News Release

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For More Information:
Amber Anderson
Center for TSM
270-809-3987
amber.anderson@murraystate.edu

Another successful summer has wrapped up with Murray State University's CyberCave Academy, a hands-on telecommunications technology camp for high school students. This year the Program of Distinction in Telecommunications Systems Management (TSM) hosted four camps, three 1st Year Camps and a 2nd Year Camp. Campers had the chance to meet other students from 51 different schools in seven states: Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee, Missouri, Indiana, Maryland, and Ohio. There were a total of 65 students who attended the four camps, 18 of them in the 2nd Year Camp. Each camp has a capacity of 20 students.

For the First Year Camps, students are put into groups led by a TSM student counselor. The student counselor's this summer consisted of senior, Jack Clifford; senior, Andy Meyer; and graduate Derek Hammers. The groups are put into separate labs where they create their own detailed Local Area Network (LAN) starting from the ground up. They must first connect the physical layers of the network by putting all of the needed equipment together and hooking it up. As the week progresses, they continue to build onto that network by adding a telephone system, wireless access points, and business applications among other things. When their local network is completed, they must learn to network to the other labs, which are designated as other locations through a Wide Area Network (WAN).

Marcia Combs, instructor for the First Year academies, felt the camps were once again successful. "I always enjoy interacting with the students and see all they are capable of in the classroom. My goal as the instructor is to lead them in the direction they need to go and the counselors oversee the students as they work. The enthusiasm in the labs can be felt by how engaged each camper is in the task they are given for the day."

The CyberCave is also used during the school year for class and club field trips. High school teachers can set up a date to bring their class or group for a two hour hands-on activity in the CyberCave for up to 28 students. This year's participants will have 4 topics to choose from, including things such as wireless, GPS, multimedia and how the internet works. The CyberCave staff and crew will customize each trip to that school's topic preferences and experience level. Teachers who would like to participate in this one-of-kind field trip will also receive a grant to pay for a portion of transportation costs and a free lunch for all students and faculty/staff. Dates are now open for fall field trips; tours and other activities relating to MSU Office of Recruitment can also be set for the same day if you would like a full day of activities for your students.

CyberCave 1st Year Camps and 2nd Year Camps are in the process of planning for next summer. To find out more information about the CyberCave Academy or to sign up your class or organization for a CyberCave field trip, please contact Amber Anderson at the Center for TSM at Murray State by emailing amber.anderson@murraystate.edu or calling 270-809-3987.

-picture included-

Caption: First year CyberCave Academy students enjoy their last day of camp before the CyberShow.