderson, he's working for a scholarship.

"We get to learn about a career, work on projects and earn a scholarship for after high school," Anderson said. "That's what I like."

For sponsors of the organizations — Julie Holmes of FCCLA, Julie Hayes of FBLA, John Kabot of FFA, Steve Odle of Skills USA and Tammy Martin and Laura Ing of HOSA — working with the kids is about letting them become leaders.

"They run the club," Martin said of the students. "We play an advisory role only. We want to let the officers decide what they want to do and then we help them

achieve that."

Mt. Vernon Mayor Mary Jane Chesley told the students and advisors on Thursday that learning about careers and working with the career and technical organizations is important for the community and the future.

"You are training to be a part of our workforce," Chesley said. "You don't have to leave Mt. Vernon, you can stay right here and take advantage of wonderful opportunities."