

Sophomore Newsletter | March 2026

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Welcome, Class of 2028!

Hello from the Counseling Center! I'm Julie Sitko, your College and Career Counselor. I support students and families in exploring post-secondary options and identifying "best fit" colleges, universities, and career paths. Each month, you'll receive this newsletter to help you stay on track. Please feel free to reach out any time with questions.

Upcoming Virtual Program: College Counseling Series – Spring 2026

All programs are virtual evening events and will be recorded and posted to the Moon Area Counseling Center website.

Pathways to Skilled Careers

 **Wednesday, March 18, 2026** |  6:30 PM |  Virtual

This will be an opportunity to hear from professionals in different industries about in-demand jobs in our region, and the pathways students can take to obtain the education and training needed to pursue those jobs.

You'll hear from panelists from various trade/technical institutions participate. Each panelist will spend time discussing the careers that their institutions are preparing students for, with particular emphasis on those that are the most in-demand. Following the presentations, participants will be able to ask questions and learn more about the schools/programs. Register here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/48hwpHNWQfCXQyFz35NcYA#/registration>

CCAC Skilled Trades Academy

This FREE program is open to students ages 14–18 who are interested in skilled trades careers. Sessions take place at CCAC's West Hills Center.

Session dates (9:00 AM – 2:00 PM):

- HVAC - 3/7/26
 - Automotive - 3/14/26
 - Welding - 3/21/26
 - CDL - 3/28/26
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NACAC National College Fair – Pittsburgh – RESCHEDULED!

 David L. Lawrence Convention Center

 **March 24-25, 2026**

Evening Session for Families:

 Tuesday, March 24 | 6:00–8:30 PM

Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to attend together.

 **Pre-registration required:** <https://www.nacacattend.org/26Pittsburgh>

Managing College Emails

You'll soon be flooded with emails from colleges. Here's how to stay organized:

1. **Create a college-only email account**
2. **Set up folders** to sort emails by interest
3. **Check it weekly** – delete what you don't need, save what you do

Favorite College Search Resources

Georgia Tech Admission Blog

Great advice for students and families, with insights into the college admission process. Bonus: It's funny and easy to read.

College Essay Guy

Tons of free advice on college essays and applications. There are paid options, but many helpful tools are available at no cost.

Summer Programs for Sophomores

These enrichment opportunities are perfect for motivated students ready to explore interests and challenge themselves. Apply early!

- [PA School for Excellence in Agricultural Studies](#) at Penn State
 - [Iacocca Global Entrepreneurship Intensive](#) at Lehigh University
 - [Governor's School for the Sciences](#) at Carnegie Mellon University
 - [Governor's School for Global & International Studies](#) at University of Pittsburgh
 - [Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week \(PFEW\)](#) – Learn business by running a simulated company.
 - [Carnegie Mellon Pre-College](#) – Art, design, drama, gaming, music, STEM.
 - [Hillman Academy](#) – Cancer research internships
 - [Wildlife Leadership Academy](#) – Conservation field school.
 - [Duke Summer Academy](#), [Eisenman Materials Camp](#), and more.
 - [Southwest PA AHEC Summer Health Career Academy](#)- University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
 - [Penn State Readiness Institute Summer Program](#)
 - [Bucknell Academy Summer Experience \(BASE\)](#)
 - [Wildlife Leadership Academy](#) – Five-day residential field school for students interested in conservation leadership. Scholarships available.
 - [Duke Summer Academy](#), [Eisenman Materials Camp](#), and more.
 - Lebanon Valley College programs in [Actuarial](#) and [Data Science](#)
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Enrichment Opportunity

[CCAC Early College Programs](#)

Students can take select credit and non-credit courses virtually at no cost and receive a stipend. This program is part of CCAC's Early College initiative, funded by the Bank of New York Mellon, and is designed to expand access to college and career readiness opportunities. 📞 724-325-6675 ✉️ earlycollegeprogram@ccac.edu

Questions?

Please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm here to help you and your family navigate this exciting journey!