

OCEAN COUNTY VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL TECH TALK

19 OCVTS STUDENTS TRAVEL TO KANSAS CITY FOR NATIONAL SKILLSUSA CONFERENCE

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One hundred and thirty Ocean County Vocational Technical School students participated in the New Jersey SkillsUSA Competition held in May in Somerset, New Jersey. Students from throughout the state competed in over 45 categories such as Architecture, Automotive Service Technology, Crime Scene Investigation, Photography, Welding, Extemporaneous Speaking, Related Technical Math and more. Participating students qualified for the competition by winning in their career category in regional competitions held earlier this year.

OCVTS students brought home a total of forty-two medals, including twenty-one gold, twelve silver and nine bronze from state competition. Nineteen of the gold medal recipients, pictured above, were recognized by the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders, at the June meeting, for their outstanding achievements at the 2010 SkillsUSA State Competitions. Freeholder Director Joseph H. Vicari, liaison to OCVTS, presented each student with a certificate and commended them on their dedication and outstanding achievements.

Nineteen of the of the twenty-one gold medal winners, and their advisors, traveled to Kansas City, Missouri, at the end of June, to compete in national competition. SkillsUSA is a national organization which provides quality educational experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development.

Right, Electrical Trades students compete in Kansas City.



Above, OCVTS student prepares workbench before competition. Below, Culinary Arts students turn up the heat in the kitchens.



*The larger the island of knowledge,
the longer the shoreline of wonder.*
~Ralph W. Sockman

SEPTEMBER 2010

OCVTS MARKS FIFTIETH YEAR OF PRACTICAL NURSING EXCELLENCE

Ocean County Vocational Technical School held graduation ceremonies for the Practical Nursing program in July. Seventy-five student nurses received diplomas for successfully completing the 11-month intensive Practical Nursing program. Families and friends gathered to applaud the graduates who persevered through the extremely challenging curriculum and demanding schedules and completed the program. The ceremony marked a milestone as it was the fiftieth year for the nursing program. OCVTS opened its doors in 1959 and at that time offered one course, the Practical Nursing Program. Twenty-one students graduated from that first class.

OCVTS Principal Jo Ann Price sees a bright future for OCVTS graduates. "Licensed Practical Nurses are a vital part of healthcare and their roles and responsibilities will continue to grow." Ms. Price reflected on the advancement of technology over the past fifty years and the ever-changing challenges which face health care professional each day.



Recognized at graduation ceremony are (left to right): Jessica Hulse of Toms River (2nd highest GPA), Allison Wujack of Bayville (Highest GPA), and Nancy Pavliv of Toms River (3rd highest GPA).

OCVTS ADULT EDUCATION DIVISION OFFERS NEW PROGRAMS - CLASSES FILL QUICKLY

The Adult Education Division of Ocean County Vocational Technical School is gearing up for fall classes.

A line started forming at 3:30AM on August 5th for the In-Person registration for the Welding, Dental Assisting and Dental Radiology programs. Sisters Danielle and Amanda Dauber, of Barnegat, have both completed Dental Assisting Programs and were the first on line to sign up for the Radiology class. Danielle commented, "all the job advertisements require an X-ray license, so we are hoping that getting the license will increase our chances of getting a job."

Grey Hill, of Brick, couldn't get into a Welding class last year so he made sure he got on line early. "I'm looking to train for a new career and this year I knew to get here early." Grey currently works in the restaurant industry.

New beginnings was a common theme among those waiting to register. From stay-at-home moms looking to re-enter the workforce to unemployed workers frustrated by the lack of jobs in their fields, each person waited patiently in line for their chance to begin anew.

OCVTS Adult Ed is offering over 75 classes including 22 all-new offerings. Some of the new courses include: Introduction to Yoga, Guitar, Safe Boating, Automotive Technician, Caregiver, Residential Electricity, Residential Plumbing and a variety of one-night cooking seminars.



Eager to register for Fall classes, prospective students stood on line outside the Toms River Center.

SUMMER CAMPS OFFER GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE



OCVTS offered two summer camps, both of which were well attended.

The Performing Arts Academy (PAA) offered a two-week camp. Students participated in a well-rounded program offering dance, vocal music, and acting. Each student also had dedicated time for one discipline of their choice. The camp culminated in a large scale production in the Black Box Theater. In all, several dozen students attended the camp.

The Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES) offered four one-week camps. The experience focused on the Pine Barrens, Barnegat Bay and various outings for field research. The campers worked with several MATES' partners including: the Forest Research Education Center in Jackson; Jake's Branch Park and Double Trouble State Park in Berkeley; Jenkinson's Aquarium in Point Pleasant; Cattus Island Park in Toms River; and the Lighthouse Camp in Waretown. Over fifty students attended over the four week schedule. *Above, students conduct research on the Barnegat Bay.*

The camps provide an opportunity for younger students to get an up-close experience of the OCVTS academies. Several of the students attending the camps will enter PAA and MATES as freshman this Fall.

MATES ROV TEAM TRAVELS TO HAWAII FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

The OCVTS Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES) ROV team captured First Place in the Regional Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) Competition held in May, surpassing the efforts of 24 other teams.

The competition requires participants to design and assemble a Remote Operated Vehicle which can successfully and efficiently complete a series of mechanical maneuvers underwater. Students must also present their design theory and ROV logistics before a panel of judges.

After several weeks of dedicated fundraising efforts, the MATES team was able to travel to Hawaii to compete against 32 finalists from other regional competitions from throughout the world.

The competition is sponsored by the Marine Advanced Technology Education Center (MATE), located in Monterey, California. As per their website, "the MATE Center's mission is to help prepare America's future workforce for ocean-related occupations. The MATE Center utilizes information from employers to improve and develop educational programs with a focus on marine technology. In addition to being fun and educational, these competitions connect students and educators with employers and working professionals from marine industries, highlight marine-related career opportunities, and promote the development of technical, problem solving, critical thinking, and teamwork skills."



Several members of the MATES ROV Team display the Remote Operated Vehicle that took top honors in the regional competition.

MATES ENVIROTHON TEAM TRAVELS TO CALIFORNIA FOR NATIONAL COMPETITION

Students from the OCVTS Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES), Manahawkin NJ, delivered an outstanding performance at the 2010 New Jersey Envirothon Competition held at Camp Sacajawea in Gloucester County, New Jersey in May.

Led by MATES Science Instructors/Team Advisors Adam Sprague and David Werner, the student teams placed 1st and 2nd out of 48 teams in the state.

Although consistently placing as top contenders since the Envirothon began in 1997, this is the first time that MATES has taken top honors overall in this competition and it is the first time in Envirothon history that the same school earned both 1st and 2nd place honors.

The Envirothon Competition is a dynamic hands-on environmental education program for high school students throughout New Jersey. It is sponsored by the NJ Department of Agriculture, the NJ State Soil Conservation Committee, the NJ Association of Conservation Districts, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the NJ Soil Conservation Districts.

Members of MATES Team 1, pictured below taking a break from competition, represented New Jersey at the Canon Envirothon National Competition, held August 1-6 at California State University, in Fresno.



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PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY GRADUATE MAKES IT TO THE BIG SCREEN



Kimberly Bressi of Jackson graduated from PAA as valedictorian in June of 2008. She now attends Point Park University in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania and continues to pursue her passion in dance. She maintains a 3.8GPA and has taken additional summer courses so she can graduate a full year earlier than scheduled.

When asked about her experience at PAA Kimberly said, "PAA prepared me well for college. Academically it was challenging and it's important to focus on grades. Good grades really do matter no matter what you're studying. The school helped me develop a mindset that if is what I really wanted to do than I had to settle down and dedicate myself to it."

Kimberly will be seen in her movie debut in 'Love and Other Drugs' starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Anne Hathaway. Dance auditions for the film were conducted right on the Point Park University campus. Within seven days of the audition, Kimberly was on set with Jake Gyllenhaal. "It was an awesome experience. Jake Gyllenhaal was a phenomenal, kind person; really not what I expected from someone famous."

After graduation Kimberly says, "I want to get out there and audition and perform. Eventually I would like to get involved with teaching. I have a true passion for teaching dance."

Besides taking extra college courses this summer, Kimberly was the choreographer for 'Camp Encore', a Performing Arts Summer Camp for 13-15 year old students, in Maryland.

OCVTS TOMS RIVER CENTER WELCOMES NEW PRINCIPAL

After almost twenty years with the Ocean County Vocational Technical School District Craig Coleman retired as principal of the OCVTS Toms River Center in June.

When students arrived on opening day of school this year they were greeted by a new face. Well, sort of... Jo Ann Price is now the principal of the Toms River Center, as well as Principal of the Practical Nursing School.

Ms. Price has been with the district since 1998. She began her teaching career as a Clinical instructor in the Adult Education Evening Division. She has an extensive experience in health care as head nurse and director of acute care. She has served as vice principal of the Practical Nursing School, also located in the Toms River Center, since 2004.

When asked about her new responsibilities Ms. Price said, "It is truly a challenge but very exciting. I credit Mr. Coleman with laying a solid foundation. He has established a strong sense of order and purpose in this building ,everything is in place for a smooth transition."

Ms. Price commented on her personal philosophy on education, "I believe that you are never too old to learn. There is a wealth of knowledge available to everyone who wants to learn. Networking with your peers and tapping into new disciplines opens one up to unlimited potential."



OCVTS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- September 1Staff Orientation
- September 7Day Classes Begin
- September 13Adult Education Evening Classes Begin
- October 23MATES Admission Information Session
PAA Admission Information Session
- November 11PAA Admission Information Session
- November 12-13 .. PAA Fall Production "Cocktails with Mimi"
- November 13MATES Admission Information Session
- November 18MATES Admission Information Session
- November 20PAA Admission Information Session

OCEAN COUNTY FOUNDATION FOR VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The Foundation will host a
Golf Outing on October 7th
at the Pine Ridge Golf Course,
Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

Contact Angela Castaldo to register
at 732.240.6414 x3339 or
acastaldo@mail.ocvts.org
www.ocvts.org/foundation

OCEAN COUNTY VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

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This e-newsletter is published monthly by the Ocean County Vocational Technical School District. Comments and/or suggestions may be sent to Jean Sullivan, editor, at jsullivan@mail.ocvts.org.



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