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**College students from New York visit Thornton Landscape**

*Maineville, Ohio* – The professionals at Thornton Landscape heard a lot of questions Tuesday – about the hot customer trends in outdoor fireplaces, about how a bubbling rock fountain at a home in River’s Bend was installed and about what today’s economy means to landscaping.

The inquisitive juniors and seniors visited the Maineville landscaping company on Tuesday from the State University of New York – Cobleskill (SUNY-Cobleskill) and their professor visited as part of their Landscape Firm Management class, a part of the bachelor’s degree program in landscape contracting at the university.

“This is part of a nine-day tour of different firms in the landscape industry as we make our way to the Green Industry Expo in Louisville. It’s truly an experience that could never be duplicated in the classroom; it’s like an M.B.A. on wheels,” said Jack Ingels, professor of landscaping at SUNY-Cobleskill, who made the arrangements to tour Thornton Landscape. “What makes this company different is their concentration on design-build. The students get a great collective comparative study of the industry, management, leadership and even landscape techniques.”

Bobby Beers, president of the landscape club at the university, said the tour provides preparation for the kinds of positions the students can expect to be in after graduation.



“It provides a great sense of the opportunities we can look forward to in the industry,” said Beers, 23, of Hyde Park, New York. “It’s also a good chance to compare different management processes and see how those differ from company to company.”

While visiting Thornton Landscape, the students visited several sites landscaped by the company, including the River’s Bend, Miami Bluffs and Heritage at Miami Bluffs neighborhoods, as well as a residential home in the Maineville area.

Andy Doesburg, vice president for sales and marketing at Thornton Landscape, said educating the next generation of landscape professionals is an important priority to the company. In the past, they’ve had visitors from The Ohio State University and other area colleges. The company and its president, Rick Doesburg, also support a scholarship through the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) for students studying landscape related fields. This year, the award went to a student at Columbus State University.

“We recognize that quality education, and even certification, provides the customer with the best possible team to implement a custom landscape design and expert installation. And we know that by sharing our knowledge, we can contribute to the future professionals and leaders in our industry,” Rick Doesburg said.

Thornton Landscape, founded in 1961, is located in Maineville, Ohio, and provides comprehensive landscape services from design through installation to the residential and commercial markets to develop truly custom landscape designs. They also serve homeowners’ associations, businesses and neighborhood developments with maintenance services. Thornton Landscape employs 45 professionals who have extensive experience and certification in the landscaping industry, and they have earned numerous awards for design excellence. For more information, visit [www.thorntonlandscape.com](http://www.thorntonlandscape.com).

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