



SCVTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NAMES 2021 BUSINESS PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Grant Herring, a sales representative at F.W. Webb, has been selected as the Somerset County Vocational & Technical School District's 2021 Business Partner of the Year. Mr. Herring was selected for the award for his involvement, commitment, contributions and generous donations to the Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's (SCVTHS) Plumbing Program.

Over the past nine years, Mr. Herring and F.W. Webb have played an active role as part of the SCVTHS Plumbing Program's advisory committee, assisted in providing work-based learning experiences to SCVTHS students, and even hired many students after they graduated. Furthermore, Mr. Herring and F.W. Webb have been generous donors to the yearly SCVTHS SkillsUSA Golf Classic. In addition to the previous contributions, SCVTHS Plumbing Instructor Mr. Robert Setlock stated, "Mr. Herring also offers valuable product



(l-r): Superintendent Dr. Chrys Harttraft poses with Somerset County Vocational & Technical School District's 2021 Business Partner of the Year Mr. Grant Herring and SCVTS Board of Education President Mr. William Hyncik Jr.

information and potential employer contacts for students."

For these notable contributions, Somerset County Vocational & Technical School District is proud to announce Mr. Grant Herring as the 2021 Business Partner of the Year.*

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

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Riley Sibilia, a senior in the Graphic Communications Program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Student of the Month for January 2022. Riley is the daughter of Andrew and Heather Sibilia of Raritan.

SCVTHS Science Instructor Ms. Shannon Melick nominated Riley for the Student of the Month award stating, "Riley is a hard-working and responsible student. She always has a positive attitude and is a strong participant in class."

At SCVTHS, Riley is a member of the Varsity Girls' Soccer Team, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Rotary Club, Girls Who Code Club, a continuous member of the Principal's Honor Roll, and a previous Stellar Student recipient. Riley also serves as a peer mentor, student ambassador, and the SkillsUSA CTE Ambassador.

Outside of SCVTHS, Riley is a member of Morris Rugby, the Somerset County Youth Council, and the Raritan Gardening Club. In her free time, Riley enjoys playing rugby, running, baking, and hanging out with her siblings. Additionally, during the summer months, Riley works as a lifeguard at a community pool.

After high school, Riley plans to attend Mount St. Mary's University to play rugby and study entrepreneurship.*

RILEY SIBILIA



Riley Sibilia



PHILIP ENG SELECTED AS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AT SCVTHS

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! Students are enjoying and benefiting from interacting and socializing with their peers and teachers. I remain optimistic that we will remain open for business as long as everyone does their part and adheres to the safety guidelines. Please check our website for updated information.

As we near the end of the 2nd Marking Period, I want to remind students to give it their best and finish strong. Continue to communicate with your teachers to ensure timely submission and clarification of assignments and lessons. If tutoring is needed, please contact your guidance counselor.

During the 3rd Marking Period, we will focus on many activities, including highlighting our programs during Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, facilitating a hybrid Open House and infusing African American contributions into our lessons.

Best of luck to our sports teams and their coaches with the final games.

Sincerely,
Hector Montes



Philip Eng, an Automotive-Diesel Technology instructor at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School (SCVTHS), has been selected as the 2021-2022 Educator of the Year. Mr. Eng is known for being a caring, engaging, and generous instructor, who continually goes above and beyond his job duties to assist students and community members alike.

Mr. Eng was in the middle of teaching a lesson when he heard a commotion entering his classroom. Eng, with a blowtorch in hand, was shocked to see a group of administrators greeting him with a banner and the announcement that he was named the 2021-2022 Educator of the Year. "I was really shocked," stated Mr. Eng. "I was not expecting it at all."

"Mr. Eng has a great relationship with his students," said Principal Mr. Hector Montes. "His lessons are interactive and address safety and customer service. His shop is organized and clean, demonstrating the importance of an inviting environment for business and clients. Mr. Eng is part of the fabric of the school."

Supervisor Mr. Rob Carrig stated, "Mr. Eng is one of the most passionate, and dedicated instructors that I have had the pleasure of working with. He is continually creating new, innovative ways to teach Automotive-Diesel Technologies and has spent a great deal of time creating a modern, real world work experience. Mr. Eng sets high expectations for his students, providing them with engaging and challenging work while guiding them from start to finish. He is well liked and highly respected by our entire school community. We are lucky to have him as part of our team!"

After years in the field, working with many former trade school students who claimed to know very little after graduating, Eng wanted to "make a change" and "give back to the community." Seeking a transition from industry Mr. Eng enrolled at Brookdale Community College to participate in their alternate route teaching program.

Now in his eighth year at SCVTHS, Mr. Eng stays busy outside the classroom serving as a Yearbook advisor and is always working on a project with the automotive live-work program, which fixes vehicles belonging to community members.

"The automotive industry has been good to me and I try to give back by teaching kids today. It's great seeing the students' faces when the theory and the practical 'click,' said Eng. "It's wonderful watching the



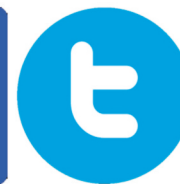
Mr. Philip Eng, the 2021-2022 Educator of the Year at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School

students grow up over three or four years into fine young respectable adults."

"I am extremely honored and grateful to receive the Educator of the Year award," reflected Mr. Eng. "I could not have accomplished what I have without the support of the staff at SCVTHS."

Mr. Eng is a resident of Bridgewater, where he resides with his wife and two children. In his free time, Mr. Eng enjoys taking photographs, as well as "spending time on warm, breezy days at the beach and on the boardwalk."*

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





FEBRUARY 2022

WANDA SCOTT & FAIZA SHAHID SELECTED AS SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS OF THE YEAR AT SCVTHS

JAGUAR NATION

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This publication was funded by the
Somerset County Board of Chosen Commissioners



SCHOOL COUNSELOR SAMANTHA INGA SELECTED AS SCVTHS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



Samantha Inga

Samantha Inga, a school counselor at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School (SCVTHS), has been selected as the 2021-2022 Educational Services Professional of the Year. Ms. Inga is known for her caring approach, vibrant personality, and accessibility.

While selling cookies outside of the media center for a SkillsUSA fundraiser, Ms. Inga was “shocked, surprised” and “caught off-guard” when a group of administrators approached her to announce the award. “I was not expecting it,” said Inga.

Ms. Inga was originally inspired to pursue counseling because she wanted to help others. Knowing the importance of having a supportive school counselor, especially when dealing with students’ educational, social and emotional aspects; Inga wanted to make a difference. Inga stated, “I am passionate about working with students in a way that I didn’t get.” While substituting in a high school and pursuing her master’s degree,

Samantha found that she enjoyed working with the high school student population and decided that was what she wanted to focus her career.

Inga’s favorite part of her job is working directly with the students. Moreover, Inga appreciates that her job allows her to be readily accessible to students and students are able to see her without appointments for issues both large and small.

Director of Special Services Ms. Maria Johnson stated, “Ms. Inga is very good at connecting with her students. She always makes time for them and her door is always open. Ms. Inga makes it a point to understand her students’ career and technical education programs, which aids in building meaningful connections.”

Principal Hector Montes added, “Ms. Inga can be seen checking on her students and programs throughout the day. She gets involved in other aspects of the school culture. Most recently, she was appointed SkillsUSA Advisor and has taken a leadership role with



(L-R): Helpdesk Support Technicians Ms. Wanda Scott and Ms. Faiza Shahid, the 2021-2022 Support Staff Members of the Year at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School

Ms. Shahid is a resident of Bernardsville, where she resides with her husband and two sons. In her free time, Shahid enjoys hiking, cooking, traveling, as well as spending time with family and friends.

Ms. Scott graduated from Rutgers University with a sociology degree and was working at a Head Start program prior to changing careers. Scott also attended the former Somerset County Technology Institute (SCTI), to receive a certificate in computer technology support before being hired by SCVTS. Ms. Scott is now in her nineteenth year at SCVTS.

Ms. Scott is a resident of Franklin Park, where she resides with her twin sister, Wendy, and her Boston terrier, Scarlett. In her free time, Wanda enjoys golfing, reading and going to the movies.✴

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

the organization, creating enthusiasm amongst the student population.”

Ms. Inga has been an employee at SCVTHS for four years. Currently, she serves as a SkillsUSA Advisor, as well as a bowling coach at Sparta High School.

Ms. Inga is a graduate of Caldwell University, where she received a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a master’s degree in counseling. In her free time, Inga sings in a band and creates custom cakes. Additionally, Samantha enjoys spending time bowling and running.

Ms. Inga is a resident of Byram Township and lives with her husband, Michael, and their cat, Nera. Samantha gave credit to her husband for helping her to understand construction terms and lingo, as he works as a contractor. With his assistance, Samantha has been able to create a greater connection with her students.

“I am grateful for this award and even more grateful to be able to work with a wonderful school community that is supportive and inspiring,” said Samantha. “I truly feel that I am able to perform my job in a way that encompasses all of my passions for my craft because of the support and guidance I am given here at SCVTHS.”✴



FEBRUARY 2022

SCVTHS WELCOMES NEW ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

On January 1st, Somerset County Vocational & Technical Schools welcomed Mr. Pat Pelliccia as the new Acting Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Pelliccia, who has been with the District for the past 13 years, brings with him over twenty years of experience from different levels and systems of education.

Prior to arriving at SCVTS, Mr. Pelliccia began his educational career as a Social Studies teacher and was promoted to Disciplinarian/ Assistant Principal at Cardinal McCarrick/St. Mary’s High School in South Amboy. After eight years there Mr. Pelliccia took a position as Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction at SCVTS and eventually moved his way up to serving as the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction before becoming the Acting Superintendent.



Pat Pelliccia, the new Acting Superintendent of Schools at Somerset County Vocational & Technical Schools

“I think what has helped the most is that I have been in so many positions during my time as an educator,” Mr. Pelliccia stated. “I have been a teacher, department head, disciplinarian, curriculum coordinator, supervisor and assistant superintendent. I have been able to see the school from different perspectives because of the various roles that I have had. I have also been able to interact with many of the teachers who have been here.”

Outgoing Superintendent Dr. Chrys Harttraft stated, “The District is in good hands with Mr. Pelliccia. Given his experience and time at SCVTS, Mr. Pelliccia will provide a seamless

transition as he is already familiar with the district’s personnel, goals and objectives.”

Looking ahead, Mr. Pelliccia stated, “My main goal is to see the completion of the new building and the addition of eight more CTE programs which will allow us to expand our population by 500 students.”

Mr. Pelliccia holds a bachelor’s degree in History Education from the University of Delaware and a master’s degree in Administration and Supervision from Saint Peter’s University.✴

For more information on this story, contact
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Sincerely,

Pat Pelliccia