

JUNE 2023, ISSUE 5

TechLife

Your Award Winning News Publication

BULLDOGS

LEVEL
UP!



SPECIAL GRADUATION EDITION

PCTVS CELEBRATES REMARKABLE GRADUATION CEREMONIES, EMPOWERING OVER 1,000 GRADUATES FOR A PROMISING FUTURE

This year, Passaic County Technical Vocational Schools presented not one, but three extraordinary graduation ceremonies of PCTI and the DCL STEM academy, where more than 1,000 students proudly received their diplomas and stepped into a promising future!

Our graduation ceremonies are the culmination of years of dedication, hard work, and personal growth. They serve as a testament to the unwavering commitment of our students, faculty, and staff to academic excellence and the pursuit of knowledge. We invite you to explore the highlights of this remarkable event that took place over a two-day period, showcasing the achievements of our outstanding graduates.

(continued on centerfold)



MAE REMER: A 56 YEAR LEGACY OF DEDICATION AND COMPASSION

Congratulations to Mae Remer on her Retirement! As Mae prepares to retire from PCTVS after an astounding fifty-six years of service, her departure marks the end of an era. Her absence will undoubtedly be deeply felt, as her vast knowledge, exceptional work ethic, and warm personality have left an indelible mark on the institution and those who have had the pleasure of knowing her.

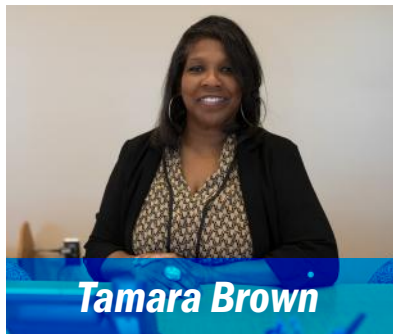
While the PCTVS community says goodbye to a remarkable individual, Mae Remer leaves behind a legacy of dedication, expertise, and compassion that will continue to inspire and guide future generations. Her contributions to the institution and her unwavering commitment to serving others serve as a shining example of what it means to be a true pillar of the community.

We wish you the very best on your retirement, Mae!



25 YEAR HONOREES!

PCTVS celebrates the faculty and staff who have dedicated their lives to enriching our schools, as they reach their 25 year milestone!



HONORING OUR RETIREES!



Mae Remer
Board Secretary

Salvatore Antonello
Supervisor Buildings/
Grounds

Kenneth Mix
Computer Science

Joya Gilmartin
School Nurse

Bruno DePamphilis
Science

Mark O'Neill
Mathematics

Kathy L. Kyles
Student Success
Coordinator

Jay Rosenfeld
Social Studies

Judy Manzo
Mathematics

Gail McGeady
Secretary

Judith Scott
Secretary

Silvia Favaro
Secretary

Don Simpson
Custodian

Charles Richardson
Custodian

Andrea Jackson
Health Occupations

Joseph Gravino
School to Careers
Coordinator

Robert Vendetti
Carpentry

Donald Gurnari
Plumbing

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
DEDICATION TO PCTVS!**

BULLDOG HIGHLIGHTS



JOSHUA SPARKES RECEIVES FULL RIDE SCHOLARSHIP TO WEST POINT MILITARY ACADEMY

Joshua Sparkes, student of the Academy of Finance, has achieved remarkable success in his academic journey. With an outstanding 4.45 GPA, he has consistently demonstrated his commitment to excellence. Joshua's passion for leadership and service has made him a role model for his peers and a shining example of what can be achieved through determination and perseverance. His hard work and dedication paid off when he received early acceptance to the prestigious West Point Military Academy, accompanied by a full ride scholarship! Joshua's accomplishments reflect his exceptional qualities as a student and his potential for a promising future.



RICARDA PALLAZCHO: HONORED WITH THE 2023 MARSHA DAVES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR EXCEPTIONAL SKILLSUSA LEADERSHIP

Congratulations to Ricarda Pallazcho, an officer of PCTI Skills USA, for being awarded the prestigious 2023 Marsha Daves Memorial Scholarship through SkillsUSA. Ricarda, a student of the School of Education and Human Services, was also honored this year as the NJ Skills USA State President.

This national scholarship serves as a tribute to Marsha Daves, who dedicated her career to supporting and mentoring exceptional SkillsUSA student leaders. Administered by the SkillsUSA Foundation, this fund annually acknowledges an outstanding SkillsUSA state officer who is pursuing higher education or postsecondary training. We are extremely proud of Ricarda for receiving this well-deserved recognition of her leadership and commitment to Skills USA!



SENIOR OLIVIA GRAY AWARDED EXCLUSIVE BONNER SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND SPELMAN COLLEGE

Congratulations to Olivia Gray, a senior in Child Development, for being accepted into the prestigious Spelman College Bonner Scholar's Program. Olivia's exceptional commitment to community service and outstanding civic leadership distinguished her among numerous applicants, earning her the exclusive Bonner Scholarship. This esteemed scholarship will provide Olivia with \$40,000 per year for her entire undergraduate program. Starting in the Fall 2023 semester, Olivia will pursue her studies in the renowned Education Program at Spelman College. We applaud Olivia for her remarkable achievements and wish her continued success as she embarks on this exciting new chapter at Spelman College.

SENIOR AWARDS

PCTI and the DCL STEM Academy hosted their Senior awards, a time to recognize students who have made notable strides in their academics and CTE programs. Presented by numerous businesses, educational, and military institutions, the awards acknowledge the outstanding achievement in their studies. Senior awards also took a special moment to recognize the PCTI Valedictorian Raelynn Tae and Salutatorian Jazmine Mendoza Ortega as well as the DCL STEM Valedictorian Shuvon Islam and Salutatorian John Russo.

The PCTVS Education Foundation was on hand to distribute scholarships but to also add an exciting presentation to 18 students who were selected at random to receive iPads given by the foundation.

Congratulations to all the seniors on their achievements!



ATHLETIC AWARDS

PCTVS awarded our Bulldog athletes who have demonstrated outstanding dedication and athletic excellence. The athletic awards celebrate the remarkable achievements of the athletes who have excelled in performance of their respective sports, but also emphasize the importance of sportsmanship, teamwork, and dedication. By honoring outstanding athletes, PCTVS inspires a culture of athletic excellence and instills values that extend beyond the realm of sports, fostering personal growth and character development.



Senior Week!

PCTVS Senior Week was a fun time for the students at DCL STEM Academy and PCTI as they celebrated their final year in high school with a special week dedicated for them. Throughout the week students had the opportunity to express themselves through various themed days. Character Day allowed students to embody their favorite fictional or historical figures, resulting in a diverse display of superheroes, movie icons, and beloved personalities. On Culture Day, students proudly showcased their heritage, celebrating the rich diversity within the PCTVS community. Throwback Day took seniors on a nostalgic journey, as they dressed up in outfits reminiscent of different eras, from the roaring 20s to the funky 80s. The highlight of the week was Twin Day, where friends paired up and dressed alike, creating a vibrant tapestry of doubles throughout the school.

PCTVS Senior Week was a memorable celebration that allowed students to express their individuality while fostering a sense of unity and creating lasting memories.



Character Day



Twin Day



Throwback Day



Culture Day

UNMASK THE MAGIC: PCTVS PROM MAKES MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFETIME

Prom Night at Legacy Castle in Pompton Plains was a euphoric masquerade theme, brimming with lively dancing and unforgettable moments. The grandeur of the exciting venue set the stage for an evening of fun-filled memories, as students dressed in their finest stepped through the doors.

The opulence of the four ballrooms pulsed with infectious energy as friends spun, twirled, and danced to the rhythm of the music. Laughter and cheer filled the air as memories were made on and off the dance floor, with each step bringing them closer to unforgettable moments.

Prom at Legacy Castle was a culmination of high school, friendships and memories as their future awaits.



SIGNING DAY

Athletes who will continue their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level were honored during the PCTVS Signing Day Event! Each student-athlete had their signing photo taken and were joined in the celebration by teammates, coaches, family, and friends. It was a tremendous event that documented their athletic achievements. They proudly represented their future schools by wearing t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and other garments. The Bulldogs made their mark!





CLASS



Two ceremonies were dedicated to the graduates of the highly revered PCTI, where students from thirteen diverse fields including the academies of criminal justice, finance, health and medical sciences, and information technology, as well as the schools of applied engineering, automotive, business, communication arts, construction, cosmetology, culinary arts, education, and performing arts. A separate ceremony celebrated the graduates of the esteemed DCL STEM Academy, a specialized high school that nurtures young minds where students can choose from three career pathways of computer science, biomedical and life science, and engineering.



The atmosphere during these ceremonies was nothing short of electric. The air was filled with a contagious sense of anticipation and jubilation as families, friends, and educators gathered to honor our exceptional graduates. Joining the festivities were the Passaic County commissioners, dignitaries, and PCTVS administration. The inspiring speeches by PCTVS Superintendent John Maiello, DCL STEM Principal Joaquim Johnson, PCTI Principal Antonio Garcia, as well as the DCL STEM Valedictorian Shuvon Islam, Salutatorian John Russo, and PCTI Valedictorian Raelynn Tae, and Salutatorian Jazmine Mendoza Ortega added to the significance of the occasion. Together, they encouraged our graduates to embark on their chosen paths with confidence, determination, and the spirit of lifelong learning.

PCTVS 2023



We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all our graduates. You have made us immensely proud, and we are excited to witness your future accomplishments as you shape the world with your talents and determination. Together, we celebrate the PCTVS Class of 2023 and bid them farewell as they embark on their next chapter, carrying the torch of knowledge and the Bulldog spirit within them!



PCTVS NAMED NASA HUNCH CENTER OF EXCELLENCE!

Great news! We are thrilled to share that PCTVS has been honored as a NASA HUNCH Center of Excellence! We are incredibly proud to be one of only two centers in the entire country!

An already leading institution in education, PCTVS' NASA HUNCH recognition will pave the way for even greater achievements in the future! This incredible achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our amazing students, who have truly excelled in their education. From prototyping, machining, and design to culinary, video production, and engineering, our students have shown impressive skills and creativity in a wide range of fields.

Since 2015, our students have been participating in NASA HUNCH challenges and have consistently amazed us with their ingenuity and technical expertise. Their efforts have been recognized with numerous awards and accolades.

With this recognition comes exciting opportunities for our students, including access to NASA's resources and experts, technical support, and state-of-the-art facilities. We are confident that this will enable our students to continue pushing the boundaries of project-based learning and developing the skills they need to succeed in the 21st century economy.

At PCTVS, we are committed to providing our students with the best possible education, and this recognition as a HUNCH Center of Excellence confirms our commitment to that goal. We are excited to continue helping our students reach new heights in education and beyond, and we look forward to all the amazing things they will accomplish in the future!



NASA HUNCH & **PCTVS** ... *perfect together!*

STUDENT ART EXHIBITION: ART MAX'D

PCTI School of Communication Arts recently celebrated its vibrant 2023 Art Show, ART MAX'D, an extraordinary event that highlighted the exceptional creativity and talent of our students. The spotlight shined on the amazing works of Advertising Art and Design, Graphic Design, and Video Production students, captivating the audience with their artistic displays. Augmented reality displays brought innovative art to life, adding an immersive element to the show.

In addition, the art show also featured the highly anticipated collaborative efforts of our Construction Technology, Performing Arts: vocal and instrumental students, as well students of Culinary Arts who treated all in attendance to delicious bites, adding an extra layer of artistic brilliance to the occasion.

It was a true celebration of talent and creativity across multiple disciplines, creating a memorable and enriching experience for everyone involved.



STEM EXPO!



The DCL STEM Academy recently hosted its highly anticipated annual STEM EXPO. The Expo provided a platform for our students to show their expertise and passion for STEM through various research projects involving Computer Science, Biomedical and Life Science, and Engineering. The event showcased the DCL STEM Academy's commitment to nurturing the next generation of STEM leaders. The 2023 DCL STEM Academy Expo showcased twenty student research projects.

The winners of the events:

Computer Science Pathway – "Hater Debater: Learning About Logical Fallacies and Maintaining a Safe Political Environment" by Miguel Jorge Ayala

Engineering Pathway – Container Construction Contraption by Michael Evans, Kacper Szyller, Joel Torres, and Marko Vranesevic

General Research – "Academic Censorship in United States High School History Textbooks" by Kenny Revolovsky

Winning best in show in Biomedical Science were Justin Liang, Diego Apaestegui, & Carlos Romero Rosas for - The Effects of Natural Pesticides on Lanternfly Egg Masses



A huge congratulations goes out to all our dedicated students who confidently presented their projects, making the Expo a resounding success!



2022-2023 STUDENTS OF THE MONTH!

We proudly present the exceptional PCTI and DCL STEM Students of the Month for the 2022-2023 school year. These accomplished seniors have been recognized for their remarkable achievements in their respective CTE programs. Selected from a pool of talented individuals, they exemplify the highest standards of excellence and dedication, serving as role models for their peers and inspiring future generations! Congratulations to all our students of the month!

OCTOBER

Sereniti Catoe

PCTI School of Performing Arts: Vocal

Abigail Deb Bleyker

DCL STEM Computer Science

Joshua Sparkes

PCTI Academy of Finance

NOVEMBER

Esteban Ocana

PCTI Academy of Health and

Medical Sciences

Linna Liaukus

DCL STEM Engineering

Ayame Ciocoio

PCTI School of Criminal Justice

DECEMBER

Gianna Hortas

PCTI School of Applied Engineering:

Prototype Machining, and Design

Brooke Berger

DCL STEM Biomedical and Life Sciences

Gina Pelosi

PCTI School of Applied Engineering:

Project Lead The Way

JANUARY

Daisy Gutierrez

PCTI School of Cosmetology

Giovanni Olaya

DCL STEM Computer Science

Jaylen Rizzo

PCTI School of Communication Arts:

Graphic Design

FEBRUARY

Amy Arakaki

PCTI School of Communication Arts:

Advertising Art and Design

Kacper Szyller

DCL STEM Engineering

Jesus Cuautle Perez

PCTI School of Business

MARCH

Carolyn Coello

PCTI School of Construction Technology

Jeprika Rodriguez

DCL STEM Biomedical and Life Sciences

Anthony Villata

PCTI School of Culinary Arts

APRIL

Ella Cifaldi

PCTI School of Performing Arts: Theater

Nadia Obeidallah

DCL STEM Computer Science

Nisarg Mehta

PCTI Academy of Information Technology

MAY

Raelyn Tay

PCTI Valedictorian

School of Culinary Arts

Jazmin Mendoza Ortega

PCTI Salutatorian

Academy of Health and Medical Sciences

Shuvon Islam

DCL STEM Valedictorian

Biomedical and Life Sciences

John Russo

DCL STEM Salutatorian

Engineering



**SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT OUR 2022-2023
STUDENTS OF THE MONTH!**

2022-2023 ATHLETES OF THE MONTH!

Introducing the outstanding PCTVS Athletes of the Month for the 2022-2023 school year. These remarkable individuals have been chosen for their exceptional athletic skills and commitment to their respective sports. They have consistently displayed exemplary skill, sportsmanship, and dedication, setting a high bar for their teammates, and representing PCTVS with Bulldog pride.

SEPTEMBER

Christian Adame

Boys Soccer

Olivia Dragone

Girls Soccer

OCTOBER

Sasha Pollock

Girls Field Hockey

Fabiana Ayala

Girls Volleyball

NOVEMBER

Michael Kirtis, Quamar Ayscue,

Ray' Sun Belton

Football

Taylor Vanak

Cheerleading

DECEMBER

Julia Lo, Francesca Cordero

Girls Swimming

Adam Kiss

Boys Swimming

JANUARY

Janessa Rodriguez

Girls Basketball

Ayden Brown

Boys Basketball

FEBRUARY

Joseph Kwiecinski

Ice Hockey

Madison Szarka

Girls Bowling

MARCH

Adam Hamdeh

Wrestling

Venus John

Girls Fencing

APRIL

Casey Noonan

Girls Track and Field

Kenny Revloski

Boys Track and Field

MAY

Julia Foti

Girls Lacrosse

Jesus Cuautle Perez

Boys Volleyball

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Printing by PCTI School of Communication Arts
PCTVS Communications Department © 2023

Passaic County Technical-Vocational Schools

Passaic County's National Award-Winning Public High Schools
for Academics, Careers & Technology
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A SPECTACULAR CELEBRATION OF TALENT BY THE SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

The School of Performing arts hosted a series of showcases where the immense talent and hard work of their students took center stage. The PCTI Vocal Technique wowed their audience with their Blueprint showcase, leaving the audience in awe of their exceptional vocal and musical skills. The instrumental program presented a mesmerizing Spring Band Concert, featuring a diverse set that highlighted the musicians' instrumental talent and technical prowess,

leaving a lasting impression. Additionally, the dance program delighted the audience with their energetic and graceful performances during the spring dance concert, allowing the students to showcase their artistic expression.

The performing arts showcases were memorable events truly celebrating the arts!

