

VENTURE ACADEMICS Q3

Community Engagement: Trading Grounds Coffee

This semester we are offering Advanced Business, taught by Corey Brinkmeyer. Corey reconnected with former LM student Shawn Keating who is in the process of opening a new coffee house, [Trading Grounds Coffee](#).

Keating came to the Venture space and shared his journey with the business students. He shared about his education, skills he developed in other roles, and personal strengths. He talked about his goals for his coffee house, challenges he had to work through and the numerous details he had to organize and execute to bring his vision to reality.

Students were given the opportunity to work on some digital marketing for Keating. They each built a website option and compiled a list of tips for using social marketing. They outlined the age demographics that use each social platform, researched frequency of posting for effectiveness, and shared which types of content gets the most engagement.

At the conclusion of the project students had the opportunity to go to the TGC location and present their work to Keating. They also got to tour the building and try some of Trading Grounds delicious cookie dough. We appreciate Keating sharing his time with these students.

HERE'S THE SCOOP:

TRADING GROUNDS COFFEE

MEDCO SUPPORT

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

**NASA PLANT THE MOON
CHALLENGE**



Website design presentations



Trading Grounds Tour

MEDCO Support

Marion Economic Development Corp. has been a key partner for Venture Academics. They have facilitated many connections with local businesses and professionals. MEDCO Staff have also come to speak to students, assisted with mock interviews, and are providing an internship to a Venture Digital Design student. Thank you, MEDCO!

Behavioral Science

The Behavioral Science strand is made up of Intro to Psychology and Sociology courses. Chelsea Dill is the instructor for this strand. Chelsea made a connection with two different UK sociology teachers in order to do a "Cultural Exchange" project. Each class would compile items that represent their unique culture to fill boxes to send to the other classes. Our students included items in their boxes such as; merchandise from the Roar Store, snacks, candy, games, items from the military recruiter's offices, etc. Students created print information about various aspects of our culture; education, transportation, leisure activities, currency, religion, housing, and eating establishments. Students also wrote short biographies sharing about their families, ethnic backgrounds, and personal interests.

The Behavioral Science class has received one of the boxes so far (the other will arrive this summer) and enjoyed seeing the things the UK students sent. They observed many differences between our cultures. It was a great learning experience.

Another unique opportunity the Behavioral Science students had this semester was to do Psychology "observations" at local organizations/businesses. Students would be placed at a location with a partner from class to interact with individuals and then would rotate to a new location every 2 weeks. Students participated in observations with infants and 4 year olds (Hand in Hand Daycare), elementary students (Indian Creek Elementary), Linn-Mar High School students with learning or physical disabilities, and worked in assisted living and dementia units (Summit Pointe).

Students were able to apply and observe things they were learning about in their Psychology course in the interactions they had and then share what they were learning with each other.



Behavioral Science students compiling items to fill their cultural exchange boxes.



Venture students visiting the Marion Fire Dept. Station 1



Environmental Science students visiting Linn County Solid Waste

NASA Plant the Moon Challenge

Two of our Venture strands; AP Environmental Science and Life Science are participating in the [NASA Plant the Moon Challenge](#).

NASA's Artemis Program is the United States' new initiative to return to the Moon. Artemis will explore more of the lunar surface than ever before. However, returning humans to the Moon is challenging in many ways. One of the challenges is providing food to the crews. Being able to grow food on the moon would open possibilities for greater exploration.

Participants in the Plant the Moon Challenge are joining a global science experiment and research challenge to examine how vegetable crops can grow in lunar soil. Students are designing and conducting a set of experiments using a lunar soil simulant to grow crops for a future long-duration mission.

During the 10 week growing period, students document their experiments with various types of additives to the soils, varying amounts of water and use of fertilizers. These results will be presented in a virtual symposium to NASA scientists and program executives and the best experiments will receive rewards.



Life Science students working on the Plant the Moon Challenge