



JAGUAR NATION

FEBRUARY 2023 • VOLUME 12, No. 5

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

GUILLERMO REINA SELECTED AS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AT SCVTHS

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

Happy New Year! It is my hope that the holiday recess allowed everyone to spend some time with loved ones and reflect on the past, present and future.

As we near the end of the 2nd Marking Period, I want to remind students to give it their best and finish strong. The Quarter ends on Friday, January 27th. Continue to communicate with your teachers to ensure timely submission and clarification of assignments/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 and infusing African American contributions into our lessons.

The Annual SCVTHS Open House is scheduled for Saturday, February 4th from 9am-12pm. Please visit our website for more information. The school will be closed for Mid-Winter Recess from Thursday, February 16th to Monday, February 20th. We will reopen on Tuesday, February 21st.

Sincerely,
Hector Montes



Guillermo Reina, a Spanish instructor at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School (SCVTHS), has been selected as the 2022-2023 Educator of the Year. Mr. Reina is known for being a dynamic, caring, and involved instructor, who creates excitement and leads his students on projects incorporating world issues into his classroom.

Mr. Reina had just begun his class when the door to his classroom opened and a group of administrators greeted him with music, a banner, and the announcement that he was named the 2022-2023 Educator of the Year. Mr. Reina was admittedly "confused" and "surprised." He stated, "Once I saw the administrators' smiling faces and heard them singing, I realized what was happening."

"Mr. Reina has developed into the school's liaison for climate change and is integrating the concern for the environment into his classes and lessons. Our students are exchanging their ideas around the world with peers and environmental organizations," said SCVTHS Principal Mr. Hector Montes. "In addition to teaching our students a second language, his primary responsibility, he volunteers on committees and is the advisor for the Hispanic Honor Society. This is a well-deserved honor."

Supervisor Ms. Teresa Morelli stated, "Señor Reina offers his students interesting and relevant lessons to highlight the Spanish language, not only in reading, listening, and speaking Spanish, but also in cultural aspects of the language such as art, music, dance, and literature. Señor Reina also leads the Hispanic Honor Society and participates in numerous school community service events. He is a deserving recipient of this award."

Before coming to the United States of America, Mr. Reina attended Jaime Isaza Cadavid Colombian Polytechnic in Medellín, Colombia, where he obtained an associate's and bachelor's degree in engineering. In the United States, Mr. Reina continued his education at Fairleigh Dickinson University, where he received a second bachelor's degree and a master's degree in business.

During his time at the Polytechnic University in Colombia, Mr. Reina was tasked with updating an outdated curriculum for the class "Work Methods." After completing the curriculum, Mr. Reina was asked to teach the course. Reina quickly agreed, giving him his first taste of being a teacher and "never looked back."

For three years, while completing his alternate route teaching courses, Mr. Reina took jobs as a substitute teacher in middle and high schools during the day time and taught Spanish at the County College of Morris at night. Soon Mr. Reina came to a couple of realizations. First, that he loved to teach the Spanish language. Secondly, he realized that he preferred teaching in a vocational school setting. In 2016, Mr. Reina finally found his "perfect fit" at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School.

Now in his seventh year at SCVTHS, Mr. Reina is the founder and a co-advisor for the Hispanic Honor Society and the advisor for the

newly created SCVTHS Band. Mr. Reina is also the lead teacher for the professional learning community (PLC) based on the book, "Teach Like a Champion."

Mr. Reina is also a Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) member and uses their Sustainable Development Goals in his classroom to guide certain projects. Mr. Reina has brought his students to present projects based on a common theme relating to the Sustainable Development Goals at the United Nations in New York City.

Each year, Mr. Reina explained, his most memorable teaching moments are in September just before the start of a new school year. What makes these moments special for Mr. Reina is the excitement and anxiousness for the anticipated start of a new school year.

Mr. Reina is a resident of Mendham, where he resides with his wife, cat, dog, and parrot. In his free time, Mr. Reina enjoys outdoor photography, cycling, traveling, taking part in sports activities, and riding his motorcycle.

"I feel deeply grateful for this honorable recognition," stated Mr. Reina. "I want to thank our school's community from the Administration, support staff, counselors, my colleagues, and parents. Last but not least, I thank my students who challenge me every day to live up to my teaching philosophy founded on the premise that I should never forget that long ago I was sitting where they are right now. Like them I had many doubts, fears, and insecurities and an immense desire for learning."*

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



Guillermo Reina
the 2022-2023 SCVTHS Educator of the Year



SCVTHS
OPEN HOUSE

February 4, 2023

SATURDAY • 9 am TO Noon

REGISTER: www.scvths.org/openhouse

MID-WINTER RECESS

SCHOOL CLOSED

February 16-20, 2023



JAGUAR NATION

FEBRUARY 2023

SCHOOL COUNSELOR SUSAN KISER SELECTED AS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AT SCVTHS

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New Jersey School

NJSPRA

Public Relations Association

First Place Winner - Newsletter Category

Susan Kiser, a school counselor at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School, has been selected as the 2022-2023 Educational Services Professional of the Year. Ms. Kiser is known for being a kind, compassionate, and sincere school counselor.

Ms. Kiser stated she was "excited" and "honored" after receiving SCVTHS Principal Mr. Montes' call about being named the recipient of the honor. "This award means so much to me because I truly enjoy what I do, so to be honored for doing something I love is very special," said Ms. Kiser.

Ms. Kiser is a graduate of the University of Scranton, where she received a bachelor's degree in psychology, and West Chester University, where she received her master's degree in counseling. Before changing careers to education, Ms. Kiser worked in a corporate human resources position. It was at this job that Ms. Kiser came to the realization she would rather assist students with their futures and ultimately made the decision to switch careers.

Director of Special Services Ms. Maria Johnson stated, "Ms. Kiser is a stellar advocate for her students and always goes above and beyond to ensure their success. Her calm and steady nature is a welcome influence on students and staff."

Ms. Kiser is a resident of Somerville, where she lives with her husband, Justin, and their two sons Ben and Thomas. Ms. Kiser enjoys spending time with her family and reading. ❀



Susan Kiser, the 2022-2023 Educational Services Professional of the Year at SCVTHS

AMY PATRYN SELECTED AS SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR AT SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL



Amy Patryn, the 2022-2023 Support Staff Member of the Year at SCVTHS

Staff Member of the Year. Ms. Patryn is known for her dedication, thoroughness and willingness to help the entire school community.

Ms. Patryn explained that the favorite parts of her job include assisting families and students, advocating for students and working on team projects. "I always wanted to work in a community-based environment," said Patryn.

Ms. Patryn has been employed at SCVTHS for 16 years and currently serves as a co-advisor for the school Yearbook Club.

Ms. Patryn is a resident of Manalapan. In her free time, Amy enjoys hiking, camping, going to the beach and spending time with her family and friends.

"It is a great feeling to receive this award," said Ms. Patryn. "I appreciate the many colleagues, educators, parents, and students who inspire and challenge me every day. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to our school community, watch the District grow, and see the future successes of our students." ❀

EDEN BINGEL



Eden Bingel

Amy Patryn, Administrative Secretary to the Principal at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School, has been selected as the 2022-2023 Support

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Eden Bingel, a freshman in the Agricultural Science Program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's (SCVTHS) Student of the Month for January 2023. Eden is the daughter of Gary and Denel Bingel of Bridgewater.

SCVTHS English Instructor Mr. Chris Miller nominated Eden for the Student of the Month award stating, "Not only is Eden an excellent, insightful student, but she is always willing to help a fellow student with patience and respect."

Outside of school, Eden enjoys horseback riding, sewing, cross-stitching, reading, writing, baking, performing agility training with her dog, and spending time at the barn. Additionally, Eden has volunteered at an equine-assisted learning camp and is a recipient of the Girl Scouts Bronze and Silver awards.

When asked about future plans, Eden stated that she plans to attend college and then pursue a career as a teacher, author, or geneticist. ❀