



See what Digital Media students are making to help those in need



Check out Principal Meeker's latest accomplishment

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# TST Tribune

Together we learn, lead, support and serve

## Nurse Assisting Students Visit Good Samaritan Hospital

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Issue 1

At this year's Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) Conference in Troy, Nurse Assisting students at the TST BOCES Career and Tech Center were afforded the opportunity to observe guest speakers and see parliamentary procedures in effect, at meetings conducted by New York State HOSA officers.

Given the option to visit the New York State Museum, the Capital, or attend a tour of the Good Samaritan Hospital, the students selected the hospital to receive some hands-on training. During their visit, the students, along with their advisers, were able to visit the radiology department, the emergency room, the laboratory and the operating room.

"I learned a valuable lesson, which is that you should think of others as well as yourself," said student Myasia Gandy. "The fall conference was fun in a lot of different ways, and I'm glad I went."

According to student Isaiah Oaks-Doan, the conference "inspired me to want to become a state officer, so I can become a great leader for all HOSA members."



*Pictured, students and advisers recently attended a HOSA Conference in Troy. In the front row, from left, Adviser Fran Horner, Alyssa Miller, Ashley Porter, Isaiah Oaks-Doan, Cynthia Newton, Abigail Wood-Ellis, Andreana Hockenberry, Myasia Gandy, Eliza Terwillegar, Tia Soprano and Tinity Wolford-Frost. In the back row, from left, Michael Roman, Tara Spencer, Makaila Dapp and Adviser Mary Nauseef.*

## New Career Skills Program Providing Exceptional Results



Although it's been just months since its inception, a new Exceptional Education half-day program is already showing major signs of student growth, especially as it relates to job skills and employability.

The new Career Skills at Cornell University Program is a half-day program designed to teach vocational skills

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## Upstate Writes Set to Enhance Writing

Schools in the TST BOCES region, together with several organizations, are set to form Upstate Writes, an initiative that brings performing artists into ELA and English classrooms.

Together with local teachers and the Office of Cooperative Enrichment at TST BOCES, Upstate Writes will engage youth in the exploration of the arts and ELA and craft an intersection by which students will have the opportunity to perform for local audiences.

Local schools will collaborate with Global Writes, the Multicultural Resource Center, and well-known poets to refine, rework and prepare the artist's written word for the stage.

This work focuses students on essential components of the writing and revision process and gives students the opportunity to peer review work with high quality rubrics and curriculum.

## Adult Education Trainings Expand at TST

For a long time, TST BOCES Adult Education programs have offered training in welding, defensive driving and coaching certifications. Now, at least six new trainings have been offered and the opportunities continue to grow.

TST BOCES Director of Adult Education and External Programs Diahann Hesler said that many of the programs formed in response to regional and industry needs. For example, a hydraulics course was created to train employees of a local manufacturing company.

Additional trainings recently offered at TST BOCES include food safety, sanitation and cash handling class, an OSHA 10 training course, a first aid training, a CDL permit prep course, a basic computer skills course and a security guard training.

Hesler said there are many courses she would love to offer in the future, including a LPN course, a cosmetology class, a second phase CDL course and a CNC machining training. For these trainings to be held, at least eight students must enroll.

"Our Adult Education courses provide flexible options to many occupations. Our instructors work one-on-one with students to ensure they have the skills necessary to pursue or advance their career," said Hesler.



*Welding is just one of many trainings offered through TST BOCES' Adult Education program.*

For those whose first language is not English, TST BOCES offers English as a Second Language courses. They also offer High School Equivalency courses for those without a high school diploma.

For more information, visit [www.tstboces.org](http://www.tstboces.org), or contact Adult Education at (607) 257-1561.

## New Career Skills Program Providing Exceptional Results

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related to students who have an Individual Educational Plan. In collaboration with the Cornell Public Service Center, the students work toward acquiring a Career Development Occupational Studies commencement credential.

Most importantly, the program provides students with the opportunity to explore a variety of realistic career options on the Cornell University campus, helping students build a quality resume and potentially find employment.

"I've seen so much growth. And it's not just to learn about jobs because this program also allows students to be a part of the community," said teacher Brandy Nielsen. "Often it's the simple things that can make them the most happy."

Nielsen said the program also utilizes an abundance of technology, such as Google Classrooms, to help reinforce the importance of gaining essential skills needed to find and maintain a career. These skills include timeliness and professionalism, the proper use of time sheets and the creation of job portfolios and career plans.



## Career & Tech Now Offering Precision Machining Program

Career & Technical Education at TST BOCES will soon offer a Precision Machining program, a “design and build” opportunity that introduces interested students to the field of computer controlled machining.

As part of the program, students will utilize 2D and 3D Computer Aided Design and Drafting software, Computer Aided Machining software, Computer Numerical Control milling machines, laser engraving equipment, 3D printers, and more.

While students will develop career skills such as mathematics, problem solving skills and attention to detail, the program will also potentially unite students with local industries in need of employees with knowledge of the program’s course of study.

"I have spoken to a number of industry professionals in this region and they anticipate more job opportunities in the future," said Tony DiLucci, Director of Career and Technical Education at TST BOCES.

For more information on the program, please contact the TST BOCES Career & Technical Education Center at (607) 257-1551, or visit [tstboces.org/cte](http://tstboces.org/cte).

## Adult Education Providing First Aid Training for Inmates

Inmates at the Tompkins County Jail recently completed a first aid course while incarcerated thanks to the assistance of TST BOCES Adult Education programs.

This initiative is a new collaboration between TST BOCES and the Tompkins County Jail. TST BOCES Adult Education provides training programs at the jail with the support of Sheriff Ken Lansing in an effort to provide skills to assist with re-entry into the community and new skill sets that can be added to their resumes.

This past June, an OSHA 10 training program was also offered. These trainings are created to be short-term for guaranteed completion. In the future, Director of External Programs at TST BOCES Diahann Hesler hopes to also offer a Food Safety Sanitation program.



*Pictured from left, Digital Media students Devin Westlake, Keri Lawson, Dezmond Garnetto and Lukas Stewart pose with a prosthetic hand they're helping design for a child in need.*

## Digital Media Students Helping to Create Affordable Prosthetics

With the goal of helping children in need, Digital Media students have been busy utilizing 3D printers to create an affordable prosthetic hand.

The inspiration for the project came when a friend of Digital Media teacher Mike Blegen came to him with information on Enabling the Future, an organization of volunteers from around the world dedicated to providing affordable upper limb prosthetics. According to Blegen, once he took the idea to his students, "they were all in."

"I oversaw the 3D printing of the parts for the first run ... the students, though, put everything together, including assembling the pieces and attaching the wires, Velcro, bolts, etc."

Generally, a prosthetic hand can cost anywhere from \$5,000 to \$15,000, and the cost becomes increasingly problematic every time a child outgrows their prosthetic hand. However, Blegen said his class can make an Enabling the Future prosthetic for less than \$40.

"The first hand was basically a test concept," said Blegen. "Now, we'll get paired with a child who needs a prosthetic and get very specific measurements. At that point, these students will completely take over. They will be creating the 3D elements, printing these out with the 3D printer and assembling the hand."

## TST, Cornell University Awarded for Alliance

A collaboration between TST BOCES and Cornell University was recently honored with the Ewing Family Service Award for its contribution to community education.

The award lauded the efforts of the education providers for the "Helping Exceptional Youth BOCES" initiative. As part of the effort, TST BOCES students with developmental disabilities explore careers on the Cornell University campus. The high school students work alongside college student mentors in a variety of career options.

"Our students tour different buildings on campus and experience different jobs," said TST BOCES Career Skills teacher Brandy Nielsen. "This program really gives them exposure to a range of careers. The students have worked in the orchards, in maintenance, food service, and the vet science building."

## TST Tribune

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## Bracelet Sale Benefits Third World Countries

Students in Cheryl Bott's Spanish Communication and Culture class are quickly learning how important a helping hand can be.

The class recently began a bracelet sale through the Pulsera Project, a non-profit organization that connects artists in Third World countries with students in the United States through the sale of handwoven bracelets, or "pulseras" in Spanish. The bracelets are made by artists in Nicaragua and Guatemala, shipped up to students in the United States to sell, and those sales are then sent back to the artist to help increase their economic opportunities.

"This has been an amazing experience and an opportunity for us to show that we care about others," said student Zach Cobane.

Other than selling bracelets, the class also sold several handwoven purses. For more information on the bracelet sale, please contact Cheryl Botts at [cbotts@tstboces.org](mailto:cbotts@tstboces.org).



Pictured from left, teacher aide Lucia Hall, Zach Cobane, Christian Cole, Alexander Gonzales, teacher Cheryl Botts and David McCrea proudly display bracelets and purses they have been selling to help less fortunate families in Third World countries.

## Principal Meeker Earns Community Award

TST BOCES Exceptional Education Principal Mary Meeker recently earned the 2015 Community Partner Award from Franziska Racker Centers.

Franziska Racker Centers holds an annual community and staff awards ceremony as a way to recognize either a group, business or agency that works to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

The 2015 awards

ceremony was hosted at Ithaca College, and Meeker was one of five individuals to receive an award this year.



TST BOCES Exceptional Education Principal Mary Meeker displays the 2015 Community Partner Award she recently received from Franziska Racker Centers. The award is given to those who best exemplify the mission of the Racker Centers.

*Tompkins Seneca Tioga BOCES shall continue its policy of providing educational opportunities for all students who wish to enroll in any course without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, political affiliation, sex, age, marital or veteran status, disability, religious practice, ethnic group, gender expression and identity, weight, or genetic predisposition. TST BOCES provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.*

*For information regarding the nondiscrimination policy, contact David J. Parsons, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, 555 Warren Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. He may also be reached by phone: 607-257-1551.*