



JAGUAR NATION

OCTOBER 2022 • VOLUME 12, No. 7

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCVTHS WELCOMES NEW SUPERINTENDENT

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

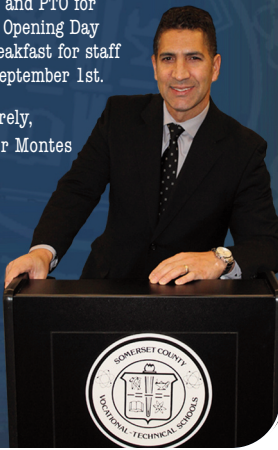
Dear Jaguar Nation,

I would like to welcome everyone to the 2022-2023 school year. I hope that reflection, time with loved ones and relaxation was part of your summer. We will start off the year with updated safety guidelines which include the lifting of social distancing and quarantining only individuals who are positive. In addition, contact tracing has been designated to local health departments, hospitals and nursing homes. Masks will continue to be optional. It is highly recommended that individually, we take the necessary precautions to keep safe.

Communication will continue to be a top priority for me and our district. During my weekly Sunday messages, I will inform stakeholders of each week's events. Dr. Wallace, Supervisor of Communications and Learning Technology, will update our website and social media. Most school events will be in-person. The Parent/ Principal Monthly Meetings will continue to be virtual, allowing parents to join from work or home. Committee meetings, requiring parent and/or community involvement, will be hybrid, providing opportunities to be part of the decision making process.

I would like to thank the SCVTS Administration and PTO for sponsoring the Opening Day Continental Breakfast for staff on Thursday, September 1st.

Sincerely,
Hector Montes



On August 1st, Somerset County Vocational & Technical Schools (SCVTS) welcomed Mr. Robert Presuto as the new Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Presuto, who most recently served as the Superintendent at Boonton Public Schools, brings 28 years of educational experience, with nearly ten of those years serving as a Superintendent.

Coming from a comprehensive high school, Mr. Presuto explained, "There are a myriad of aspects which attracted me to a vocational district in general. As an Alternate Route teacher of Computer Technology, I am connected to vocational and technical programs, as well as the staff and students who are very interested in teaching and learning them." Presuto went on to add, "What excites me about SCVTS, in particular, are the boundless opportunities I see in this institution. These include the growth of the facilities and the student population, adding several new CTE programs, and for me personally, being involved in yet another large-scale construction project which is making these tremendous opportunities possible. This will be my fourth large-scale school expansion project in the past 20 years."

"My first goal is to get to know everyone and subsequently, have everyone get to know me," said Presuto. "In the process, I want to listen and understand what folks feel is both outstanding about SCVTS and the areas they believe can be improved. Respecting and continuing the positives is paramount; realizing and understanding where and how we can improve is what makes an organization truly exceptional. That's ultimately what I would like to accomplish—leading and contributing to an exceptional place to teach and learn."

Mr. Presuto also brings to SCVTS his educational experiences from around the world. "I've had the opportunity to visit and be invited into school systems in several countries to learn more about them," stated Presuto. "To date, I've been to schools in Japan, China, and England. Stateside, I've visited many school systems, the most memorable of which was in Hawaii. It was a native Hawaiian school on the island of Molokai which was just incredible!"

"Ralph Waldo Emerson is credited with the two main pillars of my educational philosophy," explained Presuto. First, "The secret of education lies in respecting the pupil." If teachers let their students know that they both respect and care about them, they have surmounted perhaps the greatest hindrance to becoming a transformative educator."



SCVTS Superintendent of Schools Mr. Robert Presuto

Secondly, "Knowledge exists to be imparted." There is so much to learn in the world, and so many sources we can learn from. As teachers, our mission is to impart whatever skills and/or knowledge we have to our students in the hopes that they will one day surpass that which we've taught them."

Discussing the importance of vocational education, Presuto stated, "I am a big believer in students becoming multi-faceted learners, and multi-skilled members of society. Vocational programs are valuable in terms of career readiness, learning to work with one's hands, and developing problem-solving skills. CTE programs also provide an outlet for creativity and foster ingenuity. The cost of a two or four-year college program has become astronomically expensive for many, if not most families. If you can learn a trade or highly marketable skill right out of high school, for some young people this is a way to get a head start on the post-high school journey of joining the workforce and saving for one's dreams and aspirations."

Presuto, a resident of Nutley, enjoys traveling, genealogy, tinkering in his garage, and day-trekking on his gravel bike. As a way to share his passion for cycling, Mr. Presuto has been a volunteer mountain bike coach for the past six years with the National Interscholastic Cycling Association. "I had never officially coached a sport, and my experience with student-athletes has been awesome and rewarding beyond my expectations," said Presuto. Additionally, Presuto volunteers at the South Orange Performing Arts Center. Presuto remarked, "It allows me to support an organization I care about and experience some incredible performances as well."*

For more information on this story contact
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SCVTHS STUDENTS WIN NATIONAL SkillsUSA GOLD

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New Jersey School
NJSPRA
Public Relations Association

First Place Winner - Newsletter Category

At the annual SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC), held this year from June 20-25, 2022 in Atlanta, Georgia, students from Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School (SCVTHS) earned a total of eight medals, including six Gold medals.

Additionally, during the Championships, two SCVTHS students were named recipients of the President's Volunteer Service Award. Finally, the SCVTHS SkillsUSA Chapter was selected to receive a Gold Chapter of Distinction Award.

The list of SCVTHS students who received medals and awards is as follows:

GOLD:

Quiz Bowl – Evelyn Chuo (Clinton),
Arnav Khanna (Hillsborough), James Saba
(Somerset), Rohil Singh (Hillsborough),
Vir Trivedi (Hillsborough), and
Alexander Zheng (Bridgewater)

SILVER:

Criminal Justice – James Marvits (Hillsborough)

BRONZE:

Industrial Motor Control – Brian Opdyke
(Neshanic Station)

PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD WINNERS: Gold Level

Daisy Dong (North Plainfield)
Jessy Dong (North Plainfield)



(l-r): Members of the SCVTHS Gold medal winning Quiz Bowl team Arnav Khanna, Rohil Singh (Hillsborough); James Saba (Somerset), Vir Trivedi (Hillsborough), and Alexander Zheng (Bridgewater) at the 2022 SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference Award Ceremony

About SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA (www.skillsusa.org) is a not-for-profit association serving more than 300,000 middle school, high school, college and postsecondary students, and their instructors, in trade, technical and skilled service instructional programs. SkillsUSA partners educators and students with business and industry to help ensure the United States has a well-prepared and skilled workforce. Nationally, SkillsUSA has the support of more than 600 companies, trade associations and labor unions. SkillsUSA programs teach leadership, citizenship and character development to complement technical skill training. The organization emphasizes respect for the dignity of work, ethics, workmanship, scholarship and safety.✿

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

SCVTHS STUDENT AWARDED BY COLLEGE BOARD NATIONAL RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

Ryan DelSordo, a senior from Hillsborough in the Mechatronics, Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing (MEAM) Program at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School, has earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Programs. These Programs grant underrepresented students academic honors that can be included on college and scholarship applications and connect them with universities across the country. The Programs help students meaningfully connect to colleges and stand out during their admissions process. Colleges and scholarship programs identify students awarded National African American, Hispanic, Indigenous and/or Rural/Small Town Recognition through the College Board's Student Search Service.

Students who may be eligible have a GPA of 3.5 or higher and have excelled on the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10, or earned a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP Exams; and are African American or Black, Hispanic American or Latinx, Indigenous, and/or attend school in a rural area or small town.

"We're thrilled that our student has earned this recognition. We are very proud of him for his achievements in his classrooms and on the College Board assessments," said SCVTHS Principal Mr. Hector Montes. "These programs help students from underrepresented backgrounds stand out to colleges during admissions."



Ryan DelSordo