

Bullitt County Area Technology Center welding students present Education Cabinet secretary Helen Mountjoy with Cat Tail ornamental art displays

In today's world, welding art has become quite popular for ornamental display as well as for yard decoration – and, Bullitt County Area Technology Center welding instructor William Metcalf and his students hit the mark with their cat tail ornamental art displays.

On Wednesday, April 16, Metcalf and three of his senior students proudly presented their skilled and artful work to Education Cabinet Secretary Helen Mountjoy.



Photo from left to right: Helen Mountjoy, Hunter Becton (senior); Shawn Rodgers (senior); Justin Shelton (senior) and Bullitt Co. ATC welding instructor William Metcalf.

“These students created some well designed art displays for us to showcase in our reception area,” said Mountjoy. “The cat tails are a wonderful example of students applying their technical skills to develop a real world product and I’m impressed with the quality of their work.”

The project initially began when Bullitt County ATC principal Brady Southwood was approached by Beth Cassity of the local Chamber of Commerce. She informed Southwood that the Chamber’s annual October dinner would promote a technology theme and requested 60 items for tables.

After only one month on the job, Metcalf was called upon to create magic - with a three-week timeline. He quickly set to work with the help of his students. Three seniors including Justin Shelton, Shawn Rodgers, and Hunter Becton designed the cat tail and began churning out three per day.

Metcalf challenged students to come up with the project idea. They asked him some technical questions and he gave them the processes to create the pieces.

“My students worked together as a team in developing this project,” said Metcalf. “I was truly impressed with the quality of product that they produced. To the art community, this is high caliber and we have been offered up to \$75 for each piece. That’s impressive.”

Shelton was responsible for creating the leaf design; while Rodgers and Becton created the actual cat tails and base for each center piece.

“I just think these kids are brilliant and I think the talent they have shown this year is outstanding,” said Southwood. “They have represented our school well. I’m also proud of Mr. Metcalf. At the time of the request, he had only one month of service under his belt. He was able to provide his students with the motivation and direction to create a worthy project in a short time frame.

The welding displays were an instant success during the Chamber dinner and have been in demand since their initial presentation.

Justin Shelton:

“Mr. Metcalf taught us that welding is not always in a booth because in the real world, welders have to be able to move around. We have learned so much since he came to be our teacher.

“I’m just happy that we created a popular item. It’s an honor for us to present this to the top lady in education because she can see what we can do.”

Hunter Becton:

“Mr. Metcalf is awesome and allows us to learn more by having us weld outside of the booth.

“I’m glad this project is showcasing our school and the abilities we have learned.”

Shawn Rodgers:

“I’m proud of what we have accomplished because many people do not know how to do this type of work.

“It has brought recognition to our school and to us because people can see we have mastered the skills we were taught.”



Photo (l to r): Becton, Mr. Metcalf, Kentucky Tech area supervisor Mary Stratton, Rodgers, Shelton, Southwood, and Office of Career and Technical Education executive director John Marks.



Education Cabinet secretary Helen Mountjoy places one of the cat tail displays on an end-table in the reception area of her office.

Good News Flash #240

By: Fran Dundon

April 17, 2008

**Office of Career and Technical Education
Kentucky Education Cabinet**