



Spring 2021

TheArkTVCC.org



TheArkTVCC



DIRECTOR'S CUT

Finding Hope During a Difficult Year

The Williamson Family

Ark director Blake Williamson with his wife Ashley, an eighth grade math teacher in Athens, and their children: Karis -10, Kieran - 8, Kannon 6.

To say this year has been difficult, different, confusing, and trying would be an understatement! Despite all of these obstacles, we have worked hard to connect with our students and bring encouragement and hope during this unique year. We have tried to set up ways to connect with students virtually and create small teaching videos. Through all of this one of the things that has become clear is that connecting and engaging with our students works best in person.

We were not able to have our large FCA gatherings of 50-100 students this year. We wanted to be a good partner with TVCC and reduce student contact among different groups. With so many of our students being involved in organizations, we didn't want FCA to be a place where students may put other students at risk. So instead, I spoke with coaches and began to meet with our teams individually.

Even this was a challenge at times with different groups and myself included having to quarantine at different times. But the good news is this: despite all our adversity, we were able to connect with our students and build relationships with them. This became the goal

midway through the year. Connect with the students enough that they know who I am, know what FCA is, so that next year when our campus opens back up we are ready to hit the ground running!!

Despite the struggles and adversity that this year presented, I believe that the Ark will find itself even stronger as we move forward. We used this opportunity to reexamine what is working, to think creatively for how we connect with students moving into the future, and find even more effective ways of meeting students where they are.

I want to thank you for your support of the Ark and let you know that we are excited about what the future holds for the Ark and TVCC students. Without your prayers, resources, and financial support we would not be able to serve, encourage, and bring a message of hope found in Jesus to our students.

Blake Williamson
Director of the Ark



(Pictured above/left - Softball) I was able to speak with our softball team about areas that will help them grow as athletes and in their faith. We discussed focusing on the right things to help us grow in all areas of our lives. (Above right) - The game day devotional is a key area to connect with our football team and help them grow in their faith.



(Pictured above left) This year's preseason leadership and team development was a unique venture. Usually held in the fall and in the field house this year's development was held in the auditorium to allow for social distancing. Over 5 weeks our players learned how sacrifice, a positive mindset, seeking the best in others, and being a great teammate helps us grow as team and in our faith. (Above right) After a long year of training and speaking often about perseverance with our team, Cardinal Cheer were national champs!!

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES



Over the past several years Blake has delivered game day devotionals to our team, team building thoughts and exercises, and personal development with an emphasis on leadership. He always brings a great message, a story that the kids can relate too, and has a way to combine sport with faith. He is able to direct his messages towards what our team needs to hear on any given day (pulse of the team).

- Sherard Poteete - TVCC Head Football Coach



The Ark has provided an opportunity for our student-athletes to participate in FCA. FCA provides an important fellowship with one another, especially in these trying times, that is outside of our daily grind of strength and conditioning, practice, film sessions, study hall and travel. It also provides an opportunity to make a connection with other student-athletes from other teams that our athletes look forward to. FCA provides an escape from social media and negativity and allows our student-athletes an opportunity to create the type of atmosphere and culture they want to be part of here as TVCC athletes. This also provides them with the strength & leadership skills once they leave us to create this type of impact in society once they move on. This is definitely more of what the world needs these days.

- Kathleen "Mama Coach" Rodriquez - TVCC Head Softball Coach



FCA has given me a lot more than just religious motivation. Emotionally and physically FCA has been important to me because it gives me the right push in the right direction whenever I am feelings down. I can go to church but the message isn't always directed towards my challenges. As cheerleaders we go through lots of adversity and difficult times where we just need an extra pat on the back to keep us on the path we've been on for so long. When we attend FCA, hearing the word of God in a different manner that keeps the message towards hardships that us athletes endure and a message that give motivation and principles that keep our heads on straight is something that's been important to me as well as my teammates.

- Taylor Johnson - TVCC Cheer



FCA has been able to impact our team even through COVID-19. It's given players and coaches the opportunity to hear the Word of God through their respective sports. It reminds players about love and passion that God the Father gives to us each and every day through this trying time. Reminds us of the gift he gave use to play our sports and that it's all for him. FCA has given us the advice we need to be leaders of a Christian movement in our sport. -

Sam Neuman - TVCC Football

From one Courtney to Another Courtney



When I first arrived in 2010 to be the Executive Director of the Ark I knew that we needed people connected to TVCC on our board. I reached out to Courtney Curran who was at the time the Director of Student Life at TVCC. She was coordinating all of the student events on campus and the advisor for Student Government Association so I knew she was deeply involved with TVCC students. Without hesitation she said she would love to be a part of the Ark Board of Directors. After over ten years of faithful service and dedication, Courtney is stepping off the Ark Board. We are so thankful for helping us better understand how to connect with TVCC so we might serve them well.

Although Courtney is stepping down, we are excited to announce that Courtney Skiles will be joining the Ark Board. Courtney Skiles will be an excellent addition to our board and replacement for Courtney Curran being that their offices at TVCC are about 15 feet apart! Please welcome Courtney Skiles to the board and read about her excitement below about being involved with the Ark. - BW

Hello all, my name is Courtney Skiles and I am excited to be a member of the Ark Board this year! As a former TVCC Cardette and FCA member, I am aware of how deeply important it is for our students to have this ministry present on campus. As a current Recruiter for TVCC, I am looking forward to coming up with creative ideas to best serve our students this Fall. Thank you for your support that allows us to serve and minister to the students at TVCC in order to transform their lives.

Courtney Skiles



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