



JAGUAR NATION

MARCH 2022 • VOLUME 11, No. 5

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCVTHS HOLDS HISPANIC HONOR SOCIETY OFFICER INDUCTIONS

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

Starting March 7th, Governor Murphy will lift the mask mandate in our schools, leaving it up to the individual districts to decide what is best for their school communities. Our district will soon make a formal announcement as to whether or not the mask mandate will continue. Due to transportation being federally regulated, our students who are transported by bus will have to wear a mask on the bus to and from school, trips and sporting events.

During the month of March we will celebrate Women's History, Music in our Schools and St. Patrick's Day. Ms. Vasaturo, Ms. Watson and Mr. Schade have inspired our students to share their instrumental and vocal talents. Mr. Schade has organized a Music Club and several events to showcase our students' talents. In the future we hope to offer a Music Elective course.

The 3rd Marking Period Interim Reports will be available on March 15th. I would like to thank Ms. Maria Johnson, Director of Pupil Services, for facilitating another successful Open House. Our registration numbers are promising for 2022-2023.

Sincerely,
Hector Montes



SCVTHS student Ashely Qi of Green Brook, Hispanic Honor Society Advisor Mr. Guillermo Reina, SCVTHS students Ananya Kabbina of Hillsborough, Kimia Shahriyar of Hillsborough, Hispanic Honor Society Advisor Ms. Daysi Lakhliif, SCVTHS students Hadiya Ahmad of Bound Brook, Sasha Kapur of Bridgewater, Maggie Chen of Hillsborough, and Hispanic Honor Society Advisor Mr. Rafael Catalan after the induction ceremony. (Not pictured: Fiona Shanahan of Warren)

On January 21st, seven students in the Hispanic Honor Society Chapter "Pura Vida" at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School were installed as chapter officers. In a small ceremony, Hispanic Honor Society Advisors Mr. Guillermo Reina, Mr. Rafael Catalan and Ms. Daysi Lakhliif presented medallions to the newly appointed officers. The students and their new positions are as follows:

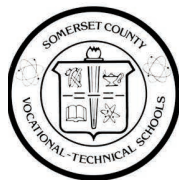
President – Sasha Kapur of Bridgewater
Vice President – Kimia Shahriyar of Hillsborough
Treasurer – Maggie Chen of Hillsborough
Secretary – Ananya Kabbina of Hillsborough
Secretary – Fiona Shanahan of Warren
Public Relations Communications Representative – Ashely Qi of Green Brook
Public Relations Graphic Designer Representative – Hadiya Ahmad of Bound Brook

Students inducted into the Hispanic Honor Society are selected based on their grades and a community

service requirement. Chapter officers must be Honor Society members, submit an essay and pass an interview with the Hispanic Honor Society advisors.

Advisor Guillermo Reina stated, "The Hispanic Honor Society, Chapter Pura Vida, welcomes the new board for the academic year 2022-2023. It's great to see the passion and commitment from our students and their appreciation of the Spanish language and its culture. Ms. Lakhliif, Mr. Catalan and I wish them all the best and we are here to support them."*

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



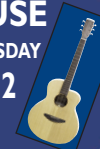
CELEBRATING
MUSIC IN THE
SCHOOLS MONTH

SCVTHS
COFFEEHOUSE

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY

March 28 & 30, 2022

10:45am to 12 pm





JAGUAR NATION

MARCH 2022

SCVTHS STUDENT PARTICIPATES IN 2021 WAKSMAN INSTITUTE SUMMER EXPERIENCE

JAGUAR NATION

Volume 11, No. 5 • March 2022

Duane Wallace • *Editor & Designer*
James Strickhart • *Editorial*
Sharleen Leahey • *Graphic Production*
Janet Cantore-Watson • *Photography*

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS VOCATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

William G. Hyncik, Jr., *President*
Gregory Lavee, *Vice President*
Nadine Wilkins *Randell Burch*
Roger A. Jinks, *Executive County Superintendent*
Douglas Singleterry
Somerset County Commissioner Liaison

ADMINISTRATION

Pat Pelliccia, *Acting Superintendent of Schools*
Raelene Sipple, *School Business Administrator / Board Secretary*
Hector Montes, *Principal*
Maria Johnson, *Director of Special Services*



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

New Jersey School
NJSPRA
Public Relations Association
First Place Winner - Newsletter Category

This past summer, sophomore Navya Gobinathan of Bridgewater, a student in the Academy for Health and Medical Sciences Program at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School, participated in the July 21 virtual Waksman Institute Summer Experience (July 21 vWISE) sponsored by the Rutgers University Waksman Institute in Piscataway, NJ.

Navya was one of 86 high school students from California, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Wisconsin, and Turkey to be selected through a competitive application process to attend the Program. During the July 21 vWISE, students conducted a research project focused on DNA sequence analyses of genes from the duckweed plant *Landoltia punctata*. The duckweed plant is of interest in the scientific community because of its use in bioremediation and potential for use as a biofuel. Navya explained, "Through analyzing these genes, I was also able to compare them to genes in other species. While conducting the gene analysis I was able to see if the sequences codes for a protein, whether I could create a three-dimensional model from it, and I was able to compare the genes to see how they differ from the *Landolita*!"

Susan Coletta, Senior Science Education Specialist at Rutgers University Waksman Institute stated, "Navya accomplished a great deal during this two-week period. With this level of enthusiasm for scientific research, it is important that these achievements be recognized."



Navya Gobinathan (Bridgewater), a student in the Academy for Health and Medical Sciences Program at SCVTHS, who participated in the July 21 virtual Waksman Institute Summer Experience sponsored by the Rutgers University Waksman Institute in Piscataway, New Jersey.

"My biggest takeaway was not only publishing two sequences on the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) database, but it was the experience," said Navya. "Through this Program, I was able to compare gene sequences from any organism, which was something I never thought I could have done before. I'm grateful for the opportunity to participate." Navya concluded by stating, "This Program was amazing and I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in gene analysis."✳

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

NARIELYS GUTIERREZ



Narielys Gutierrez

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Narielys Gutierrez, a freshman in the Health Occupations Program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's (SCVTHS) Student of the Month for February 2022. Narielys is the daughter of Carlos and Ingris Gutierrez of South Bound Brook.

SCVTHS English Instructor Mr. Miller nominated Narielys for the Student of the Month award stating, "Narielys is a great student: conscientious, hard-working, and ethical. She is always polite and respectful and a help to her peers. Narielys's work is often used as an example for the class."

At SCVTHS, Narielys is a member of the HOSA-Future Health Professionals Club and a Principal's Honor Roll member.

Outside of SCVTHS, Narielys enjoys running, baking, cooking, spending time with her brother, being outside and hanging out with her friends.

After graduating from SCVTHS, Narielys plans on attending community college to obtain her degree and working in the medical field as a nurse.✳