

**January Student of the Month: James Eckmeder**

James Eckmeder, a senior from North Pocono High School, has been nominated as January Student of the Month by his Smart Systems and Engineering Technology Instructor, Mr. John Moran. “James is one of the first IT Co-op students Geisinger has taken on, and he is TOTALLY ROCKING it! His supervisor, Patrick Chocallo at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, is impressed with James's work ethic, IT skills, and ability to communicate. James has led the way for future students to work IT Co-ops at Geisinger. James consistently



demonstrates outstanding performance in the Smart Systems & Engineering Technology program. He is a dedicated SkillsUSA member and has achieved his CompTIA A+ certification, along with TestOut PC Pro and Network Pro credentials”, stated Mr. Moran. These industry certifications are essential in James field.

James enjoys playing video games such as Minecraft, Cities: Skylines, and Roblox, as well as watching YouTube. He spends his free time hanging out with friends and traveling with his family—especially their annual trips to Florida. When asked about his accomplishments in SET, James stated, “It doesn't cost much to put in your best effort in the short term, but your work really pays off in the long run”.

After graduation, James intends to pursue a career in Computer Hardware Support and continue his education at a local college such as Johnson College, where he can build on his passion for hands-on technology and practical learning.

### **January Student of the Month: Mia Cooper**

Mia Cooper, a Lakeland HS senior, has been nominated as January Student of the Month by her Medical Assisting Instructor, Mrs. Savo. “Mia is being nominated for Student of the Month due to her consistent academic excellence, leadership, and dedication to the Medical Assisting program. She maintains high honors while balancing co-op responsibilities in Geisinger Radiology, demonstrating reliability, professionalism, and a strong commitment to pursuing a healthcare career. Mia actively represents the program as a CTC Student Ambassador and challenges herself through participation in SkillsUSA competitions. Her involvement in multiple school organizations, volunteer service, and part-time employment reflects outstanding time management, responsibility, and character. Mia consistently demonstrates maturity, initiative, and a positive attitude, making her a deserving candidate for this recognition. Mia has demonstrated strong industry and trade accomplishments through her progress in the Medical Assisting program and hands-on clinical exposure during her co-op placement in Geisinger Radiology. She consistently performs at a high academic level, mastering technical and patient-care related skills while maintaining professionalism in a clinical setting. Her participation in SkillsUSA further reflects her commitment to developing industry-relevant knowledge and competencies. Mia’s ability to balance rigorous coursework, practical skill development, and workplace expectations highlights her readiness for continued training and success in the healthcare field”, stated Mrs. Savo. While in the program, she has obtained her OSHA10 and Mandated Reporter certifications. She is on track to go out on Co-Op at the end of this year. She will be starting her EMT course with Penn Ambulance and looks to head to Geisinger for Co-Op.



At Lakeland, Mia is actively involved in a variety of extracurricular activities including Volleyball, Drama Club (serving as Stage Manager), FCCLA, FBLA, National Honor Society, and Aavidum. Her participation reflects strong leadership, teamwork, and a commitment to contributing positively to her school community. At CTC, Mia is actively involved in her role as a Student Ambassador. After graduation, she plans to pursue postsecondary education in a healthcare-related field, with the goal of studying Athletic Training or Radiology and continuing to build a career in the health sciences.

**January Student of the Month: Kevin Essig**

Kevin Essig, a Valley View senior, has been nominated as January Student of the Month by his Protective Services Instructor, Mr. Jon Coyne. “Kevin has been an outstanding, exceptional student. He has been showing drive and motivation in his senior year. Kevin signed up for the Penn Ambulance NREMT course for the Fall 25/26 school year. He has completed and obtained his NREMT while he was still participating in the CTCLC. Kevin has also previously obtained his Firefighter One prior to his senior year.

Kevin is an exceptional student who is willing to take on the leadership role without ever needing to be asked. He works well with all of his fellow classmates. He is driven and always willing to help at a moment's notice”, stated Mr. Coyne. While in the Protective Services program, Kevin has obtained his NREMT, Firefighter One, ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800 NIMS 907, First Aid/ BLS, certifications.

In his spare time, Kevin works for Archbald Ambulance and Jessup Hose Company #2 EMs. Not only does Kevin participate in Co-Op at CTC, but he is also going to States for SkillsUSA in Firefighting. At Valley View, he is a member of the golf and baseball teams.

Upon graduation, Kevin is preparing to apply to the Wilkes-Barre Fire Department.

