

Press Release



Parkway West CTC Graphic Arts & Production Technology students honored at CCAC Space Day.



The Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) hosted Space Day 2024 at its Allegheny Campus on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024 featuring NASA astronaut and Pittsburgh native Mike Fincke. Over 250 students from 14 area high schools attended, with Fincke leading a captivating presentation and discussion on space exploration.

The event began at 9:00 a.m. in the Foerster Student Services Center Auditorium with opening remarks and an engaging presentation by Mike Hennessey of the Moonshot Museum. Mike Fincke then shared his experiences as an astronaut, followed by a lively Q&A session that inspired students and deepened their understanding of space travel. Following the presentations, students participated in interactive activities, including microgravity simulators, robotics, and rover prototyping, led by representatives from the Carnegie Science Center.

A highlight of the day was the recognition of Parkway West CTC students Joey Clark (Montour High School) and Angelina Kinest (Moon Area High School). Both are class of 2024 graduates from Mrs. Betsy Zelina's Graphic Arts and Production Technology program. They were honored for their winning mission patch designs for the Student Spaceflight Experiment Program (SSEP) Mission 17, which returned from space in 2023. The school was presented with the mission patches, and the students recognized. Attendees were also introduced to the upcoming Mission 18 CCAC SSEP Student Experiment. Both winning designs came from Parkway West CTC students Joey Clark and Reagan Zatezalo (Canon McMillan High School). Their designs are set to launch later this month.