



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION

SOUTHERN UPDATE



**Wayne County
Students Experience
Technology in a
Whole New Way**

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Tech Fest Gives Young People Hands-On Experiences with Technology

In Wayne County, elementary schools have limited access to technological applications in the classroom. With little time in the school day devoted to technology, students get few hands-on experiences with current applications.

To meet this need, Wayne County Extension teamed up with the Fairfield Fall Fun Fest Committee to provide a two-day Tech Fest for fifth grade students in the county.

Workshop choices included aeronautics, digital photography, PowerPoint design, GPS/GIS technology, and robotics. The event was held during normal school hours at a church multi-purpose center. Schools provided bus transportation for their students.

Goals for the program were to introduce 5th grade students to current technology applications that are used in today's workplace and to bring awareness of technology advances to the community as a whole.

Ten adult volunteers from the local community taught the sessions. In addition, 24 high school students provided assistance for each workshop.

The event drew 192 students from six Wayne County elementary schools.

Following the Tech Fest, a Saturday Open House was held for the public to showcase the students' projects from the previous two days.

Two television stations, one radio station, and one local newspaper were on hand to cover the event. The mayor of Fairfield as well as several business representatives also attended the Tech Fest Open House. WSIU TV even produced a documentary on the Tech Fest.

Teachers are already excited about bringing their students back for the third annual Tech Fest in September 2010.

Matt Rush, community worker in Wayne County, reports that new 4-H members have joined traditional clubs since the event—making the Tech Fest a viable opportunity for 4-H member recruitment.



Partners in Parenting Showcased at National CYFAR Conference

Members and coalition partners of University of Illinois Extension recently showcased **Partners in Parenting** progress at the National CYFAR (Children, Youth and Families at Risk) Conference in San Francisco, California.

This program uses three teaching methods to nurture families: An age-paced newsletter (birth to age 3), *Your Young Child* education, and online technology. The program, funded by a federal grant, is being conducted in Jackson, Franklin, and Jefferson counties as well as sites in Cook County.

“The national CYFAR conference connected participants through research, programs, and technology, thus refreshing their commitment to education for children, youth, and families,” reports Joyce Pyatt, unit family life educator.

Southern Illinois partners attending the conference included (L to R): U of I Extension staff members Joyce Pyatt, Jackson County; Alice Hunt, Franklin County; Susan Mosler, Jefferson County; Jess Jobe, Adolescent Health, Carbondale; Mary Beth Long, The H Group Early Head Start in Franklin/Williamson; and Sandy Fark, Southern Region Early Childhood, Murphysboro.



Special thanks to Jennifer Newbury, FNP community worker in Franklin County, for recently conducting a Youth Cooking School training for staff members in the region.

★ When a co-worker needs a positive boost, put a clever, kind message on his/her voice mail . . . *from thoughts we generated at the FISH Market Place.*

Calendar Items

Regional Advisory Committee
June 8

Southern Regional Office

Ewing Field Day

June 10

9 A.M.

4-H Training Day

June 15

Vienna

State Meeting for Educators
and County Directors

June 17

Champaign

4-H Jr. High Camp

June 17 – 19

Waterloo

Sustainable Ag Tour

June 18

Jackson County

<http://>

[web.extension.uiuc.edu/
smallfarm/](http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/smallfarm/)

4-H Youth Camp

June 27 – 30

West Frankfort

Small Farm & Family Expo

June 27 – 28

Decatur