

Nov. 5, 2010

## YSU, EGCC: Partners to improve the region

YSU President Cynthia E. Anderson and Laura Meeks, president of Eastern Gateway Community College, met last month to continue the shared vision of both institutions to help improve

education throughout the Mahoning Valley and beyond.



YSU President Cynthia E. Anderson talks at a news conference about the growing partnership between Youngstown State University and Eastern Gateway Community College.

“If YSU is to reach its full potential as an urban research university of regional and national prominence, it is imperative that we have available in this area a robust community college education, something that we have been lacking for too long,” Anderson said at a news conference prior to the meeting.

“It is in the best interest of everyone – YSU, the cities of Warren and Youngstown, and the entire region – that the Eastern Gateway Community College is a success. It is an important piece of the puzzle that will help lead to a return to economic prosperity for the Mahoning Valley.”



EGCC President Laura Meeks addresses the news conference.

Meeks agreed.

“These are exciting times in higher education in Ohio as we work across the state on collaborations and cooperation on delivering academic programs and services to more and more residents,” she said.

“Our work with YSU is a prime example of cooperation as we work to make higher education more accessible and affordable for Ohioans. Through our work, residents will have more options that will

open greater potential for students to achieve their educational goals and have great success in life.”

Anderson and Meeks said that they meet on a regular basis and that the Board of Trustees of both institutions have also met to continue discussions on how YSU and Eastern Gateway can work together.

With its main campus in Steubenville, Eastern Gateway was created under the Strategic Plan for Higher Education 2008-2017. Youngstown is the only large metropolitan area in the state without a community college.

Eastern Gateway currently offers a variety of courses at sites throughout Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties, which lead to degrees on the associate-level. Students can then transfer to YSU and other universities to seek bachelor’s degrees and graduate-level studies.

YSU and Eastern Gateway have already partnered on several initiatives, including the Youngstown Early College, 2+2 degree programs in Columbiana County and a cooperative degree program in power plant technology. The two institutions are also initiating joint student advising and shared technology services, as well as articulation agreements on current and future academic programs.

“We look forward to continuing to develop a lasting partnership that will help increase educational attainment across the region,” said Scott R. Schulick, chair of the YSU Board of Trustees.

“Working together, YSU and Eastern Gateway will make the Valley stronger,” said Molly Seals, chair of the Eastern Gateway Board of Trustees.

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Shunta Matsumoto, left, a professor at Meijo University, watches as YSU Professor Paul Sracic lectures at the Nagoya American Center in Nagoya, Japan. It was one of Sracic's public lectures during his nine months as a Fulbright Scholar in Japan.

## **Fulbright Scholar returns to campus**

Educating college students about American politics was one of the main goals of Paul Sracic's recent nine-month term as a Fulbright Scholar in Japan.

But it wasn't the only one.

Sracic, YSU professor and chair of political science, wanted his Japanese students to learn about the city of Youngstown, as well.

"A lot of people there know about the American coasts and Hawaii, but not much is known about life in the center of the U.S.," said Sracic, who started each of his classes in Japan with a presentation on Youngstown, its politics, history and economy. "I wanted to bring that to them."

Sracic – YSU's first Fulbright Scholar since 2000 and the 10<sup>th</sup> in the university's history – returned to the campus this semester, bringing back a wealth of knowledge on Japanese culture and politics to pass on to his students here at YSU. He said he wants to motivate students to learn more about Japan as an important and growing part of the world.

“I hope I can interest students in pursuing opportunities to study abroad as a way of learning about other cultures,” said Sracic, a resident of Boardman who also directs the Rigelhaupt Pre-Law Center at YSU.

The prestigious Fulbright Program is the United States’ flagship international educational exchange program, sponsored by the Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields.

Sracic, a member of the YSU faculty since 1992, traveled and lived in Japan with his wife, Susan, and two daughters. He taught classes on the American presidency, American politics and Constitutional interpretations at the University of Tokyo and Sophia University in Tokyo. In addition, he gave a series of public lectures on the American president and mid-term elections at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, the American Consulate in Nagoya and the Tokyo American Center. He also met with Japanese parliament members, witnessed two changes in the prime minister and observed a general election.

“As a political scientist, I enjoyed being in Japan during a time of tremendous political change and having the opportunity to speak with so many current and former government officials about these changes,” he said.

But Sracic didn’t forget his students in Youngstown. “I wanted to somehow include YSU students in my experience,” he said. “I noticed they were curious and enthusiastic about the idea of one of ‘their’ professors teaching in a foreign country.”

So Sracic initiated the idea of an interactive video exchange between a class of YSU students and a class of Japanese students. With the help of the Tokyo American Center and YSU, Sracic co-moderated a question-and-answer session between students at YSU and in Tokyo that generated discussions on subjects ranging from political involvement to dating habits. It was the first time such an exchange occurred in the Japan-U.S. Program. Sracic is planning another U.S./Japan video exchange soon, hosting it this time from YSU.

*Story by Andrea Armeni*

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## Learning communities explore technology and teaching

Nearly two dozen faculty and staff are exploring ways to more effectively utilize technology in the classroom.

The initiative, created by YSU's Council on Teaching and Learning, is called Better Learning Through Technology and is designed to help faculty and staff discover not only how to use different educational technologies but how to apply them successfully to enhance student learning.

"It's an opportunity to start a campus-wide conversation about teaching with technology," said Sherry Linkon, Council chair and English professor.

Four "learning communities" comprising 21 faculty and staff members from nearly every undergraduate college, Metro Credit and the Office of Assessment have been formed. They are focusing on using multimedia and online tools to facilitate discussion and interaction, and each will develop a specific project and analyze its effectiveness.

The four learning communities are:

- **Online Collaboration and Interaction**, led by Linkon. The group is examining how to better employ social media like Facebook, wikis, e-portfolios and Blackboard.



Jena Root, assistant professor, shows how Adobe Captivate software can create music listening exercises for her students in the Dana School of Music. Root is part of a campus "learning community" exploring ways to more effectively use technology in the classroom.

- **Developing Online Learning Resources**, led by Jena Root, Music, and Teresa Volsko, Health Professions. Members of the group are working with Adobe Captivate to combine sound with visuals, developing user-friendly handouts and spreadsheets and exploring Google Docs and online discussion forums.
- **Multimedia In and Out of the Classroom**, led by Mark Vopat, Philosophy and Religious Studies. Members are finding advanced technologies approaches that compliment both traditional and web-based classes. One member, for example, is working with software that gives interactive views of the brainstem, while another is incorporating video lectures in a distance-learning environment.
- **E-portfolios as Learning Tools**, led by Suzanne Leson, Human Ecology. The group is analyzing e-portfolios, which allow students to compile in one online location the papers, projects, résumés, pictures, etc., of their academic careers. Members are finding new ways to use e-portfolios for student assessment, during classes, for a job search or interview process and even for tenure and promotion.

Linkon said the idea of communities is “what’s going to make this tick.” She pointed out the value in groups, saying that she is gaining insight into her students’ learning by working with educators in other fields.

Root added, “We’re all interested in different programs, and we’re here to share our ideas to find new solutions.” Linkon has already implemented wikis into a course, and Root has started using Captivate to design music listening exercises for her music students.

To spread the conversation on technology, a one-day institute will take place Jan. 13. Better Learning community members will lead workshops and roundtable discussions, and a keynote presentation will be given by Richard Katz, former vice president of Educause, a national organization on educational technology. The event will be open to all faculty and staff.

Better Learning Through Technology is supported by the Provost’s Office with funding for two years and is sponsored by the Council on Teaching and Learning, which provides development activities and resources for faculty. Linkon said two additional learning communities will be added next fall.

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## Innovation Center locates in Warren; YSU a key partner

The Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center Board of Directors has announced the Kresge Building in downtown Warren as the future home of the advanced energy innovation center and business accelerator, which will provide resources and services to early-stage companies. The Center is a public-private partnership between state, federal and regional stakeholders to develop and commercialize advanced energy technologies.

One goal of the Innovation Center is to build relationships with all the universities in the Tech Belt region. Youngstown State University has been a key partner since the project's inception, by securing \$2.2 million from the Department of Energy and \$500,000 from the State of Ohio Capital Fund to support the development of the Innovation Center.

"YSU is pleased to be a partner on the development of the TechBelt Energy Innovation

Center," said YSU President Cynthia Anderson. She continued, "We are looking forward to working with TBEIC to create opportunities for our students and faculty to become engaged in the entrepreneurial work of creating new energy technologies for the

21<sup>st</sup> century, and bringing high quality jobs to the Mahoning Valley."



Pogue, left, chair of the board of the Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center, announced that the former Kresge Building in downtown Warren will be the location for the new center. Also pictured, from the left, are Warren Mayor Michael O'Brien, State Sen. Capri Cafaro, U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan and Martin Abraham, dean of the YSU College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. (Photo by *The Business Journal*)

The Kresge Building's owner, Taylor Holdings Co. Ohio, and the TBEIC Board of Directors reached an agreement on the sale of the approximately 27,000 square foot building at 125 W. Market Street earlier this week.

"The goal of the Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center is to establish the City of Warren as a center for growing new businesses that will develop innovative advanced energy technologies and bring them to market. The selection of the Kresge building is yet another exciting milestone in the evolution of this project, which will ultimately have a positive impact on the

region's workforce and economy," said John Pogue, chairman of the board of directors for the Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center.

The announcement comes after a six month selection process conducted by the TBEIC Site Selection Committee, which reviewed over 20 properties in the Warren area. The committee ultimately selected the Kresge Building because of its location on public square in the downtown Warren commercial core, ability to accommodate office space and technical facilities, as well as its proximity to the proposed site for the Eastern Gateway Community College for future co-op opportunities between students and users of the Innovation Center.

"The Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center will be catalytic for our community," said U.S. Congressman Tim Ryan (D- Niles), who was instrumental in securing initial DOE support for the Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center. He continued, "By supporting entrepreneurship and innovation, this facility will create the environment that we need to generate ideas, wealth, and jobs. The Mahoning Valley has a long history of success in the automobile and steel industries; now we have the infrastructure to create that same kind of success in alternative energy."

"Ohio has the potential to be a formidable leader in the field of advanced energy," said Senator Capri Cafaro (D- Hubbard). She continued, "Now is the time for Trumbull County to diversify beyond its steel and auto industry heritage to be competitive in the new economy. I believe the Warren Innovation Center project takes us one step closer towards achieving that vision."

Another goal of the Innovation Center is to complement Warren's revitalization plan for public square and downtown commercial properties. As such, project leaders have been working closely with the City of Warren officials to align the Innovation Center with strategic economic development objectives in Warren and Trumbull County.

"The Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center will serve as an important driver of Warren's transformation to a more diversified technology economy that will create high value jobs and draw new investment to our city and region," said Warren Mayor Michael O'Brien. He continued, "The City of Warren is a committed partner in the project and I look forward to working with the TBEIC Board and other community leaders to ensure the Innovation Center's success."

"The Innovation Center's location will help us leverage connections and opportunities within the Tech Belt - Northeast Ohio-Pittsburgh-Morgantown, West Virginia corridor - to attract additional talent, companies and capital to the project," said Rebecca O. Bagley, president and CEO of NorTech, a regional technology based economic development organization facilitating efforts to develop the Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center in partnership with community leaders. She continued, "We see the Innovation Center as a central testing and demonstration hub that can be accessed by other companies and research institutions throughout the entire Tech Belt region."

Other partners in the project include The Trumbull 100, The City of Warren, Youngstown State University, Trumbull County, The Raymond John Wean Foundation, the Youngstown Business Incubator, Youngstown Warren Regional Chamber, AST2, The Fund for Our



Economic Future, JumpStart, The Ohio Department of Development, The National Energy Technology Lab and numerous community members and businesses involved in regional economic development.

The TBEIC Board is actively raising funds from the regional business and philanthropic community to provide matching support for the project and is more than half way toward achieving their fundraising goal. The first phase of construction on the initial 12,000 sq. ft. of mixed office and technical space will be complete by mid 2011.

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## Faculty/staff awards, presentations, publications

**Yogen Panta**, assistant professor of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, published a book entitled *Action of Magnetohydrodynamics on the Detection of Mercury*. The work focuses on the detection of mercury (II) ions in aqueous solutions under the effects of electromagnetic fields, and his research develops an ultrasensitive mercury sensor for these ions.

**Sylvia J. Imler**, associate professor, Counseling and Special Education, published a manuscript from her research entitled, “Becoming Culturally Responsive: A Need for Preservice Candidates,” in *Teacher Education and Practice*, the journal of the Texas Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.

**Virgil C. Solomon**, assistant professor, Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, and **Timothy R. Wagner**, professor of Chemistry, along with Klaus-Markus Peters and Brian P. Hetzel from Fireline Inc., presented “Characterization of structure evolution in aged Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/SiC composite refractories by electron microscopy” at the Microscopy & Microanalysis 2010 Conference in Portland, Ore. An extended abstract of the presentation was published in a 2010 issue of *Microscopy and Microanalysis*.

**Christine Dennison**, instructor, Marketing, and **Leigh Ann Waring**, coordinator of Career and Counseling Services, presented “Blending Academia and Experiential Learning: Developing a Career Intervention for the Millennial Generation” at the JAME Fall Educators Conference in Indianapolis.

**Birsen Karpak** and **Anne McMahon**, professors of Management, presented “Success Factors of a Manufacturing SME in Ohio: Women Perspective” at the EURO 2010 Conference in Lisbon, Portugal.

# e.Update

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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## Homecoming 2010

*A parade, a coronation and football highlighted the annual YSU Homecoming celebration on Oct. 30. Above left, Ashley Jones and Richard Okello are crowned Homecoming Queen and King. Jones of Wilmington, Del., is a junior special education major. She is a member of Alpha Omega Pi sorority and is a resident assistant. Okello of Youngstown is a senior communication studies major. He is a member of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, the Premier Poet's Guild, Lambda Pi Eta and the Rookery Radio Student Advisory Board. Above, Cynthia E. Anderson participates in her first Homecoming Parade since becoming university president. And, YSU students whoop it up during the Penguins' football game against Northern Iowa in Stambaugh Stadium.*



*becoming university president. And, YSU students whoop it up during the Penguins' football game against Northern Iowa in Stambaugh Stadium.*

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## *Around campus...*

*As the fall semester heads into the homestretch, the YSU campus is alive with an array of activities. At the left is Anthony Halloin, an accomplished musician and member of the U.S. Navy Band who performed in Bliss Hall as part of the Dana School of Music's annual Octubafest celebration; below left is Ulrika Martensson of Norwegian University of Science and Technology, one of several international scholars who spoke at the seminar "Islam in Scandinavia" sponsored by the YSU center for Islamic Studies; and below is Rick Logan, news editor at The Vindicator and a member of the YSU journalism faculty, who made a presentation at the annual Press Day in Kilcawley Center.*



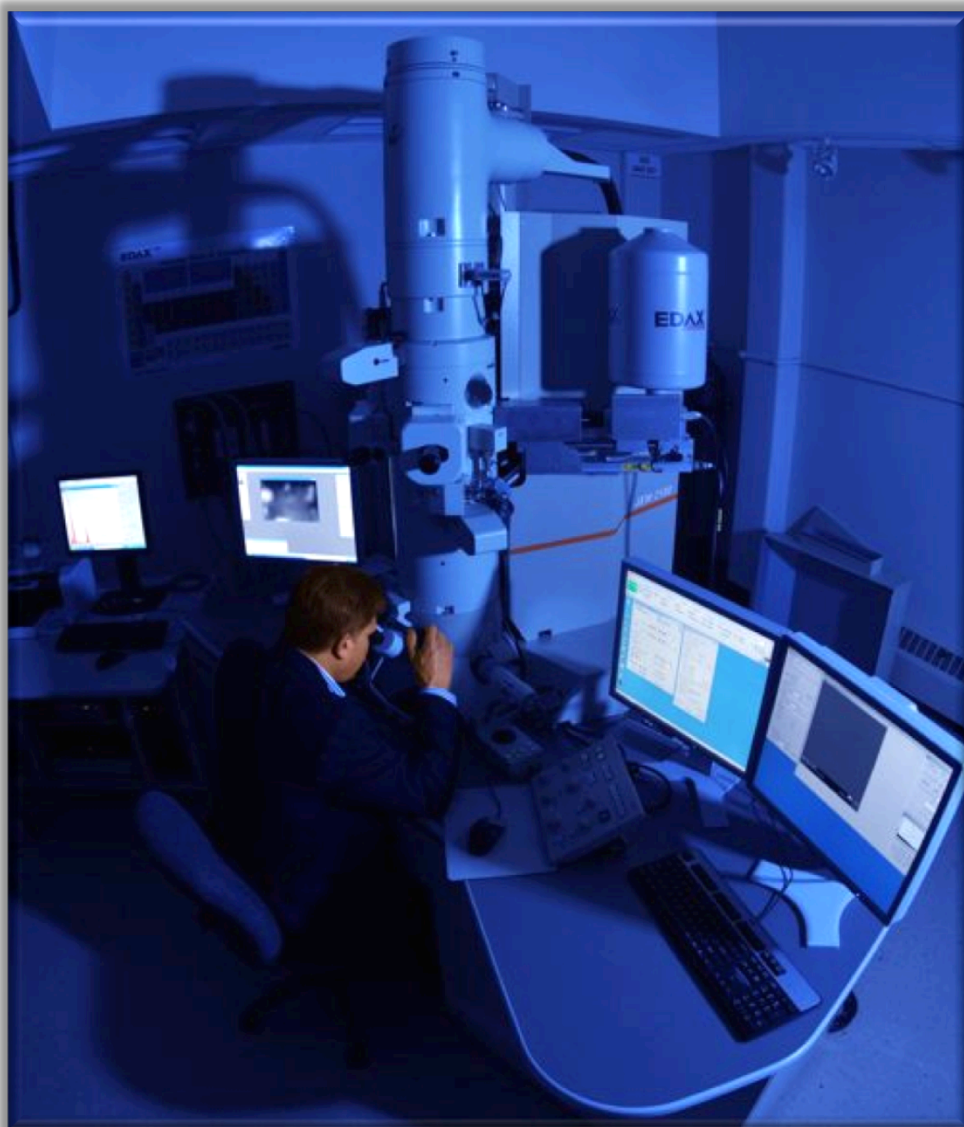
# e·Update

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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## *Research luncheon is Nov. 3*

Research at YSU is celebrated at the annual Research Recognition Luncheon 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 3 in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center. At right, Chemistry Professor Tim Wagner works with the scanning electron microscope in the new YSU Center for Advanced Materials Analysis in Cushwa Hall.



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## **Vets remembered at Nov. 10 ceremony**

The names of YSU students and employees who died while on active military duty will be read at a ceremony 10 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10 at Veterans Plaza on the YSU campus.

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Reading of the Names ceremony will also feature a 21-gun salute and the playing of taps. In addition, the YSU Office of Veterans Affairs will present the Cincinnatus Award. The award recognized an individual who has carried the spirit of his or her military service into the community by the contributions of their time and talents.

For more information, contact the YSU Office of Veterans Affairs at 330-941-2503 or 330-941-2523.



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Wendy Webb

## **Jabali celebration features Youngstown superintendent**

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual “Jabali” African Cultural Celebration will be 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center on the campus of YSU.

The event, sponsored by the YSU Africana Studies Program and co-sponsored by the Youngstown Chapter of the United Nations, will feature entertainment from the Harambee Youth Group and the African Students Union. Wendy Webb, retiring superintendent of the Youngstown City Schools, will give a keynote address on the topic “The Unsung Heroes of the Youngstown Public Schools.”

Dinner is \$25 per person, \$10 for students or \$175 for a table of eight. For more information, call 330-941-3097.

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## Raga Boyz performs Nov. 21 on campus

Raga Boyz, an internationally renowned group from Pakistan and India, will perform in concert 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center on the campus of YSU.

The concert, which is part of the YSU Performing Arts Series, is free and open to the public. Parking is available in the Wick Avenue M-1 deck for a \$5.

Raga Boyz consists of the four sons of renowned Patiala Gharana singer Ustad Hamid Ali Khan – Inam Ali Khan, Nayab Ali Khan, Ahmad Hassan Ali Khan and Wali Hamid Ali Khan.

The Patiala Gharana genre, in Hindustani music, is a system of social organization linking musicians or dancers by lineage and/or apprenticeship and by adherence to a particular musical style. Raga is a Sanskrit term that refers to one of the melodic modes used in Indian classical music composed of five or more musical notes upon which a melody is made.

Raga Boyz has to its credit many popular songs, including Pakistan's *T-20 World Cup Cricket — 2010 song*. The band blends classical, semi-classical, hip-hop and rock and uses up tempo lyrics and verses.

The concert is sponsored by the YSU Performing Arts Series, the Pakistani Community of Greater Youngstown, with support from the YSU Office of the Provost, Center for Islamic Studies, Center for International Studies and Programs and Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity.



Raga Boyz

For more information, call 330-941-7448.



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## **Archaeologist speaks on campus Nov. 18**

Noted archaeologist James Adovasio, dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa., will speak as part of the YSU Anthropology Colloquium 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center.

Adovasio, who also is director of the Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute, will talk about “The Invisible Sex.”

Adovasio earned a Ph.D. from the University of Utah in 1970 and a D.Sc. from Washington and Jefferson University in 1983. Before arriving at Mercyhurst in 1990, he was chair of the anthropology department at the University of Pittsburgh.



**James Adovasio**

One of Adovasio’s best-known works is the Meadowcroft Rockshelter site in Pennsylvania and his involvement in the debate on the colonization of the American continents. The Meadowcroft work, which began in June 1973, has funding by the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society, among others.

Another of Adovasio’s main interests is the role of women, children and elderly people in prehistory and their relative absence from discussions of archaeological materials and theory. He has worked to reverse the gender bias in archaeology and to demonstrate that the stereotypical way that ice-age life is typically portrayed (groups of men running around with spears, killing big animals) are incorrect.

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## **IT conference focuses on women in STEM**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual “We are IT” Conference, designed to expose young women to careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, will be Friday, Nov. 19, on the YSU campus.

The one-day professional information technology conference will help familiarize young women in grades 7 through 10 with various aspects of IT and other STEM disciplines and to encourage them to continue their education and pursue a career in one of the STEM fields.

Participants will attend two sessions and choose from eight workshops scheduled for each session. Workshops include: Engineering (Bridge Construction or Building a Digital Counter), Computer Science and Information Systems (How to Program with Alice, Building Lego Robots, Working with Binary Numbers, Cryptography: Writing Secret Codes; or Flash Animation), and the Planetarium (Behind the Console at the Planetarium).

The keynote speaker is Tianyi Ma Krupka. Krupka defied the odds, leaving a remote farming village in northeast China and immigrating to the United States in 1999 and has since earned a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering.

The conference is an initiative of the Ohio IT Business Advisory Network produced with funds provided by the federal Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Act and through a grant from the Office of Career-Technical and Adult Education, Ohio Department of Education.

Sponsors for the program include Mahoning County Career and Technical Center and several Youngstown State University affiliates (Division of Student Affairs, Alumni and Events Management, Department of Student Life, Department of Associate Degrees and Tech Prep Programs, Department of Computer Science and Information Systems, School of Engineering Technology, CISCO Regional Academy, the History Department, Athletics Department, College of Fine and Performing Arts, College of Health and Human Services - Dental Hygiene). Other sponsors include Ohio Department of Education, Industrial Information Institute for Education Incorporated and the Youngstown City Schools.

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## **YSU alum featured in Tech Prep Forum**

YSU alumnus Rhonda Chicone, chief technology officer and vice president of Product Development for Notify Technology Corp., is the featured speaker at the Mahoning Area Consortium Tech Prep's Annual Stakeholders' Forum.

The forum is 8 to 9:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 15, in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center on the campus of YSU.

Notify Technology Corporation is a Silicon Valley based software company specializing in wireless mobile software products and services. Notify's Research and Development Center is located in Canfield.

Chicone joined Notify in 1997 and has served as CTO since 2010 and as vice president of engineering and product development since 2001. Prior to joining Notify, Chicone held a variety of software engineering management positions, including president of Tech-Xpress Enterprises Inc. and vice president of software development for Techware Designs Inc. Chicone holds a Ph.D. in applied computer Science from Northcentral University, a master's degree in technology from Kent State University, and a bachelor's degree in computer science from YSU.

Complimentary parking is available in the Wick parking deck on Wick Avenue. Continental breakfast will be served.

The deadline to register is Nov. 10. To register, follow this link:

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dDFKdWV6X1VWWkV3OXVXVDloNUZvcnc6MQ>.

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## **YSU, Sodexo shoot for #1 in food drive**

YSU and Sodexo Campus Services have teamed up to help stop hunger with the Helping Hands Across America initiative that runs through Nov. 12.

The program is designed to help community members in need by collecting and donating non-perishable food items to local charities like the Rescue Mission, St. Vincent De Paul Society and Second Harvest Food Bank. Donations may be dropped off Mondays through Fridays at locations on the YSU campus including, Kilcawley Center and Christman Dining Commons. On Nov. 15, donations will be weighed, recorded and distributed.

Helping Hands Across America is a nationwide Sodexo program running simultaneously on college and university campuses across the country. In 2009, YSU ranked fifth in college/university campuses across the nation with a total of 11,200 pounds donated.

For more information, contact Kim Bacchetti at 330-941-1977.