

present\_gift\_bonus\_prize **Give**

compose\_write\_pencil **Apply**

---

[Back to News](#)

# Brescia Partners with Owensboro Innovation Academy for Early College and Wellness

Published on May 9, 2017

The Owensboro Innovation Academy is partnering with Brescia University to offer an early college program for OIA students. With the close proximity of OIA to Brescia, students will be able to walk to Brescia to take college classes, which will result in the students' opportunity to earn an Associate Degree while in high school. The incoming junior class at OIA can begin taking courses at Brescia this fall. Degree options include: Associate of Arts in Integrated Studies, Associate of Science in Integrated Studies, Associate of Science in Health Science and Associate of Science in Engineering Studies.

"At just \$90 a class, this gives our students an incredible opportunity to further their education. We cannot thank Brescia enough for offering this prospect for our students," said Dr. Nick Brake, OPS Superintendent.

"When the Owensboro Innovation Academy presented this partnership to us, we felt it to be a perfect fit. Our institutions share the same intimate, one-on-one learning experience that caters to the educational needs of each student," stated Father Larry Hostetter, President of Brescia University. "We admire the innovative educational approach that OIA provides students, and we are honored to be an extension of that educational experience. By taking classes at Brescia University, our hope is that the students at OIA will benefit from direct learning at the collegiate academic level that will allow them to seamlessly transition into college and find success in their lives," added Father Larry.

The partnership will also allow all OIA students to use the new health complex that is currently under construction at Brescia.

“Our students will get to use brand new facilities as part of a comprehensive wellness plan for each student. This ensures that our students are not only getting a quality education in STEM fields, but will hopefully improve their overall health,” said Beth Benjamin, OIA principal.

“From day one, Brescia has opened its doors to OIA students and staff to offer unique spaces for different learning activities. This exciting announcement is another example of two education entities working together to produce the best options for the students of our shared community,” said Owens Saylor, DCPS Superintendent.

Brescia will also allow OIA to use some of its chemistry lab space making it easier to offer more science classes.

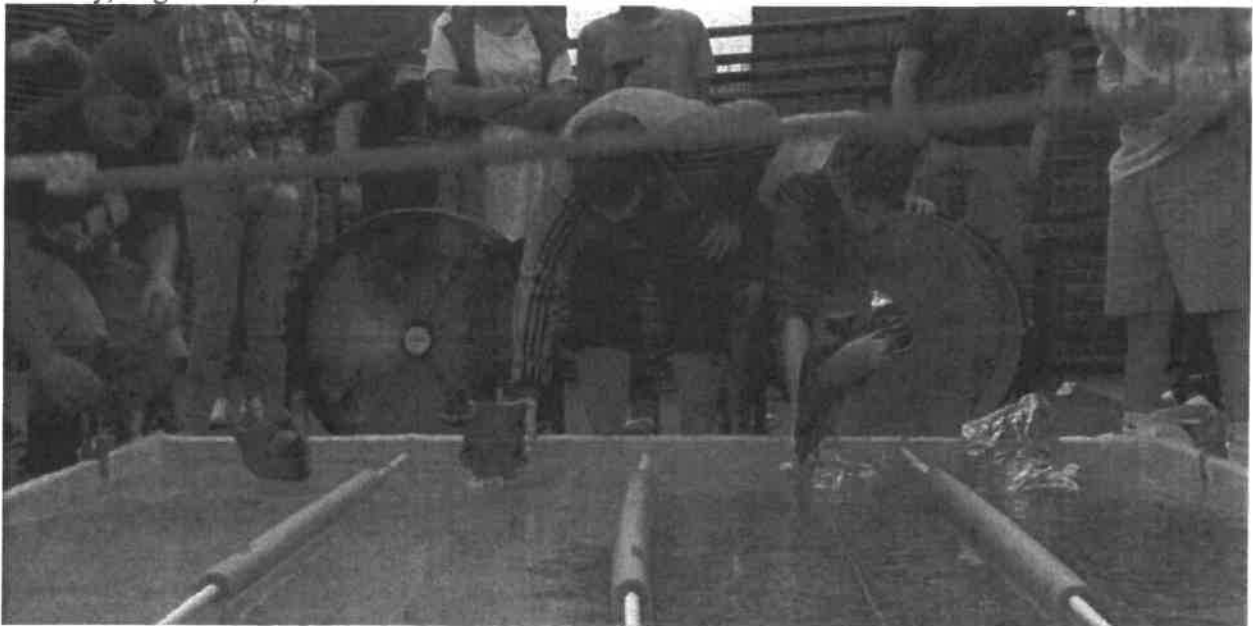
“Right now we are meeting with Brescia leaders and are hammering out all of the details of the new opportunity. We will host a parent information night on May 22 at 6 p.m. at OIA to let parents and students know what the next steps are to starting their degree,” added Benjamin.

# Owensboro Innovation Academy projects set sail during first week back to school



by Marlys Mason

Saturday, August 11th, 2018 9:19 am



During the 2016 summer Olympics, teachers at Owensboro Innovation Academy began discussing nation competitions. As the conversation progressed, the teachers believed creating a nation-building project and competition could be a way to interest students in project-based learning. Three years later, the OIA Opening Project has become more competitive and exciting than originally discussed.

On Wednesday, as most secondary teachers were doing class introductions and expectations for the year, students at OIA were discovering that their 14 teachers would be facilitators during the three-day Nation Building and Wind Powered Vessel Competition.

Jon Richard, one of the project's founders said, "Our goal isn't to simply teach the students, but facilitate their learning."

Over three hundred OIA students were divided into 14 nations with the expectation of each nation building two boats with at least eight of the 22 students specifically working on the boats.

"For new students, we want to introduce project-based learning in an exciting, competitive way. New students will learn from upperclassmen, allowing for many of their fears and hesitations to be addressed. For upper-class students, our goal is to restart the project-based learning engine by providing an extrinsic goal of winning the competition at the end of the project," Richard said.

The facilitators' purpose was to steer students in the right direction, and not to simply provide answers but an opportunity for discovery.

"We want them to ask 'why, how, what do we need to know' before supplying the answer," Richard said, adding "We want the students to learn how to ask the right questions to get the right answer."

For example, Richard believes that providing students with a PowerPoint explaining ballast in the boat design will provide little learning for the student; however, when students notice their ship is turning over, they will see the need for ballast and work together to correct it.

Friday morning students turned their boats in for inspection. They were also able to see other nations' boats and commented to each other which boats should not be allowed to race based on the requirements given on Wednesday.

After inspection, students walked to the Brescia University Science Building to watch the 14 presentations of flags and monuments. Groups took the stage to present ideas that had been conceptualized and created Wednesday and Thursday. Each group had a motto for the selected nation and this was thematic of the monument the group created.

Nervous jitters from the students presenting were met with attentive peers, each trying to find a balance in this new school atmosphere. The theme of OIA providing a different atmosphere echoed throughout the presentations.

In the afternoon, nations gathered for a preliminary run of the two boats each group made. This allowed them to choose the best boat to race in the finals and make modifications before the finals and gave each nation one last attempt to raise their score.

The facilitators used this project to develop deep thinkers who can see the solution as more than a simple answer. Many schools in our districts are attempting to provide students with engaging learning experiences that require rigorous thought.

Taken school-wide at OIA, this concept brought students together in a way few classrooms are able to during the first week of school. It also allowed the freshmen to immediately realize this experience will be far different than previous years. Richard said, "We want them to have the skills to construct the steps to achieve their goal of solving the problem and to see learning as a lifelong adventure."

# State officials impressed with Owensboro Innovation Academy

By KEITH LAWRENCE - Associated Press - Saturday, September 24, 2016

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) - Owensboro Innovation Academy students began working on a project earlier this week to create four fictional civilizations for Kingdoms, a lawn game set to launch next year.

Denny Weston, a 2004 graduate of Daviess County High School now living in Virginia, created the game and Author's Board Strategic Gaming LLC, its parent company.

He asked the students to create the geography, religion, government, maps and a detailed backstory with the civilization's religion and government for the game.

While the students listened to him on Skype, U.S. Rep. Brett Guthrie and Stephen Pruitt, Kentucky's education commissioner, watched from the back of the room.

The two had toured the Life Science Academy at Owensboro Community & Technical College earlier in the day before coming to the Innovation Academy.

"It's impressive," Guthrie said later. "When I was in state government, I looked for innovative ways to teach and learn. I like that here you have multijurisdictional districts working together for students."

Pruitt said, "It's incredible. This is what we should be doing in all our schools."

The Academy, the first school in Kentucky affiliated with the California-based New Tech Network, is a stand-alone high school that uses hands-on project-based learning, with an emphasis on technical and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) curriculum.

"It's very hands-on," Beth Benjamin, the school's head teacher, told the visitors. "Everything is project-based."

The school accepts students from the Owensboro, Daviess County, Hancock County and McLean County systems.

Benjamin said about 51 percent of the students are from Owensboro High School.

The school began in 2015 with a freshman class.

This year, it has freshmen and sophomores.

New classes will be added in each of the next two years until the Academy has all four grades with between 350 and 400 total students.

It's in the Centre for Business and Research, 1010 Allen St.

Brake told Pruitt and Guthrie that the center also houses several research companies, including Kentucky BioProcessing, which created a vaccine for the Ebola virus in its lab there.

Owensboro Public Schools became a Kentucky "district of innovation" in 2014.

That allowed it the freedom to create the Academy as a different type of high school.

Students apply for admission to the school and are chosen by lottery if more than 100 apply.

Brake said if the school ever finds itself having to turn away large numbers of applicants, "we'll look at a different model."

"There's a tremendous amount of local control in Kentucky schools," Pruitt said. "It's good when they do things like this."

Owens Saylor, superintendent of Daviess County Public Schools, said students at the Academy will have test scores as good as or better than students at a traditional school.

5 people typing

"I'll bet they'll be higher," Pruitt said.

"This is cool," Saylor said. "It's going to make students smarter because learning here is fun."

"We're like a family down here," Benjamin said. "We all know each other."

Saylor said the Academy is the latest example of collaboration that the two school systems have been working on together for years.

"I don't think this (level of collaboration) exists anywhere else in the state," he said.

---

Information from: Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, <https://www.messenger-inquirer.com>

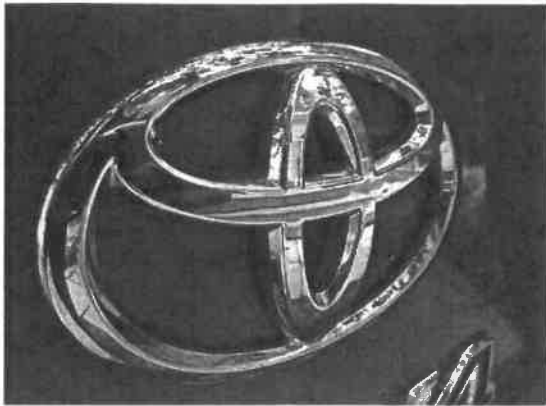
YOUR BUSINESS DESERVES BETTER



## Owensboro Innovation Academy Awarded \$42,000 Grant from Toyota

Owensboro, KY, United States / Owensboro Radio

August 06, 2018 09:50 am



*Kate Ter Haar / CC*

Owensboro, Ky. (August 6, 2018) – The Owensboro Innovation Academy has been awarded a Toyota: Preparing Our Students for Futures with Innovative STEM Opportunities grant worth \$42,000. The grant was awarded by Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana. The grant will help fund a new computer-integrated manufacturing class where students will learn how to program machines that are used in the manufacturing industry, similar to those used at Toyota. “We are so thankful to Toyota Manufacturing for helping us add this program to our Project Lead the Way curriculum,” said Stephanie Gray, Engineering Facilitator at Owensboro Innovation Academy. “This program will go a long way in helping our students be successful leaders in this industry in the near future.” Juniors or seniors who participate in the program and would like to pursue a career in industrial manufacturing with Toyota will receive priority consideration at Owensboro Community and Technical College and Vincennes University to continue their education in this field. “Providing opportunities to enrich the lives and minds of our youth through STEM learning is a top priority for Toyota Indiana,” said Tiffannie Hedin, Toyota Motor North America corporate

communications analyst. “We’re extremely proud to partner with Owensboro Innovation Academy to bring this opportunity to students in our region.” Owensboro Innovation Academy and Toyota Manufacturing, Indiana will hold a check presentation ceremony Friday, August, 21 at 11:30 a.m. Members of the media and the community are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Jared Revlett, Public Information Officer for Owensboro Public Schools, at 270- 686-1000 or at [jared.revlett@owensboro.kyschools.us](mailto:jared.revlett@owensboro.kyschools.us)