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For Immediate Release

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Fairfield County to Host Engineering Technology Summer Camp

Lancaster, Ohio – The Fairfield 33 Alliance will host its inaugural Engineering Technology Summer Camp from July 10 – 14 at Ohio University Lancaster’s Engineering Technology lab. The camp is open to any student who will be enrolled in eighth or ninth grade at a Fairfield County school or are home-schooled.

The 33 Alliance is partnering with Ohio University Lancaster and Lancaster City Schools to show students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) how products evolve from concept to reality. The class is being administered by an OU-L instructor and a Lancaster junior high STEM teacher.

“We’re trying to get rid of the negative stigma surrounding manufacturing,” said Rick Szabrak, Fairfield County Economic Development Director. “Employees without any post-secondary education can still have a great career in manufacturing. And if you’re a student with STEM skills and you have a degree, you’re in a great position for a lucrative career. We need to introduce these career tracks to students at an earlier age so they can see how cool manufacturing can be and tell their parents about it.”

As part of the program, students will tour manufacturers like Company Wrench and Midwest Fabricating to see how what they learn in the classroom comes to life. It’s also a chance for students to see the types of jobs that Fairfield County offers.

Students will work on a project during the camp which will be showcased during a presentation on the final day. They will get to see advanced machinery and 3D printers at work as well as an introduction into design.

“Today’s technical jobs, and certainly those in the future, will require education beyond high school,” said Jim Smith, Dean of Ohio University Lancaster, said. “The engineering technology associate degree program area that summer camp students will be exposed to provides a local affordable pathway for students to enter careers that are interesting, in demand and well paid. The campus is proud to be part of this economic development effort.”

The hours of the camp are 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. each day. Lunch and a continental breakfast are provided. The cost is \$50 per student but scholarships are available upon request.

For more information or to apply, go to Fairfield33.com or contact Rick Szabrak at Rick.Szabrak@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov or 740-652-7160. A limited number of spots are available and the application deadline is May 12.

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