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- Hutchcc.edu
- The Hutch News
- The Wichita Eagle
- The Topeka CJ
- The Kansas City Star

**AWARDS**

- Member:**  
KACP, CMA,  
CCJA
- All-Kansas Award:**  
1994, 1997, 1999
- Gold Medalist:**  
1991, 1993,  
1995, 2000,  
Online 2001

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# HCC students fare well in various fair projects

By Tyler Harbert  
*Staff Writer*

As visitors pour into the Kansas State Fair, the Hutchinson Community College track team and the Dragon Dolls are there working behind the scenes of the annual event and earning some extra cash along the way.

The 13-member Dragon Doll dance squad is working two different jobs at this year's fair, which runs Sept. 10-19.

The Cottonwood Hills housing development group hired the Dragon Dolls to work its booth in the Pride of Kansas building every day of the fair.

Cottonwood Hills is a planned golf community six miles east of Hutchinson and is owned by Lane Neville, who is the son of the Dragon Dolls coach Bonnie Neville.

The Dragon Dolls greet visitors to the booth and distribute informational pamphlets regarding the planned community.

"We talk to people about the golf course and we see if they have an interest in having a home there," said Dragon Doll Whitney Trowbridge, Buhler. "We're trying to get the word out."

The Dragon Dolls also greet and give out maps to passengers aboard the fair's mass transportation buses that haul visitors from the Hutchinson mall to the fairgrounds.

"It's a relaxing job and it gives me time to get my homework done," said Dragon Doll Linda Bonilla, Salina.

The Dragon Dolls use the money they make during the fair to pay for scholarships and also to help fund their annual spring trip to the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Each team member is required to work 10 shifts between the bus and the booth at the fair and each shift is three hours long.

Neville said that fundraising during the fair has been a great opportunity for her team.

"The girls do an unbelievable job and they work really hard and with great attitudes," she said.

Neville added that her team has worked as "Trolley Dollys" at the fair for 15 years and in other capacities for 25 years.

The track team, headed by Coach Pat Becher, has also found a way to fundraise at the fair.

Coaches and athletes from the track and cross-country teams are helping to regulate parking in the large lot across from the grandstands throughout both weekends of the fair.

“The weekends are the busiest times of the fair and the parking is a real mess if no one is out there helping,” Becher said.

The group will receive a paycheck of nearly \$3,000 for their 10-day job at the close of the fair and will use the money to finance scholarships and equipment.

Becher said his teams have worked for the fair for five years and he estimates that they assist in parking more than 20,000 cars each year.

“I feel good about the job,” Becher said. “It helps the fair and the community and it’s good publicity for HCC.”

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