Blast from the Past

Our educators at the Career & Technical Education Division of Orange-Ulster BOCES, are always thrilled to hear about the success of our graduates...

On October 4, 2017, Career & Tech hosted their Fall Open House. Stephen & Amy Kurpick attended the Open House to meet their son Matthew’s Law Enforcement instructor, Ken Wallace. As they were walking to the Law Enforcement Academy, the staff member bringing them, Lenore Franzese, pointed out the other CTE Academies as they went by. When she pointed out the Construction Academy, Mr. Kurpick responded, “Oh yes, I remember from when I attended here for Electrical. It was a long time ago…” With that, she asked, “do you remember your teacher’s name?” He said, “I do. I had Mr. Kent and Mr. Grady.” Lenore said, “Oh wow…” Mr. Grady is still here, but he’s retiring at the end of this school year. We have time; let me bring you to say hello. He said, “Sure, but I don’t think he’ll remember me.” Lenore announced, as they entered Dan Grady’s room, “Mr. Grady, I have a blast from the past.” As she introduced Stephen and his wife Amy to Mr. Grady, Stephen said to his former teacher, “I don’t know if you remember me?” Dan said, “I do. There’s a road I pass, in Port Jervis, with your name, every time I pass it I think of you”.

The two continued to catch up with one another and then Mr. & Mrs. Kurpick went to visit their son’s teacher. After graduating from the Career & Technical Electrical program, Stephen became an apprentice at IBEW Local 363. He then went on to work for a private electrical firm before opening his own company about 10 years ago, A&K Construction in Otisville, specializing in residential jobs.

Stephen Kurpick takes great pride in his work. He has built a reputation on his attention to detail and always watching out for the best interest of his customers. He credits his CTE Educational Program with giving him firsthand experience and providing him the foundation to build on. It also fostered his love for working in the construction industry.

It was nice for Dan Grady to see the lifetime success of his former student, especially as he prepares to retire. Mr. Grady has been an electrical instructor, here, for the past 28 years and has many, many successful students working in the industry. We wish him all the best in his retirement. It is well deserved.

Fire Science at CTE

Orange Ulster BOCES is the only Career and Technical Education program in New York that allows students to earn Firefighter 1 certification. The program is physically and mentally challenging. The Fire Science students practice their skills at the Orange County Fire Training Center in Goshen, NY. Wayne Clarke, Middletown Fire Department (Retired) is the primary instructor for the program. The training center provides additional instructors which allows the students an experience of diverse instruction. All of the Orange County Fire Science instructors are certified with vast infield experience as well as specialized training and certifications. These instructors include: Neal Russell, FDNY Rescue 1 in Manhattan, Duane Roach, City of Newburgh Fire Department, Wayne VanderMeulen, Monticello Municipal Training Officer. There are also many other instructors at the training center that interact with the students. Each possess a wealth of field experience. Collectively, the instructors and training teams bring over 100 years of fire training and safety experience!

Shane Fuller, Class Commander and a Port Jervis High School student, has been very excited about the skills that he has learned at the Fire Science Training Center and at CTE. He is a member of the Port Jervis Volunteer Fire Department. Shane plans on pursuing a career in Fire Science. Training is completed in complete Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). The combined weight is approximately 80 lbs.

What’sStylin’ at CTE

By June 30, 2017, thirteen CTEC Cosmetology II students from one class completed the necessary 1,000 hours to be eligible for the New York State Cosmetology Licensing Exam! All thirteen of these successful CTE students passed the exam by the end of July!

Haley Pepe (Minisink Valley High School) completed the mandated hours by May 22, 2017 and took the state exam written and practical portions on June 19, 2017. While standing in line waiting for the CTE Recognition Ceremony, Haley learned she had successfully passed both.

From this very successful class, 11 students were licensed Cosmetologists by June 23, 2017. Haley Pepe, Kayley-Teslia Stevens (Minisink Valley High School), Nicole Mott (Valley Central High School), Veronica Madden (Pine Bush High School), Tiffany Walker (Valley Central High School), Casey Martinez (Washingtonville High School), Ashley Cooper (Valley Central High School), Whitney Ewing (Marlboro High School), Rachael Faso (Valley Central High School), and Kylie Quinn (Warwick Valley High School) all graduated from both CTE and High School as New York State Cosmetology Licensees. While attending Valley Central High School, Colleen attended CTE for Cosmetology. Within 2 months of graduation, Colleen attended her Cosmetology license and has been working and teaching in the Cosmetology field since then.
With this issue of CTE Works we are introducing a new column entitled “Tell A Teacher”. This column showcases how Career and Technical Education positively impacted the lives of students who passed through our doors.

Appearance Careers Academy

“CTE has been so beneficial to me, and Appearance Instructors are always there if I need guidance or help with something to this day. If I had not gone to CTEC I never would have chosen the career path I did, and I would never have been motivated to go back to college and better myself and my education.”

— Lauren Miller, Valley Central High School, Class of 2015

Business Computer Careers Academy

“As a result of my CTEC Instructor I have realized the importance of a support system. Without my instructor’s unconditional support, I probably would not be broadening my horizons as I am today. My instructor has helped me to figure out where I want to be.”

— Semhare Louis-Andrew, Minisink Valley High School, Class of 2017

Construction Careers Academy

“As a result of attending CTE, I was able to build a foundation for my future career and learn skills that put me ahead of my college peers. With the help of my amazing instructors they not only taught me the fundamentals of electrical construction but gave me the confidence I needed to be successful in any career path I decide to pursue.”

— Ashlee Ayala-Zayas, Cornwall High School, Class of 2016

Culinary Careers Academy

Going to the Career and Tech Center gave me a head start for the Culinary Careers Academy for over a year now and traveling extensively.

— Andrew, Minisink Valley Central High School, Class of 2010

Education Careers Academy

“As a result of attending CTE, I was provided with great role models in my field of education. With the guidance of my instructors, I gained invaluable knowledge on how to effectively educate young minds. Their dedication to their students and expertise helped pave the way to the special education teacher I am today at Orange-Ulster BOCES.”

— Cynthia Brescia, Goshen High School, Class of 2011

Environmental Careers Academy

“My instructor was great at helping us explore the many aspects of the Environmental Programs from greenhouse propagation, to landscaping, to equipment operation. I came away with an education that has served me well professionally.”

— Ed Fairweather, Minisink Valley High School, Class of 1979

Health Careers Academy

“As a result of my CTEC instructors I was able to begin my career in healthcare. I would not be where I am today as a family nurse practitioner if I did not have such influential instructors when I first started my education in healthcare.”

— Mandi Zaccaignino, Valley Central High School, Class of 2006

Security Careers Academy

“Not only has CTEC exceeded my expectations, and given me a jumpstart on my career, but it has also improved my work ethic and made me a better overall person.”

— Collin Dulaney, Fire Science, Middletown High School, Class of 2017

STEM Careers Academy

“The two years spent at this challenging course were very rewarding. My instructor brought his thorough knowledge to our classroom. The skill sets I learned were valuable to me for the rest of my career, I am still in the electronics/telephony industry today.”

— Frank Decker, Cornwall High School, Electronics Class of 1983 (husband of Mrs. Kristen Decker, Health Careers Academy Class of 1985 & son, Jacob Decker, Transportation Academy, Class of 2017)

Transportation Careers Academy

“Coming to CTEC opened a new world of opportunities for me. The CTEC competitions I took advantage of resulted in numerous college opportunities, including the highly regarded GM training program. The personal benefits I received from a CTEC education are the reason I returned to work for CTEC 15 years ago.”

— Christopher LoRubbio, Pine Bush High School, Class of 1998

Visual Arts Careers Academy

“I would advise anyone who is curious about their future, to be a part of CTE. It gave me the opportunity to explore my interests in the arts and master my skills while learning the fundamentals in the specific field I chose. Because I joined this program, I was able to set myself up and focus on the next steps towards my future, while having fun! Ten years later, I am now a Technical Designer at Victoria’s Secret for Sport Bras and Lingerie.”

— Gina Zappalla, Warwick Valley High School, Class of 2009

Emid Requa (Middletown High School) and Mert Yaracis (Orange-Ulster BOCES Moragne A. Flood High School) Greenhouse and Floral Technology students making centerpieces.

The students in Zoë Vass’ CTE classes are extra busy at this time of the year! They create holiday centerpieces as part of the curriculum in CTE’s Greenhouse and Floral Technology program. The one-year program also offers instruction on florist and greenhouse management, sustainable gardening and pruning, plant identification and botany.
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“Going to the Career and Tech Center gave me a head start for the Culinary Institute of America. I studied pastry arts and the science behind chocolate intensely. After graduation I worked for 2 different craft chocolate companies. I then joined Oomomo, a chocolate company in Reykjavík, Iceland. I’ve been living and working in Iceland for over a year now and traveling extensively.”

~ Michael Ryan, Minisink Valley High School, Class of 2011

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Kayley-Telisa Stevens 2017 CTE Cosmetology Outstanding Student

Haley Pepe Recognition 2017 CTE Bronze Award Winner

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