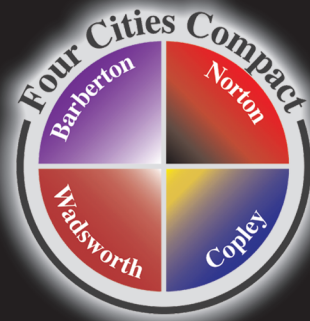


COMPACT

YOUR CAREER CONNECTION

News



Winter/Spring 2025

EXPERIENCE COUNTS! Welcome Mr. Davis

The Four Cities Compact and Wadsworth High School, is excited to welcome a new instructor to its Media Production program – Mr. Najada Davis. With an Associate of Arts degree and a Certificate in Video Production and Broadcast Media from Lakeland Community College (2014) and a B.A. in Film and Media Arts from Cleveland State University (2019), Mr. Davis brings extensive industry experience to the compact. As a working member of IATSE Local 209 since 2019, Ohio's union for craftspeople and studio engineers in the Motion Picture Industry, Mr. Davis has contributed to numerous feature films, short films, music videos, and commercials, gaining invaluable insights from industry veterans and legends. His expertise as a cinematographer and lighting technician will provide students with hands-on knowledge and exposure to real-life media production.

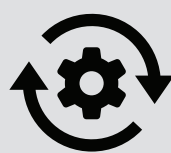
Mr. Davis is eager to inspire students by sharing their passion for filmmaking and helping enhance the quality of work already being produced in the Media Production program. "I'm very interested in knowing what the students' interests are and how I can facilitate bringing those experiences to life," Mr. Davis shared. Please join us in welcoming our new instructor to the Wadsworth High School and Four Cities Compact family! ■



The Four Cities Compact's Network Systems & Cyber Security program has proven to be a game-changer for many students, including a recent graduate, Michael Petit, NHS '24, who is already making strides in the industry. Thanks to a strong work ethic, a comprehensive curriculum and hands-on training, Michael was able to secure an internship with SOPREMA while still in high school. This opportunity allowed him to apply his classroom knowledge in a real-world setting, further enhancing his skills and confidence. Upon graduation, he transitioned seamlessly into part-time employment with SOPREMA while enrolling full-time at The University of Akron. His story is a testament to the value of the Four Cities Compact working with industry partners in shaping the next generation of IT professionals.



The Network Systems & Cyber Security Program received a \$550,000 CTE Expansion Grant in 2024 equipping the program with state-of-the-art technology – including computers and a cyber range – plus ergonomic furniture. ■



Real-World Skills Helps Compact Graduate Excel in Career

A recent Barberton High School graduate, Garrett Bramlett, BHS '24, credits the Advanced Manufacturing Program for providing the skills that helped him excel in his current job at Akron Electric. "The program

taught me essential benchworking and fundamentals that I use every day at work," he said. He praised instructor Mr. Francis for making the transition from school to work smooth and effective.

Without the program, Garrett believes he wouldn't



be performing as well in his current role. "Value the skills you learn in this excellent program," he advised, emphasizing the true impact of the hands-on experience and training. The Advanced Manufacturing Program continues to prepare students for successful careers in the industry. The program offers students the opportunity to build a successful career in manufacturing straight out of high school, without the need for a traditional college degree. Akron Electric is one of several industry leaders that provide meaningful work-based learning opportunities for students in the program. The Advanced Manufacturing Program received a \$850,000 CTE Expansion Grant in 2024 equipping the program with state-of-the-art machinery. ■



Copley-Fairlawn Schools Unveil Renovated Culinary Arts Kitchen

Bistro 81 Set to Open Soon

The Four Cities Compact and Copley-Fairlawn City Schools are excited to announce the reopening of Bistro 81, the district's student-run restaurant, following a full renovation of the Culinary Arts Program kitchen. Thanks to community support and district leadership, students now have access to a state-of-the-art facility for hands-on learning.

The upgraded kitchen features industry-standard equipment, preparing students for careers in the culinary field. "We are very excited for Bistro 81 to open soon," said Superintendent Aimee Kirsch. "Our students are training on the new equipment, and we can't wait to showcase their talents."

The Culinary Arts Program provides students with authentic experience in culinary techniques, hospitality, and restaurant management. The renovated space also strengthens community partnerships through events and catering.

Stay tuned for Bistro 81's grand opening, where students will put their skills to the test and serve delicious meals to the public. ■

Compact Program Aids Further Education



Richard Ebner, a 2024 graduate of Wadsworth High School and the Pharmaceutical Science program at Copley High School, is now pursuing a pharmacy degree at Purdue University. Reflecting on his time in the pharmacy program, Rich shares, "I had a beginner pharmacy course last semester, and it definitely helped me a lot with that!"

His transition to college has been a positive one. "I did really well grade-wise in the first semester and successfully tried out for the marching band, which has been really fun," he says. Rich's combination of academic success and extracurricular involvement is setting the stage for an exciting future in pharmacy. ■

Alumni Spotlight

Madison Woodard, NHS '22

Madison, a senior at Kent State University majoring in Exercise Science, credits the Athletic Health Science and Wellness (AHSW) (now known as Athletic Health Science) compact program with shaping her academic and professional journey. As an athlete on the Kent State Cheerleading team and a student specializing in Exercise Physiology and Performance Psychology, Madison has already gained two years of experience

working at a physical therapy clinic, thanks to earning her PTTC (Physical Therapy Technician Certification) in high school via her compact program.

"The program gave me college credits and a solid foundation in healthcare allowing me to graduate a year early," she said. The AHSW program, which she participated in from 2020 to 2022, also sparked her interest in occupational therapy, and she plans to pursue a graduate degree in the field.

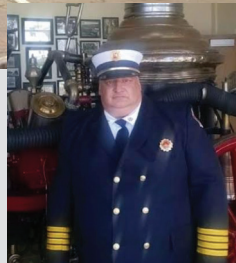
Madison's success story highlights Athletic Health Science's impact in helping students gain valuable knowledge, hands-on experience, and a head start on their careers. ■



Welcome Chief Ray Green to Fire/EMT Program

We're excited to welcome Chief Ray Green to the Four Cities Compact. Chief Green is the lead instructor for our Fire/EMT program at Barberton High School. With a career in fire and emergency services that spans over three decades, Chief Green began as a Fire Explorer in 1982 and later served in the U.S. Navy. After completing a fire protection degree and certifications in Colorado, he returned to Ohio, became a paramedic, and worked for several departments, including the City of Cleveland EMS and Jackson Township Fire Department. He retired from Jackson Township in 2017 as a Captain and continued his education with a Bachelor's in Fire Science and two Master's degrees.

Chief Green also served as Fire Chief for Canal Fulton and Lawrence Township Fire Departments, retiring in 2022. Now, he's eager to share the valuable lessons he's learned throughout his career and to inspire future generations of firefighters and EMTs. We are thrilled to have him as part of our team! ■

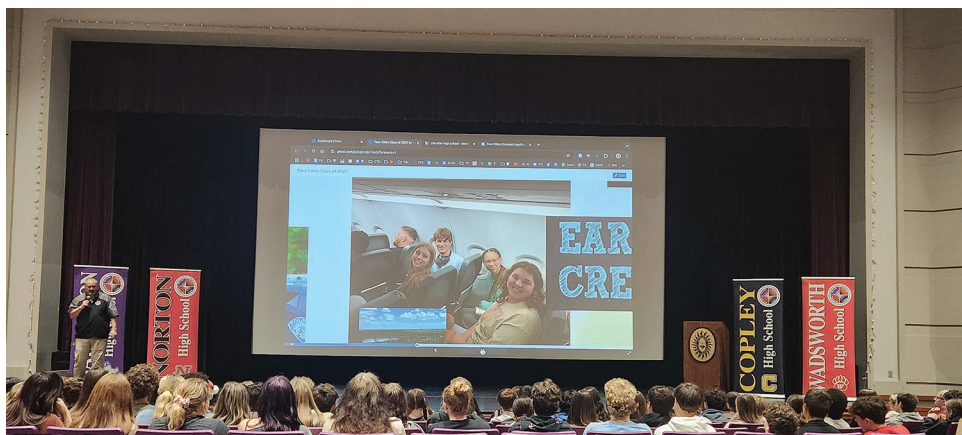


THE POWER OF JOB TRAINING



David Garver, a 2023 graduate of Wadsworth High School, has made impressive strides toward employment, thanks to the support of job training programs and his own determination. During his junior and senior years, David participated in the FIRST Program, which helped him develop key work skills through hands-on experience at local businesses like The Galaxy Restaurant and Comfort Inn and Suites. This program, combined with support from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), equipped him with essential job-specific and soft skills like communication and time management, preparing him for the workforce.

David's hard work culminated in securing a position as a stock clerk at Giant Eagle in August 2023, where he now works independently for 20 hours a week, a remarkable achievement that his parents once thought might be out of reach. "We would not have foreseen David working successfully without the training and experience he received from the job training and summer work programs," said his parents. David's story highlights the transformative power of job training and community support, showing that with the right resources, individuals can overcome obstacles and achieve meaningful success in their careers. ■



Four Cities Compact Annual Career Program Showcase Highlights

In November, Four Cities Compact hosted its Annual Career Program Showcase, offering sophomore students from Barberton, Copley, Norton, and Wadsworth high schools an inside look at future career opportunities. The event featured 18 career technical programs, providing hands-on experiences and opportunities to interact with instructors and current students. Students explored fields like healthcare, information technology, skilled trades, and business management, gaining valuable insights into in-demand industries.

At each program station, students asked questions, learned about certifications, and discovered the skills they could develop in each area. This showcase served as an eye-opener for many, introducing career paths they may not have previously considered. The collaboration between local high schools and career programs strengthens ties within the community and equips students with resources for success.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to the educators, staff, students, and community for their support in making the event a success. We look forward to continuing to connect students with opportunities to achieve their career goals. ■

Welcome Mr. Mike Horvat to Four Cities Compact Carpentry



Meet Mr. Mike Horvat, our Carpentry Instructor at Wadsworth High School and a graduate of the Wadsworth & Carpentry Program – WHS '91. With a lifelong career in construction, Mr. Horvat has gained hands-on experience in carpentry, concrete, and excavation. Over the years, he has worked in various roles, including laborer, foreman, and superintendent, giving him a well-rounded perspective on the industry.

Mr. Horvat finds joy in teaching students how to transform a simple pile of lumber into something meaningful. His passion for carpentry goes beyond just the craft — it's about building relationships with students that will last long after they graduate. Through his guidance, students not only learn technical skills but also gain life lessons that shape their futures. Mr. Horvat joined the Four Cities in November of 2024 and we're fortunate to have Mr. Horvat guiding our next generation of skilled tradespeople. ■