

Community Roundup: Local youth wins Ohio State Fair Burger Battle

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(Photo: Submitted)
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FREMONT - Vanguard Tech culinary arts student Layne Earnest won first place in the ProStart Capital City Burger Battle at the Ohio State Fair on Sunday.

Layne, 16, competed against eight other entries and brought home the top prize for her Southwest Burger recipe. She received a \$250 cash prize, a Golden Burger trophy, and of course bragging rights.

The contest, sponsored by the Ohio Beef Council, encourages all high school students who are currently enrolled in a confirmed ProStart program recognized by the Ohio Restaurant Association Education Foundation to compete in the annual contest. There are 59 schools throughout Ohio eligible to participate.

“Layne is a great student who consistently produced high quality work in the classroom and lab this past year,” said Russell Markwith, culinary instructor. “This was a great opportunity for her to showcase the skills she is learning at the Vanguard Tech Center and at the same time a unique event which helps move her one step closer to her dream of one day owning her own restaurant. This real-world experience is priceless when training kids for in-demand careers and demonstrates that hard work pays off.”

Earnest spent five weeks over the summer working with her instructor to perfect her flavorful recipe and entry which used 1 pound of ground beef to create three servings. The one-hour competition was broken down into a 10-minute pre-prep period to sanitize and set up work stations; 30 minutes for production and plating; 10 minutes for presentation and feedback; and 10 minutes for station clean-up. The contest was judged on: Creativity, Taste, Appearance, Costing, Menu Pricing, Sanitation and Organization/Workflow.

Preston-Collins, both of whom are a Firefighters/EMTs. They also approved a resolution of necessity to place a 0.6 mill levy on the November ballot.