

TECH TALK

Spring 2010

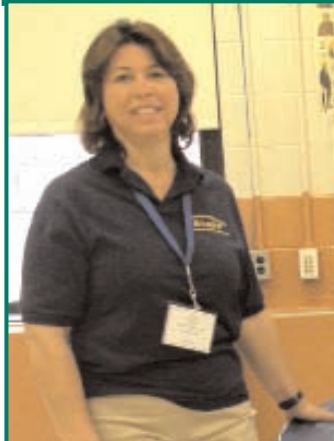
OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION FOR CAREER MONTH



Members of the Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School welcomed guests at the annual Open House that was held in February for a celebration of Career & Technical Education Month. More than 500 prospective students and their families participated in the event that began in the auditorium with Somerset County Freeholder Patricia Walsh presenting a Career Month proclamation to members of the NJ SKillsUSA organization. Sheriff Frank Provenzano participated in the opening ceremony with the Law & Public Safety students. Surprise guest Bret Schundler, NJ Commissioner of Education, greeted parents and students in the Career Expo. He also stopped to relax and enjoy a cappuccino in the Trade Wins Restaurant.



Superintendent Michael Maddaluna, Principal Edmund Jones, Assistant Principal Michael Herrera and Mathematics teacher Meg Fischer offered remarks. The Performing Arts students presented an excerpt from their production of "Pippin," and the Commercial Art students displayed their art work in the auditorium hall. After the opening ceremony the participants were invited to visit the NJ SKillsUSA competitions that were being held in the various shops. All of the technical programs and clubs had table displays in the Career Expo, which was coordinated by Dr. Joseph Petrosino, Director of Special Education. The academic teachers offered information in the cafeteria. Joe O'Donnell of Middlesex won a Toro Lawnmower, donated by Storr Tractor Company that was the highlight of the drawings for prizes in the Expo. Maggiano's Restaurant also provided many gift certificates for lucky winners.



CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW JERSEY SKILLSUSA WINNERS AT SCVTHS



Drew Snyder, the first place medal winner for Diesel in the NJ SkillsUSA Competition at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School

Students from SCVTHS competed in contests sponsored by the NJ SkillsUSA organization on campus. First place winners are eligible for the state championships which will be held on Saturday, May 8 at the Garden State Exhibit Center in Somerset. The students will be competing for industry scholarships, prizes and medals against other first place winners from schools throughout New Jersey.

Winners of the local contests at SCVTHS are:
Michael Ogunfowora- Automotive Technology;
Dylan Page-Automotive Refinishing Technology;
Trevor Carlton-Culinary Arts; Dave Villafane-Carpentry;
Luis Acosta-Collision Repair Technology; Drew Synder--Diesel Equipment Technology; Jacob Piscadlo-Advanced Plumbing;
Neil Sanservino-Intermediate Plumbing; Davante Gordon-Novice Plumbing; Joe Congalairo-Residential Wiring; David Mascia-Computer Maintenance Technology; Nancy Umana-Advanced Cosmetology; Alexa Giraldo-Novice Cosmetology;
Natalia Lima-First Aid/CPR; Rebecca Popik-Food & Beverage Service; Tameek Kelty-Graphic Communications; Adam Fulmore-Criminal Justice; John Alcaide-Motorcycle Technology; Tim Zoda-Power Equipment Technology; Joey Puia, Welding; Kimberly Balao, Talha Chaudhry, Adriel Crispo, Garielle Wagnac-Entrepreneurship; Stacy Brenes-Extemporaneous Speaking; Timothy Mahon-Related Technical Math.

For more information call 908-526-8900, ext. 7227.

STUDENTS IN TWO PROGRAMS RECEIVE FIRST RESPONDER CERTIFICATION

Twelve students in the Health Occupations Program and seven in Law & Public Safety received their First Responder certifications. The students attended classes which were conducted by instructors from the Somerset County Fire Academy. They were required to complete the 40 hour national curriculum before being tested on their knowledge and hands-on skills.

As she presented the First Responder certificates to her students, Kim Vasaturo, Health Occupations teacher said, "The hard work you have accomplished is something you should be proud of; when you try, good things happen."

The Law students were equally proud of their accomplishments. Shown in the photo (right) are: John Michael DaSilva, Philip Harnett, Bryan McMoore, Maria Corrales, Dan Kelly, Catherine Rogers, and Brian Seymour.



Law and Public Safety Students

Health Occupations students (left) who passed their First Responder certification tests are:

Nicole Adams, Tiffany Romero, Michelle Santana, Alessandra Delprincipe, Catherine Deque, Lesly Garro, Andrea Hernandez, Nouman Ishfaq, Natalia Lima, Heydi Oliva, Patricia Trinidad, and Yajaira Wollemberg.

For more information call 908-526-8900, ext. 7154.



Health Occupations Students



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

MICHAEL OGUNFOWORA & AMANDA CONNER SCHOLAR ATHLETES



Michael Ogunfowora

Michael Ogunfowora is a high achieving student at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School. He has maintained an A average and is consistently on the High Honor Roll. Michael has earned three varsity letters in basketball at SCVTHS, where he was a member of the team in his sophomore, junior and senior

years. He also earned a varsity letter in football from Franklin High School. Michael is the recipient of the 2009 Paul Robeson Award. He is a member of the National Technical Honor Society and has been nominated to the National Honor Society. He recently received a first place award in the Auto Mechanics competition sponsored by the NJ SkillsUSA organization. He plans to continue his education and pursue a career in mechanical engineering.

Amanda, daughter of Patrick and Kathy Conner, is a student in the Academy for Health & Medical Sciences at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School. She will be in the first Academy graduating class and will receive her Associate's Degree in General Science from Raritan Valley Community College on May 12, 2010, in addition to her high school diploma from SCVTHS in June. Amanda earned four varsity letters in softball at SCVTHS and served as captain of the team. She also earned two varsity letters in cheerleading and was elected captain of the team. In her junior and senior years she was a member of the soccer team and was elected captain as well.



Amanda Conner

In addition to her recognition as captain of 3 athletic teams, Amanda has received honors for her community service work. She assisted with MAS (Midland Adult School) productions, and was recognized by the NJ State Board of Education for her involvement with people who have disabilities. She intends to further her education and pursue a career in psychology, biology or criminal justice.

EMILY FRANK IS HONORED CHOREOGRAPHER AT NATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL IN MIAMI

Emily Frank, a senior student from Somerville who is in the Gifted and Talented Performing Arts Dance Program, choreographed "Defiance", which was selected for the National High School Dance Festival held in Miami, Florida in March. The festival featured dance works by outstanding student choreographers from schools throughout the United States and was held in the New World School of the Arts in Miami. "Defiance" was also chosen for the 92Y Dance Festival in New York City. As a student in the Dance Program Emily has studied ballet, modern dance and jazz. She and her fellow dancers will be featured in an annual formal dance concert on April 23rd & 24th that will showcase their artistic and technical skills. Emily will continue her education at SUNY, Buffalo where she will major in jazz. She is a member of the Dance Arts Honor Society at SCVTHS.



Emily Frank

LINDA WEBER-SMITH TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Linda Weber-Smith, a Commercial Art & Design teacher, was selected as the 2009 Teacher of the Year at SCVTHS. She was selected by members of the faculty, who acknowledged her talents for motivating students to work to their best ability and to serve the community.

Among her accomplishments is a "Peace Garden" at the high school, a project she initiated that involved students and adults from other high school programs, county grammar schools, Raritan Valley Community College, the United Way and several peace organizations.

Linda is a 2009 graduate of the Leadership Somerset Program, sponsored by the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders. She is a graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology and received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Thomas Edison College. She is the 2009 recipient of the Excellence in Arts Education Award, from the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission.



Linda Weber Smith

SCVTHS STUDENTS SPONSOR BLOOD DRIVE



Health Occupations Student Yajaira Wollemborg volunteering for Blood Drive.

Kim Vasaturo's Health Occupations students sponsored a Blood Drive in March to assist the Blood Center of New Jersey in collecting needed units of blood.

"The drive was our best yet. We managed to collect over 85 units of blood, which is an amazing amount for a school our size," said Kim Vasaturo. The blood was donated by faculty, staff and students at the school.

Mikki Carpenter, Manager of Donor Recruitment at the Blood Center, said she was impressed with the SCVTHS Health Occupations students, who were courteous volunteers, providing professional assistance to Blood Center personnel.

PHOTO:

Amarilys Salas (left), a technician for the Blood Center of New Jersey, is shown with Yajaira Wollemborg (right), a second year student in the Health Occupations Program at SCVTHS. The SCVTHS students helped collect 85 units of blood.

SIX STUDENTS SELECTED AS EDWARD J. BLOUSTEIN DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS FOR 2010-2011

Six senior students enrolled in programs at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School were selected as Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars by the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, an independent agency of the State of New Jersey's Scholarship Program.

The students will receive scholarships of up to \$1,000 in recognition of their high level of academic achievement. They may use the awards to continue their studies at New Jersey institutions of higher education.

SCVTHS Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars are: Academy of Health & Medical Sciences students Beatrice Cayaban from Bound Brook; Jaya Kanduri, Princeton; Clarissa Lin, Belle Mead; Nikhilesh Sangodkar, Princeton; and Patrick Wong, N. Plainfield. Gifted and Talented Performing Arts student Kelly Fauske from Franklin is also an award winner.

For more information contact Peter Carey, Director of Student Services, at 908-526-8900, ext. 7231.

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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Remember that our nation's first great leaders were also our first great scholars.

—President John F. Kennedy