

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • March 9, 2018

SkillsUSA advisors Rex Cockrell, Tea McCaulla and Donna Patrick can catch their collective breath after the Mace House Healing Garden was dedicated last week in a ceremony at the Chillocothe VA auditorium.



Tea emphasized that while it was a SkillsUSA project, any student could be involved.

Senior Kyanna Knight, in Early Childhood Education and FCCLA, was excited about the project.

For last week's dedication, Kyanna oversaw the singing portion of the ceremony and suggested that during a section in one song, all of the students come off stage and shake hands with veterans in the audience.

Organized primarily by SkillsUSA, the project idea came from a discussion about how to use a \$2,000 community grant the chapter won as a Model of Excellence recipient.

Students worked with Michelle Schatzman and Gary Shinnick with the VA, and landscaper Roger Seely, and then used the mentoring session on Wednesdays to plan the garden.

A big part of the garden are benches created by students in the Carpentry and Welding programs.

When Sammie Moore, a junior in Carpentry, learned about the opportunity to make benches for the VA, she said she couldn't wait to be a part of it.

Sammie has a half-dozen relatives who are military, she said.

"This was a way to give back to all veterans and my family," she said. "I said I'm going to put my whole heart into it and it's going to be perfect."

Students in Kevin Krebs' Commercial Food Careers also had a big roll: making 18 pounds of soup for a lunch after the ceremony.

And while the ceremony was a success, there's more to do.

Michelle with the VA has asked that a scrapbook be created so that anyone visiting the garden can see the process and all the work that went into it.

And spring will be here soon.

"The kids are really excited about planting," Tea said. "And we want to help the VA with the pavers."

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TOP: Sammie Moore (right) speaks during the ceremony. Other students who spoke were, from left, Austin Howard, Emma Bretz and Bry Williams.



BOTTOM: Law & Public Safety students posted the colors.

