



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

I would like to congratulate the following staff members on the 2021-2022 Educator Awards:

- Ms. Wanda Scott & Ms. Faiza Shahid
Co-Support Staff Members of the Year
- Ms. Samantha Inga
Educational Services Professional of the Year
- Mr. Phillip Eng
Educator of the Year

SCVTS would like to congratulate Dr. Harttraft on her retirement from the District. We wish her well in her next chapter.

During the week of December 20th, the 2nd Marking Level Interim Grades will be available for viewing in Genesis. Please ensure that your child is on track for success. Students struggling in academic areas have tutoring, math and science labs available. Please consult with a guidance counselor to arrange these services.

SCVTHS will have a 12pm dismissal on Thursday, December 23rd and closed starting on December 24th to the 31st for the Holiday Recess. The school will reopen on Monday, January 3, 2022.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. Enjoy the much needed break. If traveling internationally, be cognizant of post travel guidelines.

Sincerely,
Hector Montes



SCVTS SUPERINTENDENT TO RETIRE AFTER ELEVEN YEARS IN THE DISTRICT

After 11 years as Superintendent of Somerset County Vocational and Technical Schools (SCVTS), Dr. Chrys Harttraft is set to retire at the end of December 2021. Dr. Harttraft has spent the last forty years in public service and will now step down to spend time with her growing family.

As she enters retirement, Dr. Harttraft will welcome her first grandchild at the end of January 2022. Harttraft stated she looks forward to helping with child care and reporting to her new "little boss."

In the long-term, Dr. Harttraft looks forward to spending time on hobbies such as woodworking, renovating and music. Professionally she is considering returning to teaching at the college level and volunteering at her local church.

As Harttraft departs SCVTS, she reflected on the state of the District and its position for future success. "With the addition of new hires and a cohesive administration, the school is in a good place to continue the current momentum. Additionally, as a Bond Act grant recipient, SCVTS is in an even stronger position to better both the local and state economy."

Reflecting on her time at SCVTS, Harttraft stated, "SCVTS has a collegial, professional environment among teachers, support staff, administration and the board of education who are all pulling in the same direction, which really helps focus on what's important for the students."

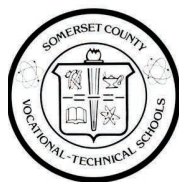
During her tenure, Dr. Harttraft was selected by the Somerset County Association of School Administrators (SCASA) as the 2021-2022 Somerset County Superintendent of the Year, oversaw the addition of multiple career and technical programs at SCVTS, and was recently awarded a \$23M grant, which will add a building to the campus, several new programs and has the potential of nearly doubling the student population at SCVTS.



Superintendent Dr. Chrys Harttraft

"It was my pleasure to be here," stated Harttraft. "This was far and wide my best professional experience." ❀

For more information on this story contact James Strickhart at jstrickhart@scvts.net.



SCVTHS

OPEN
HOUSE
SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 5, 2022
9 am to 12 noon



JAGUAR NATION

JANUARY 2022

SCVTHS CULINARY ARTS STUDENTS HOLD THIRD ANNUAL AMUSE-BOUCHE CONTEST

JAGUAR NATION

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Somerset County Board of Chosen Commissioners



First Place Winner - Newsletter Category

On November 23, 2021, students in the Culinary Arts Program at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School (SCVTHS) held their Third Annual Amuse-Bouche Contest. Amuse-bouche is a French term for “mouth amuser” and traditional features single-bite appetizers.

For the contest, the Culinary Arts students were divided into their cohorts and worked in small teams to compete against each other. The students then used their creativity and culinary skills to create amazing amuse-bouche dishes. The judges consisted of SCVTHS staff members who selected a winner for each of the second, third and fourth-year student categories, as well as overall contest winners.

This year, seniors Matt Wright of Branchburg and Ernesto Monge of Hillsborough were named the fourth-year and overall winners of the contest. Matt and Ernesto’s winning amuse-bouche dish was a grilled shrimp and caramelized mango skewer. Toni Romani of Neshanic Station and Charlie Shiloff of Somerville were named the third-year winners; and the team of James Cote of Branchburg, Val Maldonado of Somerville, and Melany Borodkin of Bridgewater were named second-year winners.

“This is our 4th year facilitating the Amuse Bouche Cook-Off. After missing last year’s competition due to COVID restrictions, our Culinary students seemed anxious

and ready to compete!” stated Culinary Arts Instructor Keith Johnson.

Instructor Johnson went on to add, “This year our A-shop was well represented, capturing not only each grade level title, but the overall title as well! Matt & Ernesto were named the overall winners by three SCVTHS staff member judges: Susan Kiser, Randee Holz & Brandon Kornbluh. Congratulations to all our Culinary Teams!”*

For more information on this story, contact
James Strickhart at jstrickhart@scvts.net.



(l-r): SCVTHS students Matt Wright of Branchburg and Ernesto Monge of Hillsborough, who were named the fourth-year and overall winners in the SCVTHS Third Annual Amuse-Bouche Contest.

CHASE CRAIG



Chase Craig

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Chase Craig, a junior in the Health Occupations Program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School’s (SCVTHS) Student of the Month for December 2021. Chase is the son of Daniel and Lisa Craig of South Bound Brook.

SCVTHS Science Instructor Ms. Ushma Mehta nominated Chase for the Student of the Month award stating, “Chase is a hardworking, dedicated and polite student. He is an active participant in class. He’s respectful to his teachers and peers and is a pleasure to have in class.”

At SCVTHS, Chase is a member of the Rotary and HOSA Clubs. Additionally, he serves as a peer mentor and is a continuous member of the Principal’s Honor Roll.

Chase spends his time volunteering for Hurricane Ida relief and performing community cleanups. During his free time, Chase enjoys playing basketball and biking.

After high school, Chase plans on attending Raritan Valley Community College and then moving on to a four-year college. In addition to his educational plans, Chase said, “I plan to travel as much as I can.”

Beyond his interest in health sciences, Chase also has a passion for the environment. Chase stated, “I am a big environmentalist and I love teaching and talking about climate change and its effects.”*