

Cumberland County High School Student honored for his Technology Workshops and Start-up Business



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FRANKFORT, KY - As a senior at Cumberland County High School, 17-year-old Dakota Vincent has already found a career in the high-technology world.

“To me, technology is like the force. It touches every living thing and it binds us. Everything from animals to fruit is impacted by technological development,” he said.

On February 24, Dakota was honored with ConnectKentucky’s 2009 Secondary Student Technology Award at the 2009 Kentucky Tech Day.

The Secondary Student Technology Award goes to a Kentucky high school student who has recognized the benefits of using technology and has promoted its use in creative and inspiring ways.

“Dakota is a shining example of a Kentucky high school who let technology open doors in his life outside of the classroom,” according to Rene True, executive director of ConnectKentucky. “I look forward to seeing more success from Dakota in the coming years.”

Dakota is the co-owner of a small business named Sentinel Shadow where he does computer and networking assistance for people and businesses. His first major client was a local police department in a neighboring county.

Also, as a sophomore, he gave a free community workshop called *How to Build a Personal Computer* with two other students. He has continued with these workshops, offering one in Burkesville called *What Can Google Do for You*. In this program, Dakota found an open source program (CDI Studio) to create a CD of interfaces that he provided to each workshop participant.

Along with this work and his regular high school classes, Dakota is enrolled in an independent study course under the supervision of the Cumberland County School District Technology Coordinator/Chief Information Officer. In this study, he is preparing for his A+ certification exam.

Dakota, the son of Randall and Vickie Vincent, plans to major in computer and electrical engineering with a minor in computer science at either Western Kentucky University or the University of Kentucky.

“The human race is developing technology faster than the end users can keep up with,” he said. “It is important for us to have technology available in schools so that we can at least have some understanding of the technology available, even though we may not be up-to-speed with rest of the world.”

To learn more about ConnectKentucky and the 2009 Tech Day in Kentucky, visit www.connectkentucky.org or contact Donna C. Drury, ConnectKentucky, ddrury@connectky.org, (502) 875-7501.

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About ConnectKentucky: ConnectKentucky is leading the way into a new economy for Kentuckians. As an independent technology-based economic development organization, ConnectKentucky works to ensure that Kentucky remains the place of choice to live, work and raise a family. ConnectKentucky is an alliance of technology-minded businesses, government entities and universities working together to accelerate technology in the Commonwealth.