

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Oct. 4, 2019

An event last week to introduce girls to the operating engineers field was a success for 10 trades students.



She Dig 2019, hosted by the Ohio Operating Engineers in Logan, was an eye-opening experience, many of the students said.

Several, such as Nakyla Peoples, a senior in Outdoor Power Technologies, were excited about the careers and the union's apprenticeship and training program.

"It really caught my eye and I thought this is something I could do," Nakyla said.

Brianna Martin, a senior in Commercial Carpentry, agreed.

"I thought it was interesting

and I'm definitely going to put in an application" for the apprenticeship.

More than 100 students from 11 schools in the union's 22-county district took part in the event, held over two days. Students learned about careers as operating engineers and tried their hands at running a variety of equipment. She Dig days will take place at the union's other training sites in the state.

Richard Groves, a mechanic instructor who coordinated the event, said he was very pleased with the event and hopes to make it bigger next year.

He had invited job coordinators Kim Graves and Allen Koker to visit the Logan training site in August and they were eager to bring students to She Dig, part of a national initiative to get more women in the industry.

The experience was a winner

for junior Maddy Coey in Diesel & Heavy Truck Mechanics.

"It's an opportunity and I'm taking every opportunity I get. Any time something is offered to me, I'm going to take it."

Maddy's favorite part of the field trip was operating the equipment.

"I was good at it and it was fun. I just want to get my hands dirty."

Other students who took part were Devin Johnson, Commercial Carpentry; Kendra Downing-Fuller, Outdoor Power Technologies; and Candice Acton, Alexis Dennison, Carlee Emler, Renee Ramsey and Lillie Smith, Welding.

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Brianna Martin, above, and Maddy Coey, right, learn from Ohio Operating Engineers union members how to operate equipment during She Dig 2019.