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OCVTS CELEBRATES NATIONAL CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

In conjunction with National Career and Technical Education Month, OCVTS held several Open House events. The second annual Career Discovery Day was held at the OCVTS Brick Center. Discovery Day is an event designed to introduce students of all ages, and their families, to the many possibilities of career and technical education. With over 30 career programs, OCVTS offers the skills, knowledge and hands-on experience that can launch a student’s meaningful career or give them a jumpstart to more advanced training after high school. OCVTS instructors and their students organized hands-on activities as part of the Career Passport Challenge Game. Visitors ‘traveled’ throughout the building; stopping in at each Passport Station. Once they completed the program-related activity they received a stamp on their passport and became eligible for prizes. In addition, several regional SkillsUSA competitions were held in Construction, Cosmetology, Automotive Technology, Photography, Culinary Arts and Architecture. This year the Culinary Arts program added their twist on a popular cooking competition show, ‘Chopped.’ A pool of students were first challenged through several rounds to showcase culinary techniques and knife skills. Those students who ‘survived’ the chopping block then went on to prepare meals with the secret basket ingredients.

Next on the calendar was the Annual district-wide Open House on February 6th. Prospective students, their families and the general public were invited to explore our buildings and talk with faculty, current students and the admissions staff. This evening is one of the few events where OCVTS facilities are open to the public. (Continued on Page 2)
Just prior to the Open House a Special Information Session was held at the Toms River Center, specifically for graduating seniors and adult learners. This session provided information about the OCVTS Accelerated Career Training program opportunities including Culinary Arts, Cosmetology, Automotive Technology, New Home Construction and Practical Nursing. These programs offer adults 10-month, full-time programs, allowing them to prepare for new careers in a shorter period of time. Financial Aid and Job Placement Services representatives were also on hand to answer questions.

To cap off the month, OCVTS hosted an information booth at Ocean County Mall the last weekend of February. Visitors to the mall were able to obtain information about all programs and services available at OCVTS.
**OCVTS ADMISSIONS TEAM HOSTS CAREER FAIRS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY**

As part of ongoing efforts to introduce the educational opportunities available at OCVTS, Student Services has put together a ‘road show’ like no other. The OCVTS Admissions Team has hosted Career Fairs at twelve Ocean County elementary, middle and high schools. Teachers and students from a variety of OCVTS programs travel to the schools with displays and interactive demonstrations of career-related skills. So far 23 different programs have participated. During the course of the school day, students visit the program displays and learn about careers that interest them. Approximately 3,000 students have attended the OCVTS Career Fairs.

**MATES LAUNCHES MARINE DEBRIS RECOVERY PROJECT**

Dr. John Wnek, Supervisor at the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES) is working with MATES students on a mission - to locate, map and retrieve more than 1,000 derelict, abandoned and lost crab pots from Barnegat Bay.

Crab pots, used by both recreational and commercial fishermen, which are not regularly maintained or break free from their lines pose a serious, ongoing threat to marine life. Marine species including Diamondback Terrapins as well as crabs and fish become trapped and will die needlessly. The pots also pose navigational risks as tides and storms can relocate traps into boating channels.

Funded through a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) several area conservation groups are teaming up to collect the traps.

MATES students are involved in ‘mapping’ areas of Barnegat Bay through the use of sidescan sonar. Debris located on the bay floor is logged so that they can return to specific locations and retrieve debris.

The students then collect data on the types of traps, the condition of the trap, what types of species found in the traps as well as what organisms may be growing on the traps. Some of the traps can be cleaned and recycled, while others will be sent to be recycled.
OCVTS PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY PRESENTS ‘CINDERELLA’

After months of preparations, rehearsals - and even flying lessons - the Performing Arts Academy presented ‘Cinderella’ at the historic Strand Theater in Lakewood. The production was based upon the Rogers and Hammerstein's screenplay; entertaining audiences with twists and surprises unlike the traditional fairy tale.

The casts and crew, totaling over 130 students, required precision attention to detail in scheduling and coordination to bring this magnificent production to life. The sets were built by the OCVTS Custom Wordworking/Cabinetmaking program.

The Special Senior Citizen Matinee performance on February 25th included a delicious boxed lunch prepared by the OCVTS Culinary Arts students from Brick. Close to 300 guests attended and rose for a standing ovation at the conclusion of the show.

On Saturday, February 27th a special Cinderella Character Luncheon provided dozens of little princesses, and their families, a fun-filled celebration prior to the 2PM matinee. The Journey to Culinary Arts Program prepared a delicious buffet lunch, the Pastry Arts program provided princess-worthy desserts, Twilight Cosmetology students were on-hand for face painting and a Meet and Greet with cast members made this a memorable event. Attendance at the weekend performances was close to capacity.

PHOTO CREDIT: Tatiana Tift

Cinderella Cast entertained Cinderella Lunch guests prior to the Saturday matinee performance.
OCVTS TO RECEIVE SILVER GULL AWARD FOR COMMITMENT TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ocean County Vocational Technical School has been recognized by the Monmouth Ocean Development Council (MODC) for its commitment to economic development through innovative career training programs. OCVTS has established several accelerated training programs for adults which provide an affordable, fast track option to employment in meaningful, sustainable careers. In addition, OCVTS offers Financial Aid Assistance and Job Placement Services which ensures each student’s greatest potential for success. These full-time, 10-month programs are: Automotive Technology, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, New Home Construction and Practical Nursing. For more information about these programs and admission procedures call 732.473.3100 x3144.

OCVTS will be honored at the 51st Annual Silver Gull Awards Dinner on May 5th at the Eagle Oaks Golf & Country Club in Farmingdale, NJ. Tickets for this event can be purchased by calling 732.751.8696.

THE OCEAN COUNTY FOUNDATION FOR VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL EDUCATION HAS LAUNCHED THE ‘STEPPING STONE TO SUCCESS’ PROJECT

The Ocean County Foundation for Vocational Technical Education is selling engraved stepping stones. The legacy pavers are available in two sizes and can be engraved with messages to recognize student achievements, commemorate a milestone, expression of gratitude - whatever you choose! Pavers may be purchased by individuals, families or businesses and will be placed on the walkway leading into the OCVTS Toms River Center. All proceeds raised through this project will fund scholarships for OCVTS students as well as grant allocations to OCVTS instructors for equipment and technology. For more information about the Stepping Stone to Success Project please contact Ann Sayers at 732.286.5670 x3242. The Stepping Stone Order Form is included in this newsletter.

The Ocean County Foundation for Vocational Technical Education was established in 1994 to help ensure a quality education for the students of Ocean County Vocational Technical School (OCVTS). It was formed by a group of corporate and community leaders in Ocean County. The Foundation provides funding through scholarships for OCVTS students and grants which allows OCVTS instructors and staff to purchase equipment and materials to enhance their training curriculum. For more information about the Foundation go to ocvtsfoundation.org

**Open 7 Days**

OCEAN COUNTY CENTER FOR CULINARY ARTS

Fresh~Local~Sustainable~Responsible

KIDS EAT FREE*

SUNDAY - THURSDAY

KIDS 12 AND UNDER EAT FREE FROM THE KIDS MENU.

Limit is one free kids menu item per regularly priced entrée purchased. Cannot be combined with any other offers.

609.296.2137

WWW.CUISINEONTHEGREEN.COM

261 COUNTRY CLUB BLVD, LITTLE EGG HARBOR
All proceeds to benefit the students of The Ocean County Vocational School.

Choose the size brick(s) you would like to purchase and fill in the spaces exactly as you want the engraving to appear

- All engraving will be done in upper-case (CAPITAL LETTERS) regardless of how it is printed on this form.
- All engraving will be centered on the brick, you do not need to print it that way.
- Remember to count punctuation marks and spaces between words when you are deciding how much will fit on each line.
- A heart counts as two spaces. ❤
- Make your check payable to: The Ocean County Foundation for Vocational Education
- Your Name ______________________________
- Telephone ______________________________
- Mail form & check to: OCVTS 350 Chambers Bridge Rd, Brick 08723/Attn: Annie Sayers

4” x 8” brick, $75 each

[Blank Spaces]

15 spaces per line, 3 lines maximum:

6” x 9” brick, $100 each

[Blank Spaces]

16 spaces per line, 4 lines maximum:

Any questions please contact Annie Sayers 732-286-5670 ext. 3242

Thank you for your Support!!
OCVTS is accepting applications for September 2016 in the following programs:

- Pre-Engineering Technology
- Medical Administration
- Mechanical Services Technology
- Custom Woodworking/Cabinetmaking
- Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
- Cosmetology and more....

Go to ocvts.org for additional program listings

Ocean County Vocational Technical School also offers two full-time career academy options for incoming high school juniors

**AUDIO TECHNOLOGY** - The full-time Audio Technology Program provides a challenging college prep academic curriculum, along with a major in audio production for incoming high school juniors. This program meets New Jersey high school graduation requirements and prepares students for admission to competitive colleges and universities. This program combines both art and science in a field that requires specialized technical knowledge.

**ACADEMY OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY** - The Academy of Law & Public Safety program offers a unique and comprehensive curriculum for students interested in pursuing a career in public safety. This full-time educational program for high school juniors and seniors, provides a challenging, hands-on learning experience for college-bound and career-oriented students. Students receive a rigorous two-year academic program which meets New Jersey high school graduation requirements and prepares students for admission to competitive colleges and universities. This program explores the role of law and public safety and homeland security in the United States and career opportunities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OCVTS PROGRAMS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CALL 732.473.3122

**TAKE THE FIRST STEP TO A NEW CAREER!**

**ACCELERATED CAREER TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS**

New Home Construction
Practical Nursing
Culinary Arts
Cosmetology
Automotive Technology

CLASSES BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER!
CALL NOW TO REGISTER!

CALL 732.473.3100 x3144
UPCOMING EVENTS
TechFest Scholarship Event .................... April 9
PAA Acting Showcase .................... April 22/May 10
PAA Vocal Showcase .................... April 29/May 12
PAA Dance Showcase ...................... May 6
FOR DETAILS GO TO OCVTS.ORG

STAY CONNECTED!
There is so much going on every day at OCVTS.
Like us on facebook and follow us on twitter and Instagram!
OCVTS students and staff will amaze you and inspire you!

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