

WELCOME new ATI students



Mike Schenk, The-Daily-Record.com

New students at OSU/ATI visited the booths run by local businesses and clubs and organizations on campus seeking opportunities during the Community Fair on Monday.

School's community fair offers info and fun

By LINDA HALL
Staff Writer

WOOSTER — On the 15th day of classes, David Dietrich, ATI's manager of enrollment, will know the exact class makeup of this year's incoming students.

But he is certain The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute's first-year students will total between 325-355.

"It's going to be about the same as last year," he said.

Jane Douglas, like Dietrich, was among the OSU personnel attending the community fair, part of ATI's Welcome Days, on Monday afternoon.

Douglas, human resource specialist with OSU's College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, was able to shed a little bit of light on the typical makeup of the ATI student population.

Between ATI and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, which together make up OSU's Wooster campus, "Over 40 countries are represented," Douglas said, with the "majority on the research side."

This being said, she and Jason Owens, the international coordinator, were on hand on Monday to make students aware of the activities of the diversity committee, which, for example, serves as host for programs that include Cultural Connections and Celebration of Nations to educate students and enhance their knowledge of the campus population's countries of origin.

"We do a lot of events promoting diversity on campus," Douglas said.

ATI also offers student abroad programs, including the popular trip to Ghana, where ATI students have contributed to the economy and culture of the region with a variety of endeavors.

"Five students (who are veterans of the Ghana program) are here this year," said D.R. Elder, associate professor and coordinator of humanities and social sciences.

Third-year student Mikhala Martin, a biochemical sciences and pre-veterinary major, introduced new students to the MANRRS (Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences) organization, which encourages involvement of ethnic minorities in agricultural sciences and related fields.

According to its motto, "We pledge to work for the inclusion, achievement and advancement of all people in the agricultural sciences."

"It's more than developing leadership skills," Martin told students who stopped by her booth.

"It's about networking," said Martin, adding, "It's one of the very few organizations on (the ATI) campus that transfers to (the) Columbus (campus)."

It offers scholarships, as well as internship opportunities in locations including China and Australia, she said.

Kathy Yoder, head librarian at ATI, discovered during Welcome Days there was buzz about her fledgling organization, a book club.

"It turns out there is a lot of interest in reading for pleasure," said Yoder, who said she'll contact students online at the outset, but looks toward meeting once a month.

"A lot of kids were very enthusiastic," said Yoder, who is also planning a "meet and greet" and has already chosen some works of fiction as reading suggestions.

A new position at ATI is held by Thom Janini, who served as interim dean before Kristina Boone took over as dean in April of 2017. Janini is now

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