

# VENTURE ACADEMICS S2

MAY 2024

*Pictured above: Behavioral Science students attend Catherine McAuley Center's Immigration Luncheon*

## Community Engagement

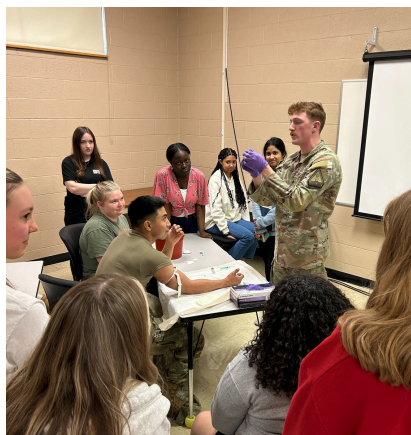
Here are some highlights of what students were involved in this past semester:



Life Science students visit Red Star Yeast and tour chemical and microbiology labs to learn about quality control measures.



Earth Science students learn about and remove invasive species at Indian Creek Nature Center.



Biomedical Science students learn how to perform an IV from National Guard Medic, Gerard Smith.



Life Science students help plant a garden with Feed Iowa First to promote growing foods that local ethnic groups may find difficult to find at area stores.



Biomedical Science students visit the Linn County Sheriff's office and practice fingerprinting.

HERE'S THE SCOOP:

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

TRIBUTARY PROJECT  
UPDATE

SKIN CANCER AWARENESS

## Across the Pond: An Exploration of Culture

In Venture Behavioral Science students don't just read about other cultures, they build connections to them. This semester Behavioral Science students had the unique opportunity to connect with other sociology classes in the UK to participate in a cultural exchange project.

Venture students spent several weeks researching a variety of aspects of American culture. Students explored social institutions such as religion, family, economics, government, education, healthcare, and leisure. This information was organized, printed and laminated, and sent in boxes to the UK.

In addition to informational materials, the boxes contained items that connected to various facets of American culture. Students discussed how agriculture is a large part of Iowa culture and sent corn nut snacks and Quaker Oats cereal. Students also included autobiographies about themselves; their daily life, interests, and future plans.

Venture students received boxes from the UK which included cultural information and food items such as tea, "crumble bread", orange marmalade, and marmite (a savory yeast-based spread). Students reviewed the information over a tea party where they enjoyed the UK foods. The students from the UK wrote letters about themselves and shared their social media accounts. Venture students have connected to UK students via social media and continue to learn more about the culture.

When asked about the project, one Venture student named Abby said, "I enjoyed this project, it was easy to connect the course content to what we were doing." Another student, MacLynn, when reflecting on UK culture said, "I thought it was odd..." but then she stopped herself, smiled, and said, "I mean different." Moments like this highlight the value of experiences like this. Through this exchange students' perspectives were expanded and they gained an appreciation for a culture different than their own.



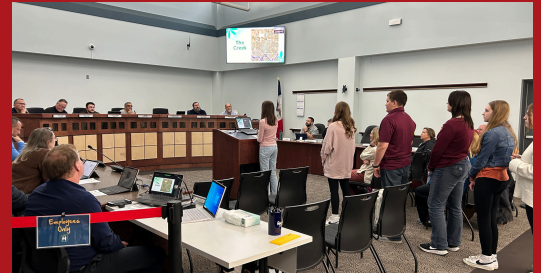
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## Tributary Project Update

Earth Science students completed a year long project to name a local tributary. Students researched potential names for the creek and had residents vote on their favorite. Coopers Creek, named after a founding family of Marion who owned land along the creek, was the clear winner with over 60% of the vote.

Students presented their work to Marion City Council and received approval to officially name the creek. Paperwork was submitted to the US Geological Survey at the beginning of May and should be reviewed and approved by mid-2025.

Thank you to Marion Environmental Specialist Thomas Doyle and the City of Marion for their support of students during this project!



## Skin Cancer Awareness

One Life Science project group researched the high levels of cancer occurrence in the state of Iowa. In conversations with staff from the Hall Perrine Cancer Center, students learned that screening is a vital part of positive outcomes for cancer diagnoses.

Students worked with Hall Perrine staff to coordinate a skin cancer awareness event at Linn-Mar high school during lunch periods on May 21st. Students could use a machine called a derma-scan to see if they had sun damage to their face. Informational materials and sunscreen were available for students to take. More than 250 students stopped at the table and learned the importance of using sun screen and other measures they can take to prevent skin cancer.

