



# PHOENIXQUARTERLY

Volume 2 | Issue 2  
2024 - 2025 : Quarter 2 Edition

The Official Newsletter of CWCTC

CENTRAL WESTMORELAND  
Career & Technology Center  
New Stanton, PA

[cwctc.org](http://cwctc.org)

## YEAR-END HOLIDAY EVENTS 'FUN'DING A GREAT START TO 2025



## CWCTC WINS 2024 PennDOT 'PAINT THE PLOW' AWARDS



PennDOT judges reported the '24 designs were incredible and our District had more participants than any other in the state!

**Judge's Pick: FIRST PLACE - CWCTC**

**Fan Favorite (Online Voting): SECOND PLACE - CWCTC**

Congratulations to all our students who put in the time and effort to create this unique design. The painted plows are already in use and can be found helping to keep our roads safe and passable this winter season in their respective counties.

**PQ** PHOENIXQUARTERLY is a production of the CWCTC Multimedia Design Technology Program of Study

Instructor: Mrs. Jessica Lingsch

News Article Contributors: CWCTC Student Ambassadors from each of our nineteen Programs of Study who also attend one of our ten sending School Districts.





## WELDING STUDENTS PERFECT SKILLS, PREPARE FOR NOCTI, AND ENHANCE INDUSTRY PROJECTS

Students in the Welding and Metal Fabrication program are continuing to work on weekly welding projects from their own P.O.S. Our classroom theory topics are "How to use fillet weld gauges," and "Make quality welds to specific sizes." AM students have finished SMAW Weld theory and will now learn Oxy-fuel cutting. PM students are starting to prepare for the NOCTI test in March. While P.O.S. task and welding theory are our main area of focus, we are also working together adding and improving our welding shop anything from a bucket for heavy equipment repair or roof-top safety support for our industry partners.

## SPORTS MEDICINE LEARNS WOUND CARE AND E-STIM

In the Sports Medicine class here at Central Westmoreland CTC the AM students are practicing Wound Care procedures. The students are creating wound care manuals, learning about the different types of wounds such as abrasions, lacerations, and how to treat said wounds using steri-strips and gauze pads. In the PM class students are learning about E-stim and using E-stim machines. Tying in our last lesson of everything hip related, everyone paired up and made treatment and rehab plans. Another thing going on in the PM is that we have our first classmate going on Co-op. Katana Schade is working at East Suburban Sports Medicine in Greensburg as a Student Intern Rehab Tech.



## REM STUDENTS BUILD, PROGRAM, AND MASTER NEW SKILLS

In the second quarter of the year, Mr. Pelzer's Robotics Engineering and Manufacturing (REM) students learned to build and program Vex Robots, continued with Soldering and AutoCAD, and began to learn more about industry. To begin the second quarter, we learned about Lockout and Tagout, finished our soldering projects, and finished working with AutoCAD. For the remainder of the quarter we built, and programmed a Vex Robot, having it drive around our shop, and use its claw to move small items around.



## LOOKING AHEAD at CWCTC

**JANUARY 20** IN-SERVICE DAY - No Students  
**FEBRUARY 13** PROSPECTIVE STUDENT NIGHT  
**FEBRUARY 17** PRESIDENTS DAY - No School

**MARCH 12** CWCTC CAREER DAY  
**MARCH 14 & 17** VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION DAYS  
**MARCH 15** 4th QUARTER BEGINS

## SERVICE OCC GAINS PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN CUSTODIAL, SAFETY, AND RETAIL TASKS

In the 2nd quarter of the Service Occupations classroom, AM students have concentrated their efforts on custodial work. PM students completed OSHA 10 certification, gaining vital workplace safety knowledge. They learned the differences between invoices and purchase orders, laundry tasks (e.g., including, sorting, folding, hanging), practiced merchandise bagging, vacuuming, and stocking retail items. Additionally, students assisted with production baking, stocked the student store on some days, and provided laundry services for a group of programs. Although many students have specific jobs related to their career path, all of the students have participated in working on CINTAS's industrial laundry hanger production job delivered to our classroom. With this effort, we are working on quality, efficiency, speed, and process improvements.



## R & D STUDENTS MASTER PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Both AM and PM Restoration and Design students have learned skills like working together cohesively, how to professionally handle customer conversations, and in general how to act in a professional setting.

In the second quarter, AM students worked hard to master painting a one-color door and how to properly paint a room and other substrates. AM students have also been learning to wood finish by redesigning old furniture and staining the decking in our shop. They also went on the "Build on Construction" field trip at the David Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh to learn about what careers they could pursue.

PM students however, have been hard at work finishing their color theory chapter. The students have learned a lot in this quarter about the psychology of color, color harmony, and the effects of color. Wish them luck as they head into the exciting chapter of faux finishes. They have also been working to design and refinish administrative offices while also learning new skills along the way, like wallpapering.

## PROTECTIVE SERVICES ADVANCE SKILLS WITH EXAMS, PATIENT CARE, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

As third-year students, we recently took our first interim exam as a self-evaluation of our progress in our studies. We are relentlessly working to build our skills and knowledge in preparation for the NREMT exam in May. In addition to routine truck checks, we have recently completed a patient assessment for an opioid overdose, including the administration of Narcan. Second-year students are focused on advanced first aid, learning how to take vital signs, and conducting patient assessments. Meanwhile, first-year students are currently immersed in their law enforcement unit.



**JANUARY is the beginning of SCHOLARSHIP SEASON**

Access the current opportunities at this link and remember that there are some scholarships that can be used for tools and supplies to jumpstart your career.



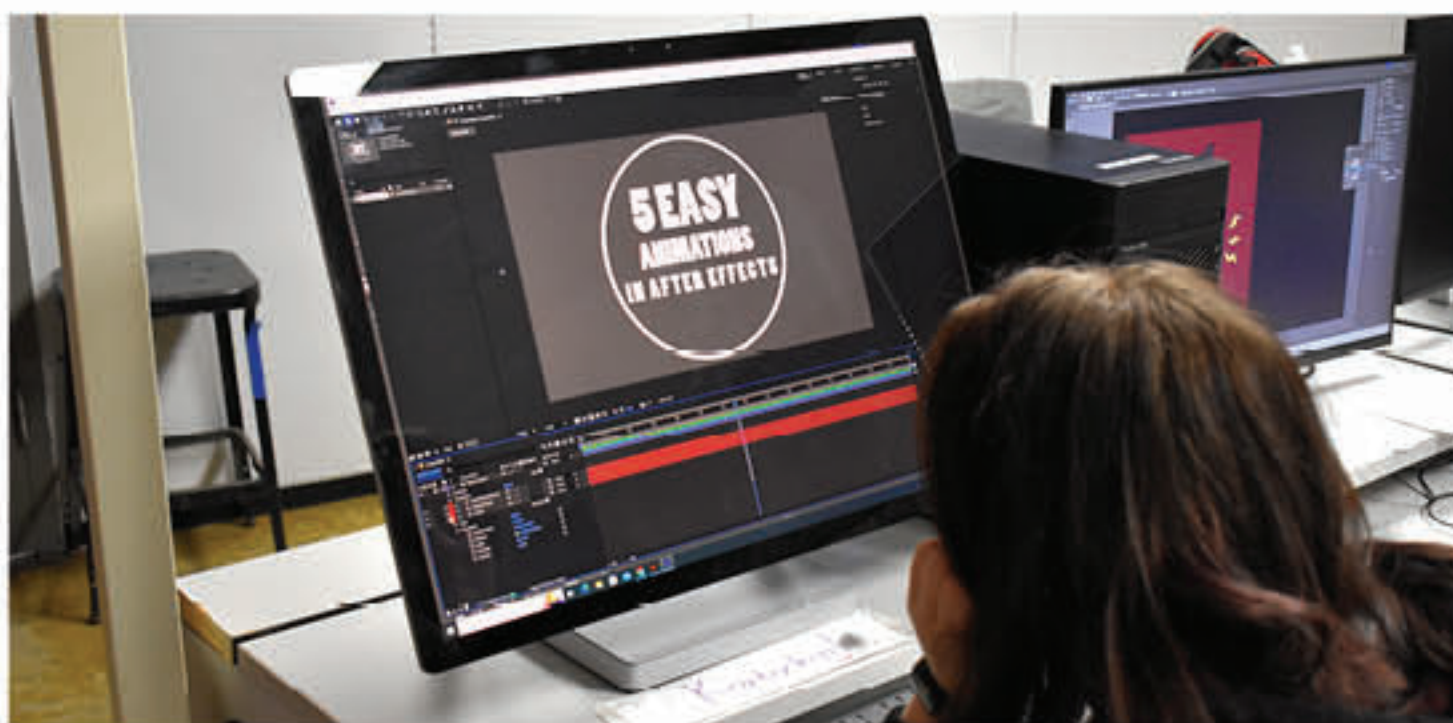
## POWERLINE PREPS FOR NOCTI WITH TOWER WORK & POLE TOP RESCUES

This quarter in the Powerline Program the students performed tower work, NOCTI review, and the safe operation of aerial lifts. The seniors have been working on pole top rescue, construction of transformer banks, and material identification. These are all tasks that the students will need to perform for the NOCTI exam that will take place this March. Over the next two months the students will be indoors completing wiring projects and conduit bending tasks.



## HVAC STUDENTS EARN CERTS AND WIN SkillsUSA® AWARD

AM students have been working on achieving their EPA 608 certifications, so that we can work on all the various different types of refrigeration equipment in industry. We have been studying for months in and out of class to achieve this cert. We have also been preparing for sheet metal projects that will lead us into gas heating. We have all been working really hard in class to make sure that we earn our certifications so that we can be eligible to go out and work. The last and final thing we have learned is that our plumbing competitor Brooke Millen has won her district competition and will be headed to Hershey, PA for SkillsUSA® State competition.



## MULTIMEDIA DESIGNERS MASTER VIDEO AND HOLIDAY PRODUCTION

As always, Multimedia Design students are hard at work. The primary focus has been learning Adobe After Effects, which pairs nicely with the overarching goal of effectively creating video media. Production has been at an all-time high! We continue to produce custom shirts, hoodies, and mugs for multiple companies throughout the holiday season. As we move forward, the skills and experience gained during this busy period will fuel even greater achievements in the future.



## HEALTH OCCUPATIONS THRIVES: CERTIFICATIONS, COMPETITIONS, AND STATE ADVANCEMENTS

AM students have kicked off the second quarter by completing their American Heart Association Heartsaver certifications, while PM continues to complete their BLS (Basic Life Support) for Healthcare certifications. PM Seniors have begun preparing for their Pharmacy Technician certification exams, as well as Patient Care Technician certification exams, in the spring of this year.

Sending school district Tour Days have begun and HOT students have been very busy welcoming potential new Health Occupations students. From the SkillsUSA® District competitions, the PM Health Occupations had Mariah Klingensmith from Hempfield compete on the Opening and Closing Team, Mackenzie Thomas from Hempfield for Health Occupations Professional Portfolio. Both placed first, and won gold medals. Senior Alissa Duncan from Frazier also placed first and won a gold medal in Nurse Assisting. Maggie Alcorn from Greensburg Salem placed third for Basic Health Care and won a bronze medal. The three gold medal students will advance to the state competition in Hershey, April 2-4, 2025.

## ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY LIGHTS THE WAY WITH HANDS-ON PROJECTS AND REAL-WORLD SKILLS



In Quarter 2 of our Electrical Technology class, we explored practical applications of electrical theory by working with Christmas lights, demonstrating real-world circuit design and troubleshooting. We also examined the evolution of three-way switches, comparing older designs to modern solutions. Additionally, we continued building out the shop, providing hands-on experience in electrical installation and safety. These projects prepare us for a range of jobs in the electrical field, from residential wiring to commercial and industrial work, offering a strong foundation for entering the trade.

## CULINARY ARTS SERVING UP SUCCESS: FUNDRAISERS, CATERING, & RESTAURANT PREP

The second quarter in the Culinary Program began by wrapping up a soup, stock, and sauce unit. Students learned the health benefits and the steps of how to produce homemade stocks and turn those into flavorful soups and sauces. Soups that were made were offered as a Thanksgiving fundraiser along with homemade bread. The class then worked on a cookie fundraiser that was open to the public. Students practiced various techniques and learned the importance of accurate measuring and ingredient use. 70 orders of two dozen assorted cookies were sold. During the 2nd quarter the class catered and served important meetings including the CWCTC Joint Operating Committee's Reorganization meeting and earned community service hours while serving at Breakfast with Santa. Students are excited to learn front of the house roles and duties so we can operate a restaurant.



## CONSTRUCTION TRADES: COMMUNITY PROJECT BUILDS, COMPETITION WINS, & SPRING PREP

Construction Trades students have been diligently working on projects both at CWCTC and out in the community. The Youngwood ballfield project has been stalled by the recent winter weather and material is arriving at Jeannette in anticipation for the spring. Our SkillsUSA® Teamworks team won the district competition and is currently preparing for the State competition in April.



*Like The Phoenix, We Rise Above*

CWCTC PROGRAM OF STUDY  
HOME SCHOOL DISTRICT

YOU COULD BE  
THE NEXT  
STUDENT OF  
DISTINCTION

YOUR  
NAME

FUTURE PLANS:

DREAM BIG, WORK HARD



CENTRAL WESTMORELAND CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER  
STUDENT OF DISTINCTION

S T U D E N T S O F D I S T I N C T I O N

COSMETOLOGY PROGRAM  
BELLE VERNON DISTRICT



BRENNA  
HEIL

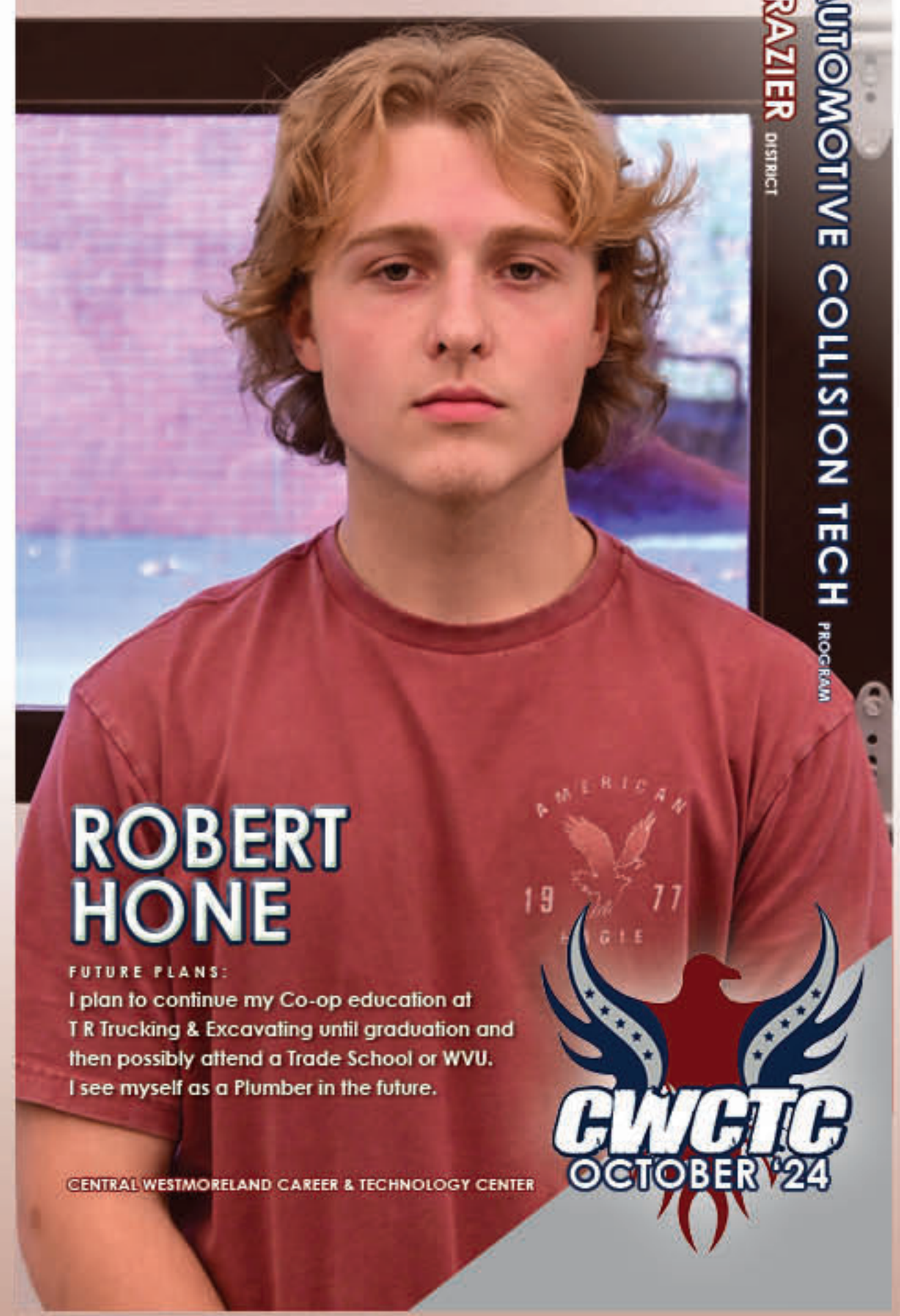
FUTURE PLANS:

I plan to work in a salon and possibly attend college. I am currently in the pilot program and have been working at Elegant Details Salon. I see myself as a licensed Cosmetologist in the future.



CENTRAL WESTMORELAND CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER

AUTOMOTIVE COLLISION TECH PROGRAM  
FRAZIER DISTRICT



ROBERT  
HONE

FUTURE PLANS:

I plan to continue my Co-op education at T R Trucking & Excavating until graduation and then possibly attend a Trade School or WVU. I see myself as a Plumber in the future.



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*Like The Phoenix, We Rise Above*



AGRICULTURE & LANDSCAPE DESIGN PROGRAM  
BELLE VERNON DISTRICT



GAGE  
CONVERSO

FUTURE PLANS:

I plan on continuing my employment with my Co-op employer Hilltop Labs over the summer then pursuing a degree at Penn State for Biological Engineering. I see myself as an Agricultural Professional in the future.



CENTRAL WESTMORELAND CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER



MULTIMEDIA DESIGN PROGRAM  
GREENSBURG SALEM DISTRICT

**MARRISSA CSORBA**

FUTURE PLANS:  
I plan to become a tattoo artist and a radiologist in the future.

**CWCTC**  
NOVEMBER '24

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AUTOMOTIVE COLLISION TECH PROGRAM  
GREENSBURG SALEM DISTRICT

**SAVANNAH HERRING**

FUTURE PLANS: I would like to further my education in automotive collision repairs, such as either going to a trade school or college to help me learn more to be able to open my own business. I see myself as a repair decal artist in the future.

**CWCTC**  
NOVEMBER '24

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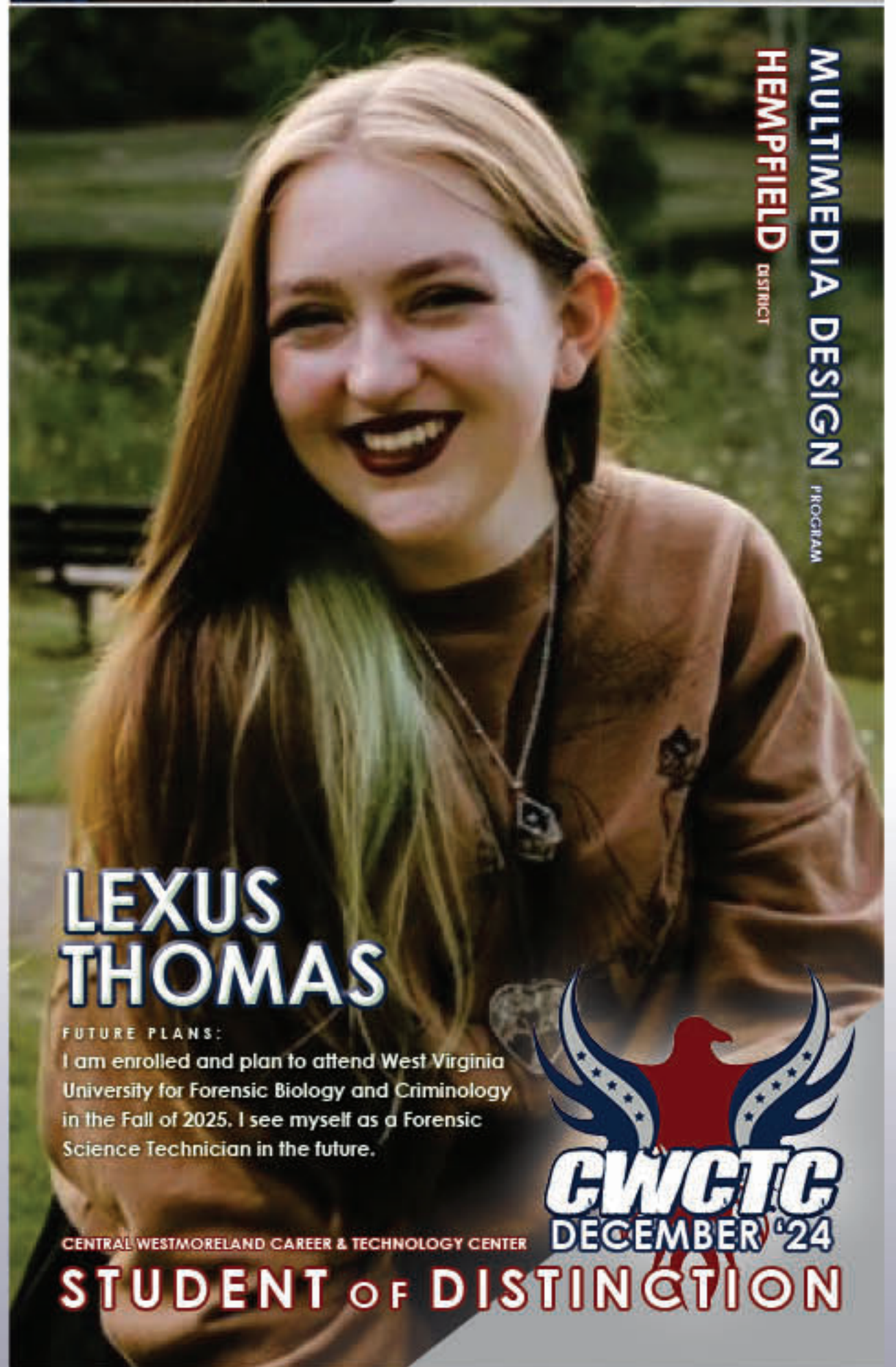
GOSMETOLOGY PROGRAM  
HEMPFIELD DISTRICT

**AVA COSTANTINO**

FUTURE PLANS:  
I plan on continuing my education by attending college for a business degree and finding employment in a salon. I see myself as a licensed Cosmetologist in the future.

**CWCTC**  
DECEMBER '24

CENTRAL WESTMORELAND CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER



MULTIMEDIA DESIGN PROGRAM  
HEMPFIELD DISTRICT

**LEXUS THOMAS**

FUTURE PLANS:  
I am enrolled and plan to attend West Virginia University for Forensic Biology and Criminology in the Fall of 2025. I see myself as a Forensic Science Technician in the future.

**CWCTC**  
DECEMBER '24

CENTRAL WESTMORELAND CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER

**STUDENT OF DISTINCTION**

*All First Semester Award Recipients*

• STUDENTS OF DISTINCTION



# Valentine Flower Sale



Pre-ORDER: **JAN. 27 - FEB. 5**

Pick-Up Date: **FEBRUARY 13 & 14**

All bouquets come wrapped with Baker's Fern & Baby's Breath



Proceeds benefit CWCTC FFA Chapter

ORDER through an Agriculture & Landscape Design Student or

/Central Westmoreland CTC FFA



**RED ROSE BOUQUET**

1 Dz ... \$40

½ Dz ... 20

Single ... 4

**ROSE BOUQUET**  
(Assorted Colors)

1 Dz ... \$40

½ Dz ... 20

Single ... 4

**CARNATION BOUQUET**  
(Color Choice)

1 Dz ... \$20

½ Dz ... 10

Single ... 3

## AUTO TECH GEARING UP FOR INSPECTION TESTS

While in Automotive Mechanics Technology we are learning the fundamentals of safety inspection, emissions, and new ways to study. As we are all seniors, it's almost time to take our inspection/emissions license tests. We are currently replacing the engine of a 2006 Dodge Ram, best study break ever! The class, in its entirety, is very excited to see the results from the engine swap and testing!

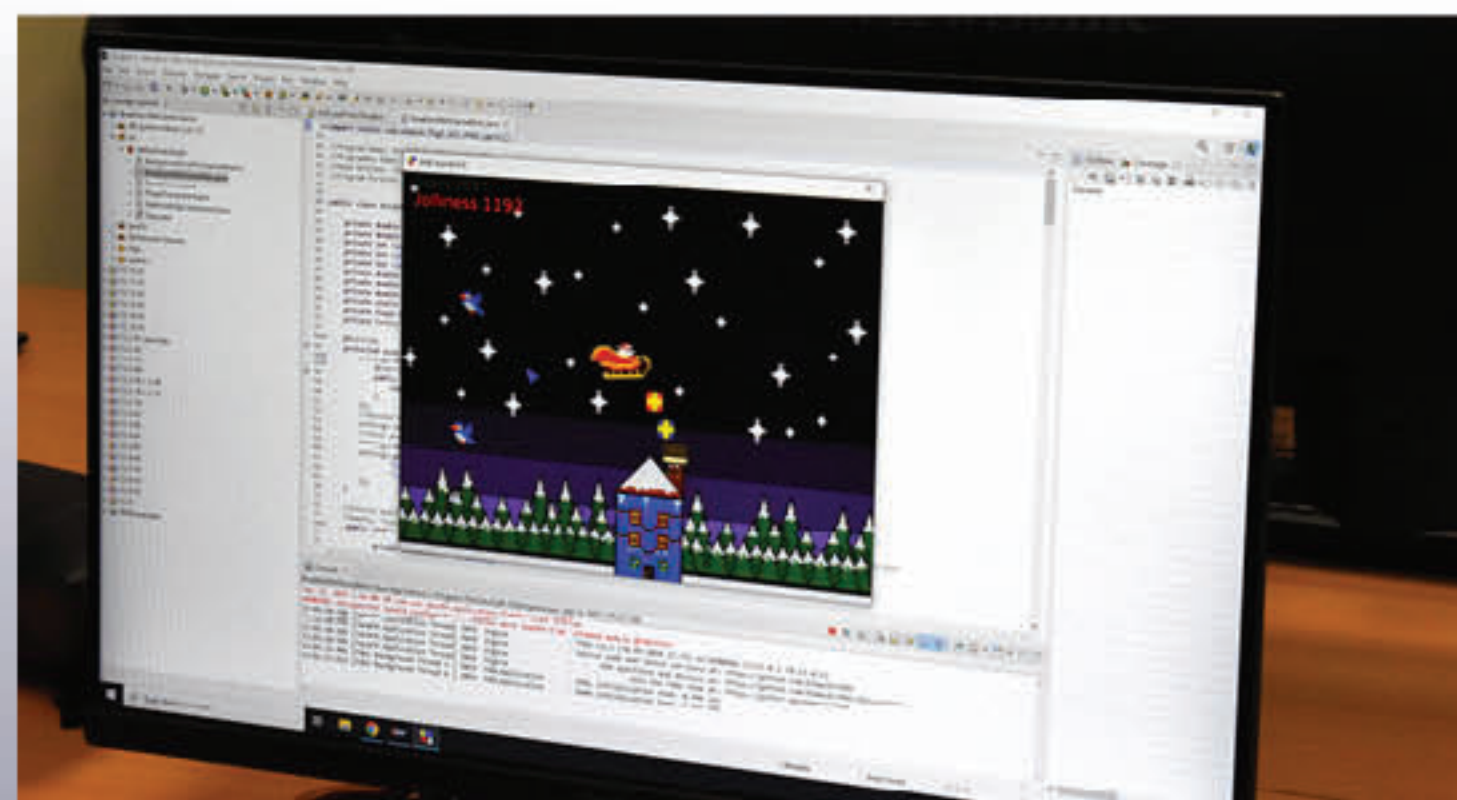


## COSMETOLOGISTS MASTERING TECHNIQUES

The A.M. Cosmetology class is working on mastering paraffin wax treatments and manicures. In the P.M., students have been working on eyebrow waxing and practicing all of our new hair coloring, cutting, and perming techniques on live models every Friday in the Phoenix Salon & Spa. Both A.M. and P.M. students have been working very hard in competing and practicing for Districts for SkillsUSA®. Most recently all the Cosmetology students and teachers took a field trip to the Benedum in Pittsburgh to see the Hip Hop Nutcracker. We had a great experience!

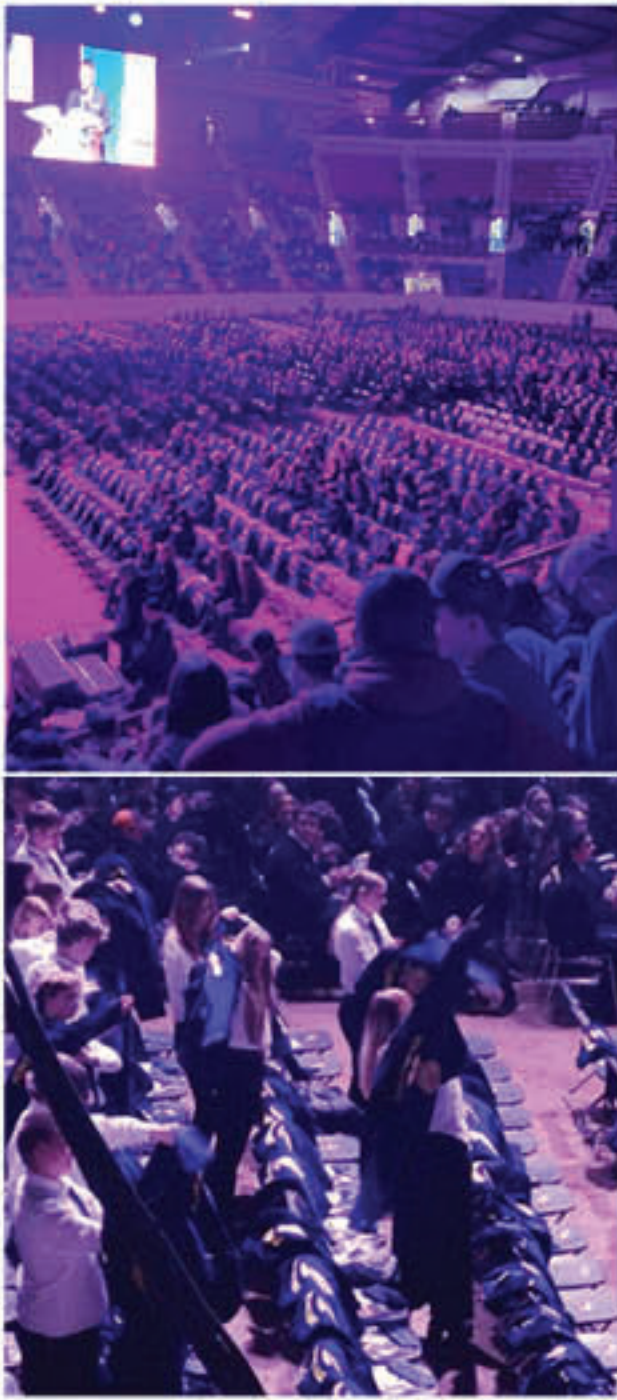
## CIS STUDENTS BUILD, LEARN, AND EXCEL: FROM FURNITURE TO CERTIFICATIONS!

Computer & Information Science has new additions to our room, students have built new chairs, desks, and are currently working on building new PC's. The second year students have finished their First Year Seminar with WCCC, and some of our seniors toured a potential job site. We assisted IT in documenting and imaging new laptops with software. The PM students are still working on certifications with second year students working on PC Pro, and third year students working on either Network Pro or Security Pro. The AM students have begun learning programming with HTML as they finish up earning their IT Fundamentals Pro certifications.





## AGRICULTURE & LANDSCAPE DESIGN: HOLIDAY SALES, VINEYARD FUNDRAISER, & FFA GIVING BACK

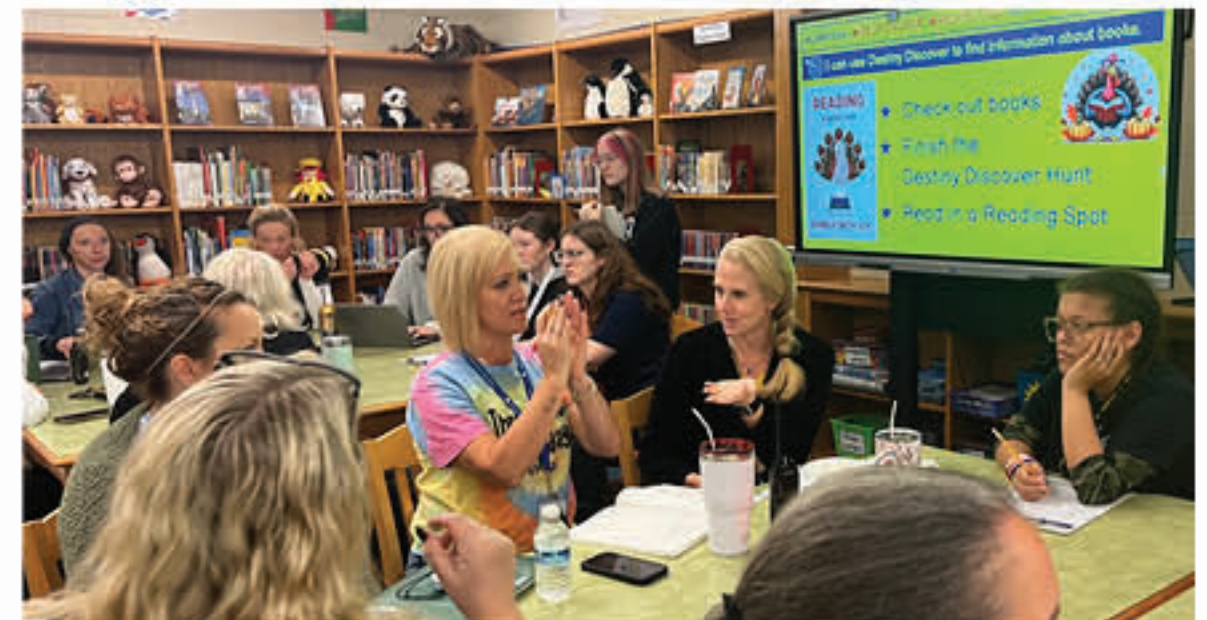


The Agriculture and Landscape Design class has been hard at work this holiday season. After wrapping up our Christmas wreath sale, we will be starting Valentine's Day sale preparations. This sale consists of different types of roses either in a dozen, ½ dozen, or single rose. We are still currently working on the Phoenix Falls project and to add on to that we are currently fundraising for a vineyard at the school which we will be growing for other companies to buy grapes off of us through crop production. Lastly the CWCTC FFA has donated 28 jackets from various community members which were presented to students in January at the 2025 PA FFA Mid-Winter Convention at the PA Farm Show in Harrisburg.



## FUTURE TEACHERS IN ACTION: ASPIRING EDUCATORS DIVE INTO HANDS-ON LEARNING AND COLLEGE PREP

The year one Aspiring Educators just finished many important assignments to help them figure out their future. The students finished a college research assignment to find their top three colleges that they're currently interested in. They are also in classrooms everyday! The students are going to Kindergarten and Learning Support to observe and help the teachers as needed. They recently sat in on a faculty meeting and learned how different grades and subjects collaborate to make every student successful.



The year two Aspiring Educators are busy in their practicums, helping with instructional tasks, non-instructional tasks, and even giving lessons! During class time they are busy learning about classroom management and child development, designing and making bulletin boards, and planning and creating their own lessons! Both years also recently visited St. Vincent College and Seton Hill University, taking tours and sitting in on education classes!

## AUTO COLLISION READYS CHALLENGER AND ARE 'WORLD OF WHEELS' BOUND

Both A.M. and P.M. are working through I-CAR to achieve our Pro Level One Certification. A field trip is planned to attend The 64th annual Pittsburgh World of Wheels at the David Lawrence Convention Center, showcasing Pittsburgh's Hot Rods, Custom Cars, Trucks & Motorcycles. In the second quarter we completed a rocker panel and did body work on a Dodge Challenger that is now ready to be painted.



# C T S O CAREER & TECHNICAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

## Spotlight

“ Student organizations allow you to gain leadership experience, learn new transferable skills, build your own resume, and get involved in your school community. ”

## CWCTC BotsIQ: EMPOWERING STUDENTS, BRIDGING THE SKILLS GAP, AND BUILDING THE FUTURE OF MANUFACTURING

**BOTS IQ** was created to provide a pathway for youth to explore rewarding careers in manufacturing. It is a workforce development program of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Tooling and Machining Foundation.

BotsIQ is working to spark student interest in manufacturing careers, address the manufacturing skills gap, and build the industry's future workforce through exciting, hands-on, project based learning opportunities.

BotsIQ has three overarching goals:

- To advance STEM education.
- To provide resources to local schools in order to develop hands-on technical learning.
- To link students with industry mentors and promote an understanding of manufacturing and STEM career pathways.

The CWCTC BotsIQ team meets after school one/two days a week, and occasionally Saturdays, to build their competition equipment. The team is required to attend Competitions during school days, evenings or weekends depending on the event/competition.



## SKILLS USA: EQUIPPING STUDENTS WITH REAL-WORLD SKILLS, LEADERSHIP, AND CAREER CONFIDENCE



**SkillsUSA®** is a national organization that is a student-led partnership of education and industry. Members gain access to advanced levels of skills training and leadership development, including opportunities to network with industry professionals, compete with highly skilled peers (on the local, state and national levels), gain recognition for individual achievements and more. Your resume will reflect proven, real-world training and experience with matched leadership skills.

Through SkillsUSA, members will develop high-level technical skills in whatever skilled area they're studying (we represent 130 of those areas). At the same time, they'll be developing life-shaping leadership skills from our SkillsUSA Framework of Personal, Workplace and Technical Skills grounded in academics: teamwork, communication, goal setting, integrity, responsibility, professionalism and more. That combination creates what we call "The SkillsUSA

Difference" — students with confidence, career clarity, personal and professional pride, and the courage to step outside their comfort zones.

The CWCTC SkillsUSA membership is open to enrolled students in all CWCTC programs. They can experience opportunities to participate in leadership and competitive events and conferences, meet new people, make new friends, network with industry, access scholarship opportunities, gain industry-validated credentials, travel and more. They're supported every step of the way by an encouraging community of peers and dedicated advisors committed to their personal and professional success. Members are required to participate in various fundraising events to offset the participation and travel costs for local, state and national competitions and other team-building social events throughout the year.

**TURN THE PAGE for SkillsUSA Competition News →**

# HALF OF DECEMBER SkillsUSA® DISTRICT COMPETITORS WIN GOLD

## 31 FIRST PLACE MEDALISTS ADVANCE TO PA STATE COMPETITION IN HERSHEY, PA ON APRIL 2-4, 2025:

Action Skills: WYATT WELSH  
Auto Service Technology: GAVIN ORTZ  
Computer Programming: CALEB ENCI  
Criminal Justice: BRAYDEN BASSO  
Customer Service: ARABELLA WEINMAN  
Early Childhood Education: AVERY WASZO  
Emergency Medical Technician: EMMA AUGUSTINE, CAMI BROWNE  
Firefighting: RILEY FRIEL  
Health Oc. Professional Portfolio: MACKENZIE THOMAS  
Job Interview: JACKSON SMITH  
Job Skill Demo A: AIDEN MCVICKER  
Job Skill Demo Other: LEANNA FETTER  
Nail Care: SYDNEY CARONE, Model: SYDNEY DIX  
Nurse Assisting: ALISSA DUNCAN  
Opening & Closing Ceremonies: LEILANI BROOMHEAD, MADI GOVIT, MARIAH KLINGENSMITH, MADISON LUCIA, AUDREY MILLER, AUBREE NELSON, AUDRIE WATERS  
Plumbing: BROOKE MILLEN  
Prepared Speech: REESE YOHMAN  
Related Technical Math: ADAM DIMAIO  
TeamWorks: (Carpenter) MIKE WYZKIEWICZ  
(Electrician) NICK ARGENTO  
(Mason) CALEB CONNORS  
(Plumber) CALEB RICHARDSON  
Technical Computer Applications: NOAH RITSON

## 10 Second Place:

Carpentry: GARRISON LANE  
CTE Demonstration: KASIA CUNNINGHAM  
Electrical Construction Wiring: DEREK DELEONIBUS  
Employment Application Process: KALEY RICKER  
Extemporaneous Speaking: ADI GARDNER  
Masonry: LUCAS BAKER  
T-Shirt Design LEYA HARTMAN  
Welding Fabrication: SETH COLLIER-VENZON, MASON BARNHART, BRADY SMITH

## 13 Third Place:

Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair: HAILEY BROWN  
Automotive Refinishing: SAVANNAH HERRING  
Basic Health Care Skills: MARGARET ALCORN  
CNC Programmer: CLAY BEGONIA  
Collision Repair Technology: JETT MURPHY  
Cosmetology: JAYLA MOORE  
Cosmetology Under 500: BRYLEE RAISHART  
Esthetics: JOSELYNN WRAY, Model: SARAH WILLIAMS  
HVACR: AMBER BROOKS  
Internetworking: ALEX O'DOMES  
Pin Design: LONZO LITTLE  
Quiz Bowl: FAITH SMITH, QUINLAN SEAMAN, ADDISON ELYES, NATHAN DANIELS  
Welding Sculpture: EMILIE ROBBINS

## ADDITIONAL COMPETITORS:

Culinary Arts: BRYCE GAMBLE  
First Aid/CPR: SYMAUDA HALL  
Health Knowledge Bowl: GRETCHEN HASTINGS, LEWIS MAINS, DECLAN PILLATZKI, NICK SANTAMARIA  
Information Tech Services: ZACKERY MCCREARY  
Restaurant Service: MAKAYLA POSTLEWAIT  
Welding: AUSTIN FRYE

A few more of the competitions are scheduled for early January 2025 with those results to be announced later this month.



Photo taken at the 2024 Western Region Fall Leadership Conference, Nov. 6 - 8, 2024 at Seven Springs Resort.