

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Sept. 23, 2016

An out-of-this-world project in Ryan Holbrook's classroom has students from several career programs working together.



Putting some old laptops to use, Ryan enlisted students in his Physics class to create a computer station to work with the SETI Institute.

The classroom's computer station combines the old laptops, SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) and Linux Lite to analyze information gathered by radio telescopes from all over the world, Ryan said.

Students involved in the project are Ryan's seniors: Kayli Bramel and Jason Smith (Engineering); Alecia Fuller, Charlie Walsh and Rachel Walters (Network Systems); and Dylan Hart (High-Performance Automotive Technologies); and juniors Jordan Abernathy and Dylan Fischer (Carpentry); and Katie Honline (Interactive Digital Arts).

The Network Systems students helped program the computers; the Engineering students also helped with programming and guided juniors Jordan and Dylan on how to build the computer



Seniors in Ryan Holbrook's Physics class created a computer station to gather data for SETI. Pictured above, front, from left, are Rachel Walters, Charlie Walsh and Kayli Bramel; back, from left, Ryan Holbrook, Dylan Hart and Jason Smith.

support frame.

Dylan Hart helping with coding, telling Ryan that he couldn't believe he learned to code a program so easily. Katie created a banner for the project.

Ryan said the project is a fun learning experience for the Physics students.

"Not only are we helping to analyze and record the natural behavior of stars and other astronomical entities but we are also hoping to find that needle in the haystack, an anomaly that may show signs of intelligent life beyond our own.

"SETI's radio telescopes gather the data, we analyze it with our processors and return it through high-speed internet."

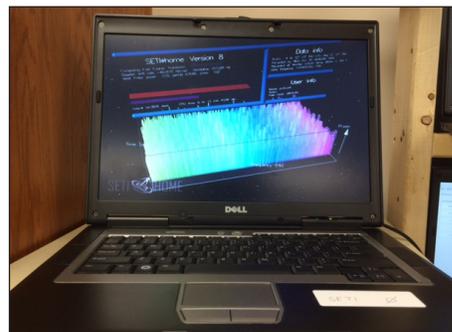
The Physics students said the outcome of the project is neat, but it also is helping them learn physics principles.

"We're learning about frequency and light radiation from stars," Charlie said.

Ryan said he thinks the project shows students that anyone can be involved in research.

"What we are doing can even be done on most smart phones."

Questions about the project and its progress can be sent to students at prctc.seti@gmail.com.



The radio waves that are being analyzed are displayed on a computer in Ryan Holbrook's classroom.