

DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023, ISSUE 2

# TechLife

Your Award Winning News Publication



## PCTVS SOARS TO NEW HEIGHTS IN ATHLETICS!

**Passaic County Tech's athletics have achieved an incredible feat by breaking records and becoming an athletic powerhouse!**

Our athletics program has worked tirelessly to become a record-breaking powerhouse. With a commitment to excellence and a drive to succeed, these athletes and coaches have been pushing themselves to new levels of performance, breaking records and setting new standards for success in the process. Their hard work and dedication have paid off, as they have become one of the most dominant forces in their athletic league, earning recognition and respect from their peers and opponents alike. Our athletes remain committed in their pursuit of greatness, and their continued success with Bulldog spirit!

But the triumphs don't stop there! Freshman, Francesca Cordero of the girls' swim team made history by breaking the school record in the 100 breaststroke. Field hockey captain Sasha Pollock has proven to be a shining star on the field hockey field. She was awarded the NJHFA Girls Field Hockey All-Star for the 2022 season.

A big bulldog congratulations to Coach Demarest! A true inspiration to his players and the football community, his recent awards are a testament to his hard work, dedication, and success as a coach. It is an incredible achievement to be named the NJFCA Group 5 Coach of the Year, the NJSFC Freedom Blue Coach of the Year, the PCCA Coach of the Year, and the Passaic County Chapter of the National Football Hall of Fame Award winner.

These achievements exhibit the strength, determination, and teamwork of our sports programs, and the drive and passion of our exceptional young athletes!

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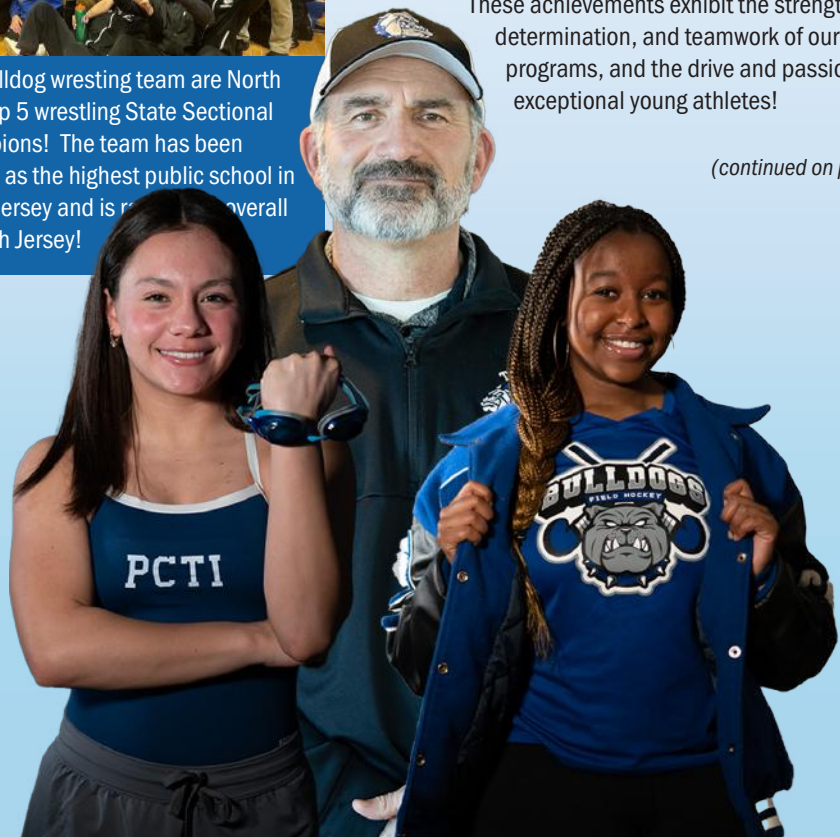
The powerful and unstoppable ice hockey team have claimed their first ever title as county champions a huge accomplishment for the only 4-year-old program!



The Bulldog wrestling team are North 1 Group 5 wrestling State Sectional Champions! The team has been ranked as the highest public school in North Jersey and is ranked overall in North Jersey!



A very special shoutout to the Bulldogs football team named North Group 5 - Football State Champions. It was a historic season of grit and determination!



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The talented and determined boys and girls bowling teams have, for the first time ever, earned their Passaic County championships in the same year! Girls' bowling has also won their first NJTAC Tech Championship.



Both boys and girls swim teams have also secured their place as county champions! The boys' team have taken home this title for the past 8 years, the girls' team just garnered their 5th year win!



Winter track has swept the competition! They competed at BNC Liberty Divisional Championships) and the PCCA County Championships and are now the BNC Liberty Divisional Crowns and the PCCA County Champions!

## ALUMNA AUTHOR, PRIYANKA TASLIM VISITS

PCTVS recently hosted an exciting event featuring the visit of a distinguished alumna and author, Priyanka Taslim.

Students with interests in creative writing were able to hear from Priyanka and learn about her book writing journey. The 2009 PCTI graduate, and author read an excerpt from her book "The Love Match" and answered questions from the students about the writing process and her experiences as a published author.

The event was a grand success, with Priyanka sharing valuable tips with students and encouraging them to pursue their dreams.

Administration and staff also held a book signing session in the FX-Wing library, where Priyanka signed copies of her book for students, leaving a personal message for each one.

The school community was thrilled to welcome Priyanka back and is grateful for the insight and inspiration she provided to the students.



## PCTVS PRESENTS GASFLO PRODUCTS AS BUSINESS PARTNER OF THE YEAR

PCTVS is proud and honored to present Gasflo Products as Business Partner of the Year 2022-2023. Gasflo Products, located in Fairfield, has worked directly with the PCTI School of Construction Technology and the School of Applied Engineering to train and employ students from both schools. The three-year relationship has given students the chance of hands-on learning in their area of interests.



Our partnership is truly an amazing opportunity for our students! Gasflo's participation, commitment to teaching, mentoring, and preparing PCTI students in their career field of choice is the best choice for Business Partner of the Year 2022-2023.



# GOVERNOR'S EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR

The Governor's Educator of the Year Program highlights educational innovation, student achievement, exemplary teaching, and important services outside the classroom environment that lead to student success. PCTVS is proud to have four faculty members of educators and educational specialists honored with this esteemed recognition!

## Michael G. Pettineo

PCTI Educator of the Year is Mathematics instructor, Michael Pettineo. Michael has worked in education for 18 years and for the last 14 years worked at PCTI. He is the assistant coach for the Bowling team for the last 12 years, and worked as a teacher for the Academic Assistance Program. In his free time Michael works on several community outreach initiatives for those in need. He is passionate and devoted to teaching and helping others. Michael received his degree from William Paterson University and is dual certified in Math and Special Education.

## Lourdes Lopez

PCTI Education Specialist of the Year is Transition Coordinator, Lourdes Lopez. Lourdes has worked for PCTI for 17 years. Lourdes is passionate in helping her students, providing them with self-advocacy workshops to teach special needs students the strategies they need to be successful. She is also a member of the New Jersey Organization of Learning Consultant and Treasurer of Friends of Hispanic Research Information Center (HRIC). Lourdes holds a master's degree in Education from Montclair State University and is certified in Spanish, Special Education, and as a Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant.

## Crystal DiCosmo-Ponticello

STEM Educator of the Year is Biomedical Innovation Instructor, Crystal DiCosmo-Ponticello, Ph.D. Crystal has been an educator at the DCL Stem Academy since 2018 and has worked tirelessly constructing innovative and engaging lessons for her students. She has an extensive background in scientific research as well as skills-based experience. Crystal spends much of her time helping others taking part in Global Response & Assistance (GERA), St. Peter's Haven Food Drive, Wreaths Across America, and CASA of Passaic County, School Supply Drive. Crystal holds her BA in Biological Sciences from Rutgers University and her Ph.D. in Molecular Pathology and Immunology from UMDNJ.

## Jennifer Presing

STEM Educational Specialist of the Year is Crisis Counselor and Student Assistance Coordinator, Jennifer Presing. She has been a part of the DCL Stem community for 4 years and has worked in education for 12 years. Jennifer is a member of many committees and organizations, among them: the Association of Student Assistance Professionals in New Jersey and Traumatic Loss Coalition. A county wide coalition that provides support to schools following a traumatic event. As an Education Specialist, Jennifer is committed to her students. She holds a master's degree in Social Work from Kean University, a license in Clinical Social Work and is certified as a Student Assistance Coordinator.

Congratulations to our PCTI & DCL-STEM faculty that have been selected for this honorable award!



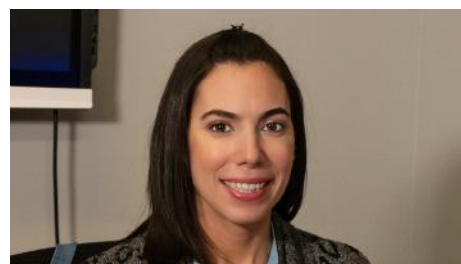
**Michael Pettineo**  
PCTI Educator of the Year



**Lourdes Lopez**  
PCTI Education Specialist of the Year



**Crystal DiCosmo-Ponticello**  
DCL STEM Educator of the Year



**Jennifer Presing**  
DCL STEM Education Specialist of the Year

# STUDENTS

The students at PCTVS were hard at work this holiday season! Through toy drives, clothing drives, food drives, and volunteer efforts, our students helped those in need by giving back to their community and lending helping hands.

The season of giving back began with the annual Wreaths Across America donations. The PCTVS students assisted in the Wreaths Across America initiative to donate wreaths commemorating soldiers who fought hard for our country. Students from all grade levels and organizations including the Boys & Girls State students volunteered their time along with local community members on Wreaths Across America where 4,500 wreaths were laid on veteran graves.

The spirit of the holiday moved through the halls of PCTVS as the Student Council and Interact Club held a food drive to support local families in need. Through this initiative, students and faculty members collected well over 2,000 pounds of food items from donations. The canned and non-perishable food items for those in need were donated to Echo CUMAC Food Bank in Paterson.

Several student organizations collaborated to bring joy to children worldwide this holiday season through the internationally recognized Samaritan's Purse program: Operation Christmas Child. TI@ti peer leaders, American Sign Language Club, World Language Honor Society, and Tri-M Honor Society members assembled over 300 shoeboxes filled with gifts, including toys, school supplies, and hygiene items to be delivered to children in need around the world.

Students of the PCTVS Leaders Emerging Among Peers (LEAP) club held a toy drive for underprivileged children. Toys collected benefitted children ages 6 months to 17 years of the Father English community in Paterson. In total 418 toys were collected!

A very big thank you to the students of the School of Construction Technology whose hard work created Santa's Workshop. Their beautiful project was on display in the main lobby during holiday season.

PCTVS continued to work hard in their giving as members of The PCTVS Book Club, American Sign Language Club, and History Club gave their time to participate in NJ Community Development Corporation (NJCDC) Wrapathon. Club members wrapped gifts, and made holiday cards, and decorations for Paterson families to enjoy. On Christmas Eve the NJCDC hosted a celebration and distributed gift boxes to over 500 families. The three clubs will continue to work with NJCDC throughout the new year on various community service projects.

PCTVS is always looking for ways to lend helping hands, the students continued their giving journey beyond the holiday season. The PCTVS Rho Kappa Honor Society hosted a coat drive for those in need. Students of the Passaic County Technical Institute National Honor Society hosted a sock and toiletry drive for the Passaic County Domestic and Sexual Violence Center located in Paterson, and Skills USA will host The Children's Drive in the month of February, a service dedicated to the children of Hackensack University Medical Center.

PCTVS takes pride in its students and their selflessness and willingness to help others.



# GIVE BACK



## PCTI & WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP ENCOURAGE MUSIC EDUCATION

Students of the PCTI Performing Arts Music Program performed a music recital at William Paterson University (WPU). The partnership between both schools has resulted in an enriching and educating experience for collegiate and high school students alike.

This is the seventh year in which PCTI has partnered with the Teaching Strategies for Instrumental Music course at WPU and its professor Dr. Carol Frierson Campbell. The course is designed for WPU senior music education majors that will be pursuing a teaching career. With the guidance of the William Paterson student, each PCTI student performed a musical solo piece of their choice.

This partnership performance is the culmination of the mentorship and individual lessons William Paterson students have provided to the PCTI students.



## VOCAL TECHNIQUE'S WINTER CONCERT A SMASHING SUCCESS!

PCTI's Vocal Technique Program held a captivating winter concert on January 20th to a sold-out audience! The title of the concert, "Music, ID/DNA" showcased how music is an innate part of our individual identities that is unique with its own DNA. There were 8 original songs performed by the vocal students and several collaborative pieces with our Tech-Tone Choir and the Tri-M Honor students. Bravo and congratulations to instructor Jose Martinez and students and all who participated!



## PCTVS DANCE ENSEMBLE SHINES AT "DANCING BEYOND" BENEFIT SHOW FOR DANCE AGAINST CANCER

The PCTVS Dance Ensemble made a stunning debut in the prestigious Earl Mosely's Institute of Dance: Dancing Beyond performance at Manhattan Movement and Arts Center in New York City.

The night was opened by the piece "Red Sparrow," choreographed by Class of 2015 alumni Emmanuel Paulino. The contemporary dance performance was met with thunderous applause and rave reviews, setting the tone for an incredible night of dance and artistic expression. The dancers effortlessly brought the story to life, showcasing their technical mastery and emotional depth.

All proceeds from the event went to Dance Against Cancer, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness and funds for cancer research and treatment. The PCTVS Dance Ensemble was honored to be a part of such a meaningful and impactful event.

The PCTVS community is incredibly proud of their Dance Ensemble members and their outstanding performance at Dancing Beyond!



# EMPOWERING FUTURE EDUCATORS

The PCTI School of Education and Human Services held an imaginative, and therapeutic Art Therapy Project workshop for students. A board-certified and licensed therapist facilitated interactive, hands-on sessions that emphasized the advantages of art and talk therapy.

During the workshop, students embarked on a journey of self-discovery and self-expression through creative and purposeful art activities. They were introduced to techniques that helped them to understand the power of art and social-emotional learning in their future careers, empowering them to offer support and comfort to individuals grappling with trauma. The workshop also imparted life-long skills to students, allowing them to cultivate and maintain their own mental health and well-being.



# PCTI SELECTED TO ATTEND SACRIFICE FOR FREEDOM: WORLD WAR II IN THE PACIFIC STUDENT & TEACHER INSTITUTE

Congratulations to PCTI sophomore student Ashley Diaz Briones and PCTI Social Studies teacher Jayne O'Neill on being selected to attend the Sacrifice for Freedom: World War II in the Pacific Student & Teacher Institute this summer.

The institute is a highly competitive program for high school students and educators as only 16 of 68 teacher student teams were selected to attend. The institute provides an in-depth exploration of the causes, events, and legacy of World War II in the Pacific.

Ashley and Ms. O'Neill will have the opportunity to learn from leading historians and participate in interactive workshops and discussions. They will also have the chance to visit important historical sites and participate in cultural activities.

The Sacrifice for Freedom: World War II in the Pacific Institute is a program of National History Day and is supported by the National Park Service and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

We are thrilled for Ashley and Ms. O'Neill to have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of one of the most important events in world history as they represent PCTI in this prestigious program.



# DCL-STEM ACADEMY STUDENTS SELECTED FOR QUESTBRIDGE NATIONAL COLLEGE MATCH

The DCL-STEM Academy is proud to announce that two of their students have been selected for the Questbridge National College match!

Shravan and Kacper join an elite group of students from around the country who will have the opportunity to attend some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the country.

Shravan Sen a student of STEM's Biomedical and Life Sciences pathway with a GPA of 4.50 has been matched with Washington University.

Kacper Szyller student of STEM's Engineering pathway currently holds a GPA of 4.45 and has been matched with Notre Dame University.

The Questbridge scholarship will cover four year tuition, room and board, school supplies, and travel expenses for our students.

PCTVS congratulates Shravan and Kacper on their achievements and wishes them all the best as they embark on their next journey!!



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# PCTVS HOSA HOSTED THE NJ NORTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

PCTVS recently welcomed HOSA students from all over the state of New Jersey for the NJ Northern Regional Conference.

The PCTVS community is incredibly proud of our HOSA students and the accomplishments they achieved at the NJ Northern Regional Conference!

**Praanjal Gajera** (Nutrition) 1st place, **Arleth De Jesus** (Dental Science) 1st place, **Hana Ighneim** (Medical Math) 2nd place, **Allison Zamudio** (Pharmacology) 2nd place, **Soledad Bello** (Dental Science) 2nd place, **Valerie Hernandez** (Dental Science) 3rd place, **Annabelle Louis** (Dental Science) 4th place, **Isabella Arias/Esteban Ocana** (EMT) 7th place, **Abel Larson** (Nutrition) 8th place, **Denise Peralta** (Behavioral Health) 8th place



**BREAKING NEWS!**  
TechLife is going digital!

