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TechLife

Your Award Winning News Publication

SPECIAL 50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



DIANA C. LOBOSCO LEAVES A PROFOUND LEGACY OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Superintendent's Retirement Marks the End of an Era

How does a school district adequately express appreciation to a leader whose professional career has exemplified commitment, integrity, and excellence -- whose leadership has transformed it into a model school of distinction across the state? The PCTVS community finds itself pondering this question as Chief School Administrator Diana C. Lobosco bids farewell when she retires at the end of December.

Undoubtedly, the Superintendent's innumerable accomplishments will long outlive her 37-year tenure. Through her far-reaching vision and dedicated leadership, PCTVS has been transformed into New Jersey's largest school of its kind, meeting the academic, career and technical demands of over 4,000 Passaic County students each year.

Career Highlights

Mrs. Lobosco first arrived on campus in 1985, already impressively equipped with 12 years of experience in education which enabled her to refine her beliefs about effective classroom management and organizational leadership. Initially, serving as Supervisor of Basic Skills Instruction, Bilingual Education, and English as a Second Language, she honed her administrative skills and quickly advanced to the roles of Vice Principal and Principal. In 1995 her transformational leadership style, wealth of knowledge, and indomitable work ethic earned her the position of Superintendent, a title she proudly held for a remarkable 25-year span. The scope of her leadership reached well beyond the PCTVS campus, as she was actively involved in numerous professional organizations throughout her career.



"Throughout my 27 years on the PCTVS Board, I have had the unique honor to witness first-hand the profound impression Diana's leadership has made on the entire school community."

*- Al Alexander -
Board of Education President*





'Like No Place Else'

Mrs. Lobosco will forever be recognized as a relentless champion who transformed PCTVS into a unique leader in its field -- 'a school like no place else.' As a staunch advocate and visionary of Career and Technical Education (CTE) and the opportunities it affords, she led a \$26 million construction initiative in 2004 which allowed PCTI to accept an additional 1,000 students per year. Under her leadership, traditional CTE offerings expanded, while new offerings like the School of Performing Arts, the Academy of Finance, and the School of Engineering Technology were added. Increased academic rigor and cutting-edge technology have also been hallmarks of her tenure as Superintendent. Likewise, incremental expansion of athletic opportunities, extracurricular activities, as well as a strong sense of community pride, patriotism, and student character development have grown and flourished under her direction.



The outgoing Superintendent's most notable achievement, however, is undoubtedly the creation of the Diana C. Lobosco STEM Academy. With its unveiling in 2018, the 110,000-square-foot facility was appropriately dedicated in her honor given her vision and tenacity from its early development as a seminal idea until its fruition as a world class instructional model. Recognizing the emergence and 21st-century demand for careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, she led the charge to expand opportunities for all Passaic County students to become critical thinkers and community leaders in these new, emerging vocational areas. With its unique interdisciplinary approach and program-based learning model, the state-of-the-art facility and highly skilled staff will promote the next generation of knowledgeable, productive, and socially-conscious global leaders.





IN HER OWN WORDS: AN INTERVIEW WITH CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR DIANA C. LOBOSCO

Q: How do you hope to be remembered with regard to your tenure?

A: My sincere hope is that I will be remembered as a leader with a vision and as a person who made each and every decision based on what was right for the students and their futures.

Q: What are you most proud of?

A: I am extremely proud of how PCTVS has transformed over the past 25 years, both in its infrastructure and its offerings. The expansion of the facilities has allowed us to more than double the number of students served. The legacy of the STEM Academy will be long-lasting, as it prepares students for successful 21st century careers. It is truly an honor to have my name attached to the school. Beyond this, we have expanded the CTE curriculum, student activities, and athletics, as we have always strived to meet the needs and interests of our students.

Q: What will you miss the most?

A: I will miss the interaction with both staff and students. It has been an amazing gift to have worked in such a supportive environment. From the County Freeholders and Board of Education to the administrators, faculty, and staff, I could not have asked for a better team. With regard to the students, I will miss hearing their incredible success stories. Graduation ceremonies and awards assemblies were always a true source of pride, so I will especially miss those.

Q: What are you looking forward to in retirement?

A: I am looking forward to more time with my family and for myself. But I will also be watching for future PCTVS success stories. There is a tradition of excellence here, and I am certain it will continue!

A Leader's Legacy

Praise for Mrs. Lobosco from her long-time colleagues is effusive. Outgoing Board of Education President Albert Alexander has had the privilege of working alongside her for over two decades. "Throughout my 27 years on the PCTVS Board, I have had the unique honor to witness first-hand the profound impression Diana's leadership has made on the entire school community. She has been a class act from day one, and her commitment to constantly improving our school never wavered," said Alexander.

John Maiello, Assistant Superintendent and soon-to-be Acting Superintendent, commented on the retiree's legacy, noting, "The entire PCTVS community will be forever indebted to Diana Lobosco for her decades of devoted service. Her impact is truly beyond measure. On behalf of every student, parent, board and staff member, I sincerely wish her all the best as she closes this monumental chapter of her life and starts the next one."

**OUR UTMOST GRATITUDE AND GOOD WISHES,
DIANA C. LOBOSCO!
YOUR UNPARALLELED LEGACY WILL LIVE ON!
THANK YOU FOR MAKING PCTVS A SPECIAL
PLACE FOR ALL WHO WALK ITS GROUNDS
AND ENTER ITS DOORS.**

- THE PCTVS BULLDOG FAMILY -



BULLDOG RESOLVE STRONG AS STUDENTS 'RETURN TO LEARN'

An Unprecedented School Opening Due to COVID-19

Crafting a “back to school” plan in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic presented significant challenges to all school districts this fall, but PCTVS faced the task with “Bulldog” resolve. With a comprehensive plan in place designed to meet all CDC and state-mandated requirements, the District kicked off the school year prepared to put health and safety first, while remaining dedicated to continuing its standards of educational excellence.

Options

Feedback collected from summer surveys made clear the importance of allowing for both individual choice and flexibility. The reopening plan offered students the choice between fully remote learning or a hybrid learning schedule consisting of two full days of on-campus instruction per week with the remaining days taught virtually. Students are able to switch to the 100% remote option, if needed, and can move to the hybrid plan, by request, at the beginning of each trimester.

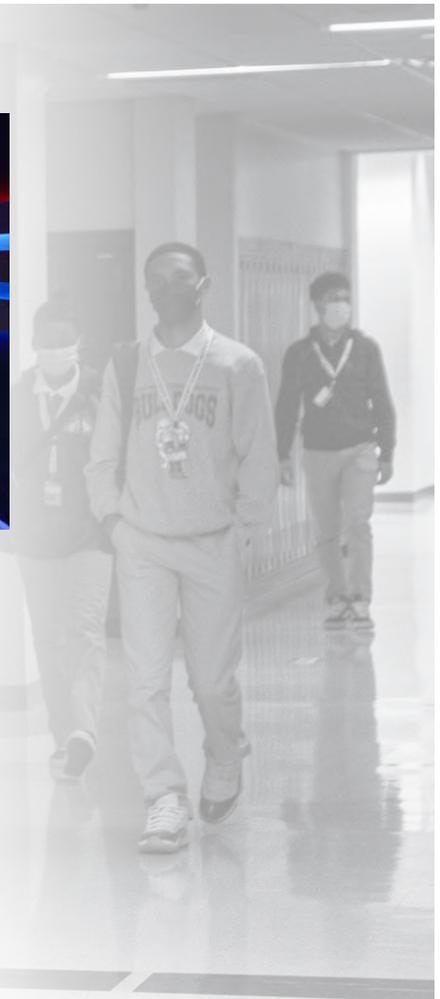
Campus Transformation

A proliferation of visual cues for social distancing and mandatory masks were the most obvious indicators of a “new normal” for students who opted to return to campus in September. But the preparations went much deeper. In a meticulously orchestrated effort, PCTVS staff worked tirelessly to mark one-way stairwells, move desks to provide proper social distancing, and prepare for intense new cleaning protocols. Additionally, hand sanitizer units were installed in each classroom and common area, while plexiglass partitions were put in place for cafeteria seating. The TechLife mobile app was also updated to permit students and staff to provide a daily healthy check-in. With these measures in place and the reduced number of in-person students, the goal is to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19.





Digital Media/Graphic Arts teacher Andrew Jones prepared for remote learning by building an at-home studio.



'Return to Learn' Commitment

In the months that have followed the abrupt, state-ordered school closure in the spring, the PCTVS administration and faculty have also ramped up efforts to explore, evaluate, and adopt new methods and technologies in order to ensure teaching remains effective for all learners.

"While health and safety are undoubtedly the priorities, ultimately, we are here to learn. Regardless of which setting a student has chosen, our goal is to provide an equal scope of quality instruction as we continue to navigate the challenges caused by the pandemic," said Diana C. Lobosco, PCTVS Superintendent. "We have adopted the 'Return to Learn' theme for 2020-2021 as an apt expression of that commitment."

Subject to Change

With a clear understanding that circumstances could change quickly, the plan was designed from the outset to be fluid in nature. The ability to adapt was put to the test in early October and again in mid-November when necessity required the schools to temporarily pivot to 100% virtual learning.

Community Response

Overall, the community response to the remote and hybrid model has been positive. Students have been happy to see their classmates and teachers either on campus or virtually. Everyone might be wearing masks, but there are lots of smiles behind them!



2020 MARKS GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF WAYNE CAMPUS

Celebrating a Rich History of Growth and Greatness

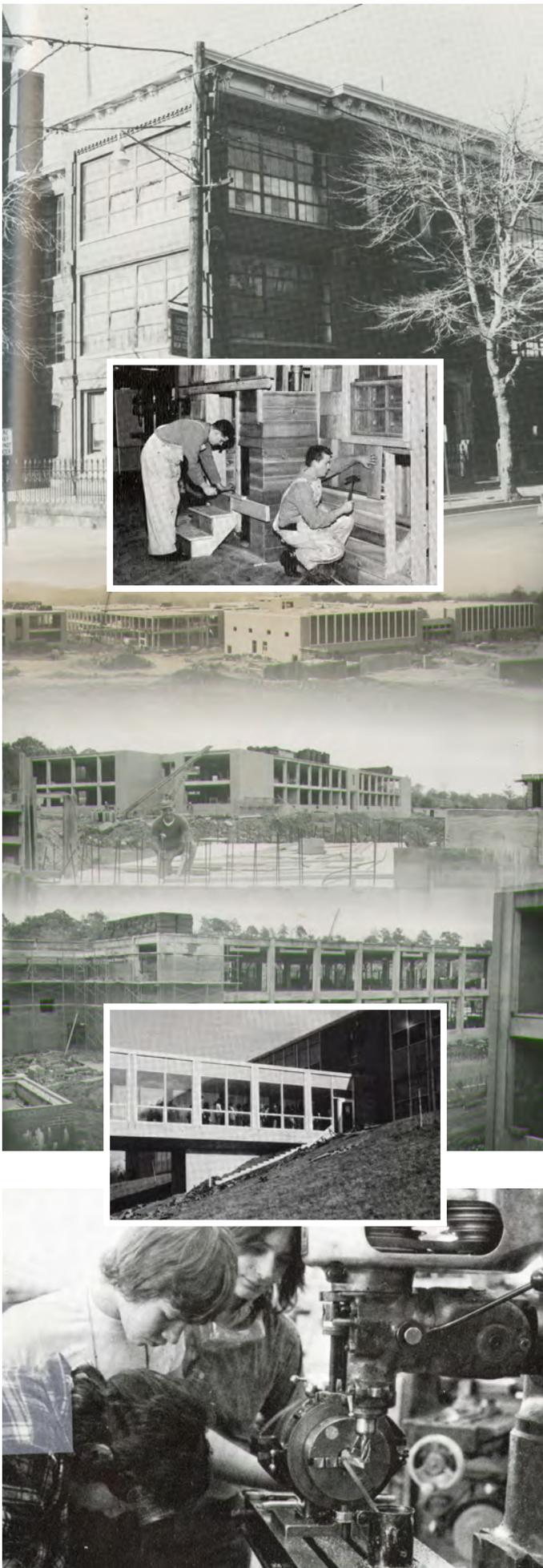
It has been an incredible fifty years since the Passaic County Technical and Vocational School District opened its doors at its current location in Wayne, New Jersey. The construction of the “high school on a hill above a city” was not so much a beginning, as a grand step forward. Opened in 1970, the school was originally named Passaic County Technical and Vocational High School and was the continuation of a remarkable educational journey that began in the early 20th century.

From Silk City Trade School to War-time Asset

In 1917, a small band of “Silk City” businessmen agreed that Paterson should have a school to train young men to enter the textile industry, resulting in the establishment of the Paterson Vocational School. Boys who were at least in the sixth grade attended for two years or until they were ready to assume a job in a factory.

From that time until the early 1940s, Paterson Vocational School continued to operate as a two-year school, gradually expanding its curriculum to include a wider variety of trades. During World War II, the school remained open around the clock, providing men and women with the necessary training to become machinists and draftsmen to design and construct the engines used in bombers, fighters, and transport aircraft flown in the Pacific and European theaters. As such, the school was honored by the War Department for its noble contributions and service efforts.

Cognizant of the burgeoning role that technology would play in the booming postwar economy, Paterson Vocational School applied for and received approval from the New Jersey Department of Education to become a full-fledged high school in 1946. Academic subjects were added to the curriculum, as were new trades like Refrigeration, Industrial Electric, and Electronics. At that point, the school was renamed Paterson Technical and Vocational High School and quickly gained the nickname Paterson Tech. Agriculture was offered to shared-time students attending Central High School (now Kennedy High School), with Paterson Tech renting a farm close to the present-day Wayne campus where students learned to raise farm animals and grow crops.





PCTVS PASSAIC COUNTY
TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL
SCHOOLS

County-Wide Access

By the 1960s, the importance of vocational and technical education was becoming increasingly obvious. In 1964, Paterson Mayor Frank Graves turned over Paterson Tech to the Board of Passaic County Freeholders, thereby providing all youth in Passaic County access to Passaic County Technical and Vocational High School. With students flooding in from all over the county, Passaic County Tech, now reaching a student population of 500 young men and one girl, was bursting at the seams. The school's two buildings, one dating from the Civil War located at the corner of Summer and Ellison, the other a refurbished factory on Market Street, could not meet the demands.

By 1965, plans were well underway to build a new school that would accommodate students for generations to come. Armed with research from a Citizens' Study Committee and a Federal Grant of \$3,925,000, the largest ever awarded to that date, the county chose a 59-acre tract of land which it owned in Wayne. Ground breaking ceremonies were held in November 1966, and construction of the school began 15 months later.

The Birth of the Wayne Campus

On September 8, 1970, Passaic County Technical and Vocational High School, the largest technical/vocational high school in the state and the third largest in the nation at the time, opened its doors at its present location to nearly 1,500 young men and women. In 1995 the school was renamed Passaic County Technical Institute (PCTI), and in the following decades it grew exponentially. Major construction projects included three new wings, a special needs building, an additional media center, an athletic center, an automotive center, and new athletic fields. In addition to the expansion of the campus infrastructure, a variety of AP courses and vocational, occupational, and technical programs were added to keep abreast of rapid technological advances and economic trends.



First-of-its-kind STEM Academy Opens its Doors

Notably, the opening of the state-of-the-art Diana C. Lobosco STEM Academy in 2018 further expanded the Wayne campus with the addition of a second high school. Opening its doors in September 2018, the STEM Academy offers three exciting career pathways: Biomedical and Life Sciences, Computer Science, and Engineering. In each comprehensive program of study, students apply essential Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics principles in project and problem-based learning activities. The facility utilizes uniquely designed settings including common collaborative learning spaces, CTE & science laboratories, open classrooms, presentation/seminar halls, and small-group instruction areas. With the addition of the second high school to the campus, the district is now referred to as Passaic County Technical and Vocational Schools (PCTVS).

A District of Distinction Looks Toward the Future

The astounding progress achieved on the Wayne campus over the course of the past fifty years is another amazing chapter to the school's humble beginnings over a century ago. PCTVS is proud to be a state leader and model of excellence in career and technical education. As the demand for career and technical education continues to increase in the 21st century, there will always be new challenges to meet and new horizons to explore. Keeping in mind the innovation and dedication of the original Paterson trailblazers over a century ago, Passaic County Technical and Vocational Schools will continue to respond to the needs of the community and the demands of the global marketplace while making history one step at a time.



BOARD PRESIDENT ALBERT ALEXANDER LEAVES BIG SHOES TO FILL

PCTVS Board of Education President Albert “Al” Alexander will be greatly missed! As he retired from his appointed position last month, the community expressed overwhelming gratitude for all that he accomplished during his unprecedented 27-year tenure on the PCTVS Board of Education.

“One-of-a-kind,” said Chief School Administrator and Superintendent Diana C. Lobosco, when asked to describe Alexander. “His efforts on behalf of the school have been tireless, and the results have been nothing short of remarkable. We cannot thank him enough for his long-standing, selfless commitment.”

The fruits of Alexander’s dedicated labor are visible throughout the PCTVS campus and culture. Over the course of his 25 years as Board President, the school witnessed major expansions including the construction of the Athletic Center, the F-wing expansion, the Automotive Technology Building, and the Diana C. Lobosco STEM Academy. His can-do personality and outgoing nature were the perfect combination for his success. He is highly respected by both his Board colleagues, the Administration, and the PCTVS community.

Alexander is best known for always putting the students first. He is credited with founding the PCTVS Education Foundation in 1998, which he has presided over since its inception. The group’s fundraising efforts through the Golf Scholarship Classic, the Annual Car Show, Lincoln of Wayne’s ‘Driven to Give,’ and the Alumni Connections Campaign have resulted in \$1.5 million in contributions.

Ring true to his ‘For the Kids’ mantra, Alexander was instrumental in raising funds through the Education Foundation’s community outreach efforts. His tireless dedication garnered tens of thousands of dollars each year for student scholarships, teacher grants, and technology purchases, which continue to enrich the



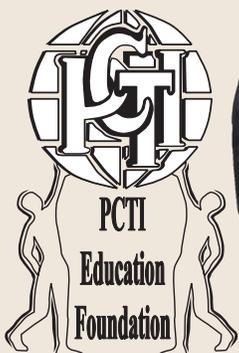
educational experience at PCTVS. Additionally, under his leadership the Foundation underwrote performances by students of the arts, secured funds for summer camp expenditures, and continues to provide holiday turkey dinners for disadvantaged students’ families.

Lobosco continued her effusive praise. “Mr. Alexander worked well beyond the required scope of the position. He embodies the volunteer spirit through his exuberance, passion, and generosity. He has been a true champion to our community.”

When asked to reflect on his time on the Board, Alexander was deservedly proud of his accomplishments.

He said, **“As a lifelong resident of Passaic County, I am proud to have been part of the PCTVS Board of Education and Education Foundation. These kids are incredible and deserve every opportunity for success. Watching them learn and grow and succeed ... that’s the biggest reward.”**

We are grateful that Mr. Alexander will not be leaving us entirely. He will continue to lead the PCTVS Education Foundation to new and greater heights in the years ahead!





ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Sweet Success FOR CULINARY ARTS ALUM' EMILY SORIANO

Nine years after graduating from PCTI, Emily Soriano '11, Culinary Arts, remains laser-focused on her passion for baking. After receiving a scholarship to the Culinary Institute of New York (CINY) at Monroe College, the accomplished baker earned multiple degrees including a Master's degree in Executive Hospitality Leadership. There, not only did she hone her existing skills, but she gained enough experience to teach at the school.

Fast forward to 2020, and now Soriano can proudly add the title of "entrepreneur" to her impressive resume. The doors of Soriano's Belle Vida Pastry Cafe opened in June. Located at 1197 Main Avenue in Clifton, the cafe serves breakfast, lunch, and a variety of desserts and baked goods. At the heart of the business, however, are the insta-worthy, custom cakes designed for any and all types of occasions.

Soriano attributes much of her early success to PCTI. "My experience at PCTI provided me with a very strong foundation. Not only did I gain valuable skills, but the support from teachers and mentors like Christopher Santhouse and Celeste Zaleski was invaluable."



"My experience at PCTI provided me with a very strong foundation. Not only did I gain valuable skills, but the support from teachers and mentors like Christopher Santhouse and Celeste Zaleski was invaluable."

*- Emily Soriano -
PCTI Alum 2011, School of Culinary Arts*



The admiration is mutual. Schools to Career Counselor Santhouse said, "Emily was an impressive student in her years here. It has been a pleasure to follow her continued success. We are proud to now partner with her by having her serve on the Culinary Arts Advisory Board."

Soriano is happy to be giving back to the PCTI community. In addition to her role on the Board, she has recruited PCTI students to CINY through the America's Best High School Chef competition, and she currently employs two former students at the cafe.

As Soriano continues her own professional culinary journey, she offers the following advice to current PCTI students: "Strive for your passion no matter how hard things get. Always work towards finding that one thing that inspires and drives you to achieve more. Keep that passion, no matter what it is, and you will forever be successful."

Plan a visit to her Belle Vida Pastry Cafe to support a fellow Bulldog!



THE SCOOP ON **STEM**

Top Honors at Microsoft Reno DigiGirls Competition



Innovative junior Duaa Raza, a Biomedical and Life Sciences student at the DCL STEM Academy, wowed the judges and impressed her fellow attendees at the Microsoft Reno DigiGirls 2020 Hackathon in October. The national event is dedicated to educating and inspiring high school girls to learn more about the vast opportunities and career choices available to them in the technology industry and STEM fields. The virtual attendees competed by submitting original ideas on how to use artificial intelligence (AI) for the benefit of others.

In the category of 'AI for Humanitarian Action,' Duaa earned First Place with her 'Heart to Heart' app. The app takes a preventative approach to the reduction of heart disease. By combining a body patch to an app on a user's phone, biomarkers for early detection of coronary artery disease are tracked. The collected data is used to design a risk-reduction program specific to the patient.

Keep up the amazing work, Duaa!



CAR SHOW REVVED UP FOR 5TH YEAR

Enthusiastic attendees enjoyed the sunny weather and festive atmosphere at the PCTVS Education Foundation's Annual Car Show which was held on October 31. In its fifth spectacular year, viewers were treated to an incredible display of classic cars, trucks, and motorcycles. The much-anticipated event is held each year as one of the Education Foundation's fundraisers for student scholarships and teacher grants.



COMING SOON: AP Capstone Diploma Program

The Diana C. Lobosco STEM Academy is thrilled to announce its acceptance as one of approximately 2,000 schools worldwide to implement the AP Capstone™ Diploma program, an innovative program that allows students to develop the skills that matter most for college success, such as research, collaboration, and communication. The program consists of two yearlong courses taken in sequence: AP® Seminar and AP

Research. The STEM Academy will start offering AP Seminar in the fall of 2021.

Students who score a 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing earn the AP Capstone Diploma™. This signifies outstanding academic achievement and attainment of college-level academic and research skills. Students who score a 3 or higher in both AP Seminar and AP Research (and not on four additional AP Exams) earn the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.

Principal Joaquim Johnson commented, "We are proud to be able to offer AP Capstone next year. Undoubtedly, the skills taught in the two courses will be incredibly valuable to our students throughout their academic and professional careers."

AP Capstone™

Research, Academic Rigor, Distinction



AMAZING ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Big Player With A Big Heart



PCTVS Bulldog Yosue Gomez, a three-year starter, was recently named a finalist for USA Football's 'Heart of a Giant' award. The special honor is co-sponsored by the New York Giants and The Hospital for Special Surgery. It was created to recognize the

commitment, teamwork, dedication, and character of high school football players.

As one of just six second-round finalists in the tri-state area, the offensive lineman/defensive end is relatively new to football. He only started playing the sport as a freshman, but he quickly excelled. Yosue takes his schoolwork as seriously as his athletics, maintaining a 3.7 GPA as a student of the School of Construction Technology.

Head Football Coach Matthew Demarest nominated Gomez for the award, after recognizing not only his athletic skills but his determination and character. "I have coached here for 27 years, and Yosue Gomez is truly one of the most amazing humans I have ever met," said Demarest.

The PCTVS Football program will receive a \$1,000 equipment grant as a result of Yosue's success in the competition thus far.

Thank you, Yosue, for inspiring greatness on the field and off! PCTVS is proud of you!

SOPHIA GAMBUTI NAMED ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



Junior Sophia Gambuti of the Girls Soccer Team has earned recognition as the PCTVS November Athlete of the Month. With an 8-2 record this season, she leads the Lady Bulldogs in scoring with an incredible nine goals. Sophia was also selected as the North Jersey Girls Soccer Player of the Week in mid-November. With four goals and two assists over back-to-back games, the offensive leader powered her team to successive victories on the field.

Congratulations on your success this season! We can't wait to see what you do next year!

Proud Tradition of Honoring Veterans Continues



The PCTVS community proudly continued its commitment to promote and celebrate patriotism with a Veterans Day assembly to honor local veterans. It was an outstanding morning of education and remembrance as students learned about the important role of the military and the dedication of American soldiers throughout history and today.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and the Star-Spangled Banner, Principal Antonio Garcia welcomed the students and guests of honor in his opening remarks. After thanking the veterans for their service, he proudly expressed, "I salute you and wish you all the best."

Next, students who participated in Boys State and Girls State shared their thoughts on the courage and selflessness of United States veterans through a video they created. Other components of the program, organized by PCTVS Patriotic Coordinator

Cathy Pagano, included a poem read by student Gabriella Covino and a poignant address from JROTC Lt. Commander Naheisha Hill where she emphasized the character and citizenship of those who volunteer to serve. Additionally, students William Nino and Nicholas VanderMay solemnly presented a memorial wreath during the playing of 'Taps.' The program concluded with special recognition of the service and sacrifice of local veterans in attendance.

With its proud patriotic culture, PCTVS will continue to honor its veterans this season through "Wreaths Across America." In its second year of participation, the school is raising funds in order to place wreaths on the graves of fallen soldiers interred at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Totowa. The wreaths will be placed during a special public ceremony on Saturday, December 19, 2020 at 12:00pm.

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***Wishing the entire Bulldog family
health and happiness this holiday
season and in the New Year!***

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WELCOME ABOARD!

As the 2020-2021 school year began, PCTVS welcomed over 30 new staff members to campus. When you see them in our in-person and virtual classrooms, offices, cafeterias, and hallways, please be sure to extend a warm Bulldog welcome!

