



JAGUAR NATION

JUNE 2022 • VOLUME 11, No. 8

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCVTHS STUDENTS WIN GOLD AT THE 2022 NEW JERSEY SkillsUSA CHAMPIONSHIPS

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

I would like to offer congratulations to the Class of 2022. Based on your experiences at SCVTHS, I'm confident that you will meet tomorrow's challenges with enthusiasm and vigor. The combined vocational and academic education you received is invaluable. Continue to build on what you have learned, set goals and strive to attain them. Success is difficult, but you have a solid foundation. Congratulations!

Final exams will begin June 6th. Graduation will take place on Monday, June 20th on District property at 3pm.

After a three year hiatus, Proud To Be An American Day will be celebrated on Thursday, May 26th. We will be honoring our fallen heroes and their families. Local Gold Star Families and military personnel, including dignitaries, are on the guest list. I want to thank History Instructor Ed Graf for spearheading this event with passion and pride. The event is a huge undertaking involving communication with federal, state and local agencies.

Due to material delays, B-Building continues to be off limits. It is our hope that prior to Graduation, our staff and students will be able to move back in and get back to their normal routines.

Sincerely,
Hector Montes



(back l-r) SCVTHS SkillsUSA Advisor Ms. Karen Morlock, New Jersey SkillsUSA Gold medal-winning students Arnav Khanna (Hillsborough), James Marvits (Hillsborough), Avantika Malla (Branchburg), Brian Opydke (Neshanic Station), Alexander Zheng (Bridgewater), James Saba (Somerset), Rohil Singh (Hillsborough), Sharan Krishnan (Hillsborough), SCVTHS SkillsUSA Advisor Ms. Samantha Inga; (front l-r) SCVTHS SkillsUSA Advisor Ms. Pratima Patil, Vir Trivedi (Hillsborough), Evelyn Chuo (Clinton), Jiya Mody (Martinsville), Srinidhi Ganeshan (Hillsborough), Anushka Dasari (Princeton), Mallika Shankar (Hillsborough), Aishwarya Dodda (Branchburg), Will Rogus (Branchburg), and SCVTHS SkillsUSA Advisor Ms. Michelle Fresco at the SCVTHS Amphitheater.

Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School (SCVTHS) students recently competed against other career and technical education students from around the state, in both virtual and in-person events, as part of the 2022 New Jersey SkillsUSA Championships. Out of the 107 students from SCVTHS who competed, 61 received medals including 20 Gold. The Gold medal state winners are now eligible to test their skills in Atlanta, Georgia at the upcoming SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC) in June. More than 6,000 Career and Technical Education students will showcase their talents at NLSC and compete in 100 different trade, technical and leadership fields. All contests are run with the help of industry, trade associations, and labor organizations. The test competencies are set by the industry.

SCVTHS students who received Gold medals at the 2022 NJ SkillsUSA Championships are as follows:

GOLD

Career Pathways: Health Sciences – Aishwarya Dodda, Mallika Shankar, and Srinidhi Ganeshan
Carpentry – Will Rogus
Criminal Justice – James Marvits
Health Knowledge Bowl – Jiya Mody, Sharan Krishnan, Avantika Malla, and Anushka Dasari
Industrial Motor Control – Brian Opydke
Medical Math – Daisy Dong
Quiz Bowl – Rima Amin, Aarsha Shah, James Saba, Alexander Zheng, and Evelyn Chuo
Quiz Bowl Alternates: Arnav Khanna and Rohil Singh
Safety Display – Pallavi Routray





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SCVTHS SENIOR SELECTED TO JOIN THE ALL-USA ACADEMIC TEAM

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Volume 11, No. 8 • June 2022

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



New Jersey School

NJSPRA

Public Relations Association

First Place Winner - Newsletter Category



SCVTHS senior and All-USA Academic Team member Sangeetha Punnam of Bridgewater after receiving her medal

Earlier this month, Sangeetha Punnam, a Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School (SCVTHS) Academy for Health and Medical Sciences senior from Bridgewater, was one of 20 college students in the country to be named to the All-USA Academic Team. Punnam was eligible for the recognition because she also attends Raritan Valley Community College classes as part of the Academy for Health and Medical Sciences Program.

Punnam was selected to be part of the All-USA Academic Team for her academic excellence, leadership qualities, and service beyond the classroom to benefit society. As a selected member of the All-USA Academic Team, Punnam will be recognized at the annual President's Breakfast held during the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)

Convention in May. Additionally, Punnam will receive a \$5,000 scholarship and a commemorative medallion. The All-USA Academic Team program is sponsored by Cengage with additional support provided by the American Association of Community Colleges and Phi Theta Kappa.

"I am honored to have been named a member of the 2022 All-USA Academic Team, which will help support my future education," stated Sangeetha Punnam. "It was truly inspiring to meet the other recipients and learn about their work. Thank you to Cengage, the Coca-Cola Scholar Foundation, Phi Theta Kappa, and the American Association of Community Colleges for making this award possible!"*

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

NICHOLAS DeROVIRA

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Nicholas DeRovira, a freshman in the Electrical Construction Program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's (SCVTHS) Student of the Month for May 2022. Nicholas is the son of Dolf and Tammy DeRovira of Branchburg.

SCVTHS Social Studies Instructor Dr. Louise Tokarsky-Unda nominated Nicholas for the Student of the Month award stating, "Nicholas has gone from dreading history to loving history; he engages in class discussion, is diligent about doing his homework on time, and most recently he asked if he could improve upon an already good test score because he wanted to make it an exceptional test score. He is an example of a student who is excelling because of the goals he sets for himself. His natural love of learning has returned, and he challenges himself to do his very best. I couldn't be prouder."

Electrical Construction Instructor Mr. Michael McClain added, "Nick has a positive attitude towards learning and has taken on a large role in helping other students learn as well. He is an excellent candidate for Student of the Month."

Outside of school, Nick participates in the Mercer County Golf League. Additionally, at SCVTHS, Nick has assisted in the beach clean-up and participated in SkillsUSA. In his free time, Nick enjoys golfing and playing video games.

After graduating from SCVTHS, Nick hopes to become an electrician or an electrical engineer.*



Nicholas DeRovira