



TST Tribune

Together we learn, lead, support and serve

June 2017

TST BOCES Career and Technical Education Holds Recognition Ceremony



Career and Technical Education (CTE) at TST BOCES celebrated its students and their hard work this school year during a recognition ceremony on May 18.

Students and their families gathered together on campus at TST BOCES along with CTE staff to recognize

and celebrate the students' success. Class awards were announced by each program's instructor after which a number of special awards and scholarships were distributed.

"This is truly a wonderful event that celebrates and rewards the hard work of our amazing CTE students," said Jeff Podolak, principal of CTE. "Through the generosity of many local organizations, groups and committees, our students are recognized for their achievements."

Keynote speaker and TST BOCES alum Dan Newton talked about the advantage that his BOCES education has provided him throughout his career and, he gave some words of encouragement for the future. Refreshments were provided by the CTE food service class and also by a generous contribution from Mike Katz at Edible Arrangements.

TST BOCES staff gave a special thanks to local chapters of the Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club of Dryden and the Park Foundation for their support.

TST BOCES to Implement Paperless Meeting Software AgendaManager

TST BOCES is transitioning from BoardDocs to AgendaManager.

AgendaManager is also a paperless meeting software, but it has the capability of accommodating agendas and minutes for multiple meetings. The BOE June meeting and agenda minutes can be accessed either through BoardDocs or AgendaManager once they are published.

Effective with the July 5 TST BOCES Reorganization Meeting and Regular Business Meeting, the only way to access the BOE agenda and minutes, and future agendas and minutes, will be through AgendaManager.

The link to access AgendaManager is:
www.agendaman.com/tstboces

Smith School Students Grow Physically and Personally While Rock Climbing

Students in the TST BOCES Career Skills program were given the opportunity to challenge themselves as they took on the rock climbing wall in the Lindseth Climbing Center at Cornell University.

Over the course of five weekly lessons, the students were able to develop not only their climbing skills but also their self-confidence.

"I feel more confident in myself, and it helped me become more independent as well," said BOCES student Jayna Ungleich.

This opportunity was made possible through collaboration with Cornell Outdoor Education and the support of a grant from Cornell University.

The program presented a challenge for students to push themselves outside of their comfort zone and away from the familiar faces at school. Students had to develop a relationship of trust with the instructors and the belayers in order to succeed.

"If I feel like I can't do something, just don't give up," BOCES student Kayle Swansborough said. "I have to thank [my instructor] Kelly for that."

The rock climbing activity was a fun chance for the students involved to grow and an opportunity to experience a challenge they may not have otherwise got the chance to face.

"The climbing wall allowed the students to try a new skill that was out of their comfort zone," said Career Skills Teacher Brandy Nielson. "By trying this new skill, students gained confidence and practiced problem solving."



Pictured above is a Smith School student enjoying her rock climbing experience.

CDOS Work-Based Learning Coordinators Host Youth Job Fair

TST BOCES hosted 28 local employers for a Youth Job Fair May 2.

With an emphasis on entry-level, part-time and summer work, nearly 100 students from a number of area school districts were able to meet with and talk to employers about potential positions. A wide variety of industries were represented, including hospitality, child care, summer camps, retail, food service, construction industry and military.

"We are thrilled with the outcome of our entry-level, part-time and summer Youth Job Fair, and we look forward to hosting this event again next spring," said Deb Demers, Work-Based Learning Coordinator at TST BOCES. "We truly

appreciate all the help we received from our TST BOCES staff and the members of the Tompkins County Youth Employment Resource Team, who co-sponsored the event."

All employers who attended indicated their interest in providing a variety of work-based learning opportunities for students and responded with positive feedback regarding the event.

"The Youth Job Fair was a great first-time event that will hopefully happen again next year and grow," said Monica Dykeman of Groton Youth Services/Groton Recreation.

The job fair was organized with the support of Tompkins Trust Company, Youth Employment Service and

Challenge Workforce Solutions. For more information about the Youth Job Fair or other work-based learning opportunities, contact Deb Demers at ddemers@tstboces.org or Michelle Pronti at mpronti@tstboces.org



Students participate in a Youth Job Fair hosted by TST BOCES.

Career and Tech May Students of the Month

The Career and Technical Education staff and administration recognize nominated first-year and second-year students each month. The outstanding students of the month are chosen based on qualities such as character, leadership, citizenship, work ethic and attendance. The student should be compassionate, honest, trustworthy, responsible and a positive role model.

AM May Students of the Month are:

Felecia Kohut, Food Service, South Seneca; Hannah Dries, Cosmetology, Dryden; Ryan LeCuyer, Auto Body, Dryden; Cheyenne Dawson, Welding, RAS/Trumansburg; Kiara McEver, Early Childhood, Ithaca; Ryan Seymour, Auto Tech, Lansing; Tyler Wells, Digital Media, Newfield; Kaeleigh Mungovan, Computer Technology, Dryden; Alexandra VanHorn, C.N.A, South Seneca; Makayla Badman, Career Exploration, Groton.

PM May Students of the Month are:

Chastitie Coil, Cosmetology, Dryden; Dawn Pierce, CEP, Groton/TST BOCES; Landon Wright, Auto Body, Dryden; Adam Huff, Welding, Dryden; Charles Neiss, Auto Tech, Trumansburg; Chaya Wilson, Digital Media, Ithaca; Jeffrey West, Computer Technology, Dryden; Morgan Rosellen, C.N.A., Groton; Auburn Noce, Early Childhood, Ithaca.



Trial iPads Provide Accessibility to Assistive Technology

Thanks to a generous grant from the Triad Foundation, TST BOCES can now offer component districts a helpful new technology resource.

The \$5,000 grant provided five trial iPads, which are each equipped with three robust and well-regarded communication apps designed to help give non-verbal students a voice. The iPads can be used to help determine which application will provide the best benefit to the student before committing to one option.

“What this trial iPad does is give the speech therapist, or the classroom teacher, a chance to try several different options and pick the one that is working for the child, instead of trying to guess which one might,” said Trish Peterson, a speech therapy consultant at TST BOCES.

The three apps currently being offered are Proloquo2go, CoughDrop and LAMP (Language Acquisition Motor Planning). Each of these programs are trusted communication options, but have different features that could prove beneficial to particular situations or individual student needs. The iPads are available to districts for six-week trial periods upon request.

For more information about these apps, or how to take advantage of this opportunity, contact Trish Peterson at tpeterson@tstboces.org



A TST student uses a newly donated trial iPad.



Career Development and Occupational Studies: CDOS Corner



CDOS Working to Help Students Meet Employment Success

The first entry-level, part-time and summer Youth Job Fair on May 2 was a huge success! Feedback from participants was very positive, and all employers who attended are interested in hosting a variety of work-based learning experiences for TST students. TST BOCES and members of the Tompkins County Youth Employment Resource Team co-sponsored this event and look forward to offering this and other collaborations as we continue our mission to align and enhance programs that provide youth employment, youth development and career development opportunities to all students.

Prior to attending the Youth Job Fair, a very motivated group of Groton High School students signed up for two Career Boot Camps. These lunchtime presentations, facilitated by Work-Based Learning Coordinators Michelle Pronti and Deb Demers, covered the do's and don'ts of filling out job applications and improving interview skills. "We really enjoyed working with this amazing group of students, and we are continuing our partnership with Groton by working with Assistant Principal, Billie Downs, to offer a more advanced summer workshop to Groton students," said Demers.

Teaming up with Tompkins Trust Financial and Work Force NY, Demers and Pronti are program for students to practice their job application and interview skills with Human Resource professionals from local businesses.

"Our plan is to have employers create a typical job opening and application link that will be housed on 'The Amazing Job Quest' tab of the TST Exceptional Education web page," said Demers. "Students will select a position of interest and apply. Employers will screen the student application and provide feedback as to whether or not based on their application, they would be selected to interview."

Phase two of the program will be an opportunity to interview, either in person or by telephone and again, students will receive feedback.

Phase three will be a final debriefing session with the student to discuss what they learned from the process and what they can do differently in the future. The idea for this program came from Stacie Mastin, Work Force Readiness Representative from SHRMTTC (Society for Human Resource Management of Tompkins County) and HR Manager at Tompkins Trust Company.

"Stacie has been instrumental in helping us pilot this program with a small group of students and we look forward to ironing out the details and involving more companies and students next year," said Pronti.

TST BOCES

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CTE Techapalooza Coming this Summer



TST BOCES Career and Technical Education is hosting Techapalooza summer camps for entering sixth through eighth-graders! There is still time to sign up, visit tstboces.org/cte.

Pictured left, CTE Digital Media Technology student creates a t-shirt logo for Techapalooza.

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.