

PASSAIC COUNTY TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

# THE TECHNICIAN

PCTI's Award Winning News Publication

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE!



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## Culinary “Pros” Bring the Heat

**For the past nine years, PCTI's culinary students have been setting records with their involvement in the State ProStart Competition. Our two teams have consistently accomplished great feats. The Culinary team has received first place for all the state competitions. The Management team has come in first place three years and second for the remaining six.**

Their winning streak is still going strong. This year, the Management team secured the silver, missing the gold by a mere half a point. They spent four days a week since September developing a business proposal for *Nacho Usual Taco Truck*.

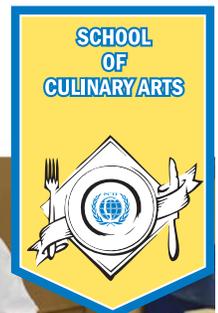
The Culinary team practiced tirelessly before school, perfecting their entrees for the national competition. Their creatively crafted treats included a Peruvian potato causa with jumbo lump crab, avocado mousse and chulpe corn; Mexican spice rubbed filet mignon in sweet chipotle sauce; and layered mocha cheesecake and chocolate mousse with an oreo crust. Timing is everything as students must prepare two servings of each dish in an hour while simultaneously ensuring a clean and spotless presentation. This year, the team put their skills to the test when they traveled to Disneyland in

California to compete at the National ProStart Competition.

Placing ProStart competitors have the opportunity to receive scholarships depending upon the colleges they attend after graduation. Many of our students from the Culinary and Management teams walked away with funding for their futures.

At this year's national competition, our Culinary Team finished 13th out of 48. That's quite a feat!

Congratulations to all on their hard work and determination which has set the bar high for future success!



# Presenting PCTI's Educators of the Year!



**PCTI has announced their Governor's Educators of the Year. The honor goes to Teacher of the Year Fatima Ramirez and Educational Specialist of the Year Lori Henry.**

Fatima Ramirez is a teacher of the Handicapped for English, Reading, and Spanish. Within her classroom, she embraces an instructional style that relies on passion, kindness, and paying good deeds forward. "I enjoy greeting my students with a smile and choose popular tunes to give them a jolt of energy," she explains. Her peers say she transforms

the way her students think by reframing negative outlooks into positives, proving a can-do attitude makes anything possible.

Lori Henry is a Learning Disabilities Teaching Consultant known for going the extra mile every single day. She is a dedicated case manager who spearheaded earning a mini grant through the school's education foundation in order to visit the 9/11 Memorial Museum in NYC. Her primary concern is providing opportunities for social and educational growth for all her students.

*Congratulations!*

## Freshmen Foundation for Success

Congratulations to the top ten freshmen of the Class of 2018 who have achieved academic excellence with their high ranking GPAs – Keri Fuhrmann, Zahra Hussain, Yusuf Karim, Akash Rana, Fardusi Uddin, Mustafa Nasser, Po-Lun Kung, Przemyslaw Juniewicz, Megan Polzer, and Jay Patel.



## Congratulations to Circle of Success Students!

This year's Marking Period 3 Circle of Success students have been chosen. Congratulations to Qian Zhang, Sarah Shannon, Valia Cabello, Nicholas Galluzzo, Keisha Barnes, Daniel Castro, Raihan Sufian, We' McDonald, Hellem Jaquez, Sumaiaya Nila, Kayleen Acosta, Antonio Napolitano, Timothy McKinney, Kimberly Mezones, and Melanie Sanchez.



# African American History Month

This year's African American History month was an outstanding success! Thank you to all students and staff who participated in this event.



# Breaking Out onto the Sport's Scene!

Congratulations to the Boys Bowling Team and the Boys Swim Team for their outstanding seasonal accomplishments of being named State Sectional Champions (Bowling - North 1 Group 4 State Sectional Champs "Three-Peat," Swimming North 1-A Sectional Champions), PCCA County Champions, Big North Liberty Conference Champions, and NJTAC Champions.



# PCTI Declared Among the Best

Great News - PCTI has been awarded with the "Bronze" recognition award by U.S. News & World Report, putting us among "America's Best High Schools for 2015!" This is our 5th bronze medal since 2008. Congratulations to all of our dedicated faculty and staff for contributing to this great accomplishment.



# HOSA Spearheads Community Service with Blood Drive

HOSA students served the community in a very big way with the ever successful annual Blood Drive event. Working in conjunction with the Community Blood Services of Paramus, NJ, HOSA students aided in collecting 147 units of blood from 188 participants. Twenty-nine students also registered for the bone marrow registry. Sincere thanks to all who contributed their time and talents to this event.



Majabeen Siddiqi displays her homemade crafted blood drop key chains with Ashley Cody.

# Career and Technical Education Er

*Passaic County Technical Institute celebrated February with National Career and Technical Education Month. The event put a spotlight on the diversified areas of study offered at the largest career and technical high school in New Jersey and stressed the vital role education plays in teaching students to become knowledgeable and productive members of today's society.*

The month's activities thrust the talent of our students center stage. Culinary Arts channeled their artistry in baking with cannoli cakes. Students of the School of Communication Arts provided expressive artwork from their portfolios and assisted in the cultivation of stylized notepads. In honor of CTE Month, School of Construction Technology students built a lamp with working electricity while another student crafted exquisite cutting boards. Cosmetology students also gave back to the community when they pampered women from Oasis with makeovers.

Student ambassadors closed out the month with visitations to local businesses and county agencies. These service projects allow students to put their passions into practice, and to showcase their appreciation for the valuable partnerships afforded by Career and Technical Education.

It all comes down to enriching the lives of our students by building strong character and work ethic. The integration of Career and Technical Education with rigorous academics provides countless opportunities for growth in education as well as future careers.



**ATHLETES  
OF THE  
MONTH**

## JANUARY



**Cedileth Pacheco**  
Basketball



**Kevin Copper**  
Winter Track

## FEBRUARY



**D'meriah Cuavers**  
Cheerleading



**Nick Legreaux**  
Wrestling



**Symone Rogers**  
Cheerleading

## MARCH



**Zachary Polzer**  
Baseball



**Amirah Chaney**  
Softball

# Enriching the Lives of our Students



## Finance Students Strike Big at Federal Reserve Challenge



***Academy of Finance students recently competed in the Maiden Division of the High School Federal Reserve Challenge for the first time. They soon advanced to the final round and finished third out of sixty teams from the surrounding tristate area!***

Team members Mariafernanda Ayin, Trisha Daraji, Adrian Rodriguez, Schoenstani Gil, and Sarah Velez, were given the hypothetical scenario of solving economic downturns in production and manufacturing, as well as employment and inflationary prices of goods/services. Students responded by submitting their recommendations and answering a series of questions from Federal Reserve bankers and economists.

Congratulations to the team on their outstanding accomplishment!

# Giving Back to Bulldog Country

The greatest desire that PCTI has for our graduates is that they find success in life and fulfillment in their careers of choice. Culinary 2012 alumnus Angelina Hernandez is well on her way to achieving her dreams. She's already received her Associate's Degree in Culinary Arts from Monroe College and is now working hard on completing her Bachelor's Degree in Hospitality Management.

Recently, Angelina returned to PCTI to help ready the ProStart teams to compete for the state competition. She also took one of our current seniors under her wing when she found he wanted to prepare for the America's Best High School Chef competition at Monroe College.

"PCTI has given me so many opportunities that it would be hard not to come

back and help others have that same experience," she said. Angelina went on to explain that as a culinary student she was able to learn the basics of Culinary Arts, which allowed her to be more prepared than half of the students in her class when she entered college.

"I was also given the opportunity to participate in many competitions while at PCTI, which helped me win scholarship money for my college tuition," Angela added. "PCTI provided me with the essentials to succeed in the culinary field and in life."



*"PCTI has given me so many opportunities that it would be hard not to come back and help others have that same experience."*

## "DMC" Shares Life Advice with Students

Criminal Justice and Performing Arts were the lucky recipients of a spirited presentation from Darryl McDaniels of Run DMC fame. "DMC" presented a dynamic assembly that underscored the importance of reforming hip hop to present a more positive image. He went on to stress the value of staying motivated, striving for independence, and being a lifelong learner.



## Famous Alumnus Rallies Community for Charity

This year, PCTI alumnus and star NFL player, Mike Adams, committed to purchasing winter wear for his Coat Drive Challenge. He asked members of his local community to do the same. Naturally, our students got in on the action, by seeing which class could collect the most coats. Mike later returned to Bulldog Country and joined the winning class for a celebratory breakfast, thanking those who donated to his charitable cause.



# Taking it to Broadway with 42nd Street!

This year's spectacular spring musical, 42nd Street, was a toe tapping revolution that encouraged big dreams of Broadway to bloom. The production starred Jovan Watlington as Julian Marsh, a director who falls on hard times and hopes to strike it big once more with an ambitious show. He recruits lead actress with an attitude, Dorothy Brock (We' McDonald) and writers Maggie Jones (Catherine Dvorak) and Bert Barry (Mateo Rosko) to get the job done right. Enter novice actress and singer,

Peggy Sawyer (Triana Jackson), who soon learns that the biz can be unforgiving, but eventually gumption and perseverance pay off!

The sets were elaborate and colorful, the orchestra uplifting, and the dancers and their choreography a testament to good old fashioned Broadway. The teamwork and attitude exhibited by all members of the PCTI family ensured the collaborative

effort was a success. Special thanks go out to Executive Producer Jeannie Holman, Director Douglas R. Smith, Managing Director Lynn E. Quinn, Choreographers Jennifer Ackerman and Cassandra Roberts, & Student Assistant Director Zaria Wilder.



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## Passaic County Technical Institute

Passaic County's National Award-Winning Public High School  
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# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



**FEBRUARY**

**Jovan Watlington**  
**School of Performing Arts**

- Achieved Principal's Honor Roll
- President of the Performing Arts Club
- Member of Teen Pep & the Dance Club
- Widely known for his talent in all areas of the performing arts at PCTI
- Selected for NJPAC's YASI program

**Goal: Graduate from a University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre, pursue a career in entertainment as an actor, model, dancer, singer, etc.**



**MARCH**

**Peter Kelly**  
**School of Engineering**

- Ranked in the top 2% of his class
- Achieved great academic standing with a GPA of 4.3
- Member of NHS/Gifted & Talented
- Winner of PCTI's Got Talent 2014
- Passionate about performing music, especially playing the guitar

**Goal: Graduate from Northeastern University with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, eventually working with emerging technologies**



**APRIL**

**Nicholas Magna**  
**School of Automotive Technology**

- Achieved stellar grades with a GPA of 3.56
- Selected for Circle of Success
- Member of the Automotive Advisory Board, the Environmental Club, SkillsUSA, & the National Honor Society
- Co-Op student at Paul's Volvo, works at Broadhurst Sheet Metal Works
- Volunteered at the Hawthorne Jr. Fire Department for four years, held Captain Title

**Goal: Graduate from the Hobart Institute of Welding Technology in Ohio, become a Master Welder**