Kentucky vocational school receives biodiesel award
By Luke Geiver
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Kentucky Stump knew that Kentucky school teachers wanted to implement biodiesel production into their curriculum. She recently awarded $5,000 to the Franklin County Career and Technical Center to help the FCCTC further develop its biodiesel projects. Stump, the manager of the environmental assistance brand of the Kentucky division of compliance, received a fellowship last October from an alliance made up of Toyota and the Audubon Society for a program she started, called the Kentucky Biofuels for Schools grant program.

Biodiesel Magazine first spoke with Stump soon after the program started and she was still seeking out mentors and partners for the program. Now, Stump and the FCCTC have a partner in Loyola University out of Chicago that will supply a biodiesel processor to the project that the university designed specifically for the school’s use. The processor will use WVO from the district school’s cafeteria, and the FCCTC will create a curriculum guide, an instructional DVD and act as a mentor to other schools. Along with the biodiesel project comes the recognition for the school as the first technical center to become a member of KY EXCEL, Kentucky’s environmental leadership program.

Stump said the school will offer vocational students “the perfect environment to discover science, learn about energy conservation and teach essential green job training skills,” and, “when the students learn core concepts using biofuels, everyone benefits, including the environment. We hope,” she added, “that FCCTC will be a model program for other schools in Kentucky.”

The goal of the Kentucky Biofuels for Schools program is to “teach, produce and use biofuels within schools and communities,” and to win the $5,000 grant, the vocational school demonstrated a project that had long-term vision, was willing to attend training sessions from the Kentucky Biofuels for Schools program and also garnered support and commitments from three community partners.

Other fellows that received grants from the alliance between Toyota and the Audubon Society, called TogetherGreen, include projects that range from creating local renewable-energy-sourced jobs in Oakland, Calif., to helping Detroit youth save energy and pursue green jobs.