

# Porter County Career and Technical Education News

August 30, 2016

Career and Technical Education

Volume 23, Issue 1



*"Our job includes making a profound difference in the lives of our students!"*  
*"Promoting Strength and Kindness Every Day"*



## Arcelor Mittal Donated to the Grand Trunk Train Depot Restoration and Re-Purposing Project



**Pictured is the Depot in its present location at the Porter County Career and Tech Center. The deck being built by our students can be seen in the foreground.**

ArcelorMittal has stepped forward to join our community and students in supporting the re-purposing of the 1912 Grand Trunk Railroad station with a generous donation of \$50,000.

The ArcelorMittal donation will allow us to continue to work on the historic Depot this year, converting it into a modern learning facility and much needed additional space for the Porter County Career and Tech Center (PCCTC).

The station was moved to the PCCTC property two years ago through the support of local manufacturers, Indiana Landmarks, local historic

preservationists, railroad enthusiasts, the City of Valparaiso, numerous individuals, and Career and Tech Center faculty, students, and supporters.

"ArcelorMittal is pleased to make this donation in support of not only the historic value of restoring the depot, but for the additional space that is needed to expand the classes for the students," said Jolice Pojeta, manager of corporate responsibility and communications, ArcelorMittal. "With the students involved in both the demolition and restoration of the structure, this experience provides

them with a sense of ownership of the project while also utilizing their STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) skills.”



**Former Location of the 1912 Grand Trunk Passenger Terminal**

Last year, the PCCTC Building Trades students began the interior demolition of the structure in an effort to return it to its original architecture and design. They also nearly completed the deck around the building.

This fall, pending the project’s progress, the plan is to “re-christen” the Depot with replicas of the original sign plates that designated the building as the Valparaiso Grand Trunk Train Depot. The community is invited to drive by and check out the building’s progress.

ArcelorMittal is the world's leading steel and mining company, with a presence in 60 countries and an industrial footprint in 19 countries. Guided by a philosophy to produce safe, sustainable steel, we are the leading supplier of quality steel in the major global steel markets including automotive, construction, household appliances and packaging, with world-class research and development and outstanding distribution networks.



**State School Superintendent Glenda Ritz visits the Career Center and staff on our first teacher day of the new school year.**





Congratulations to **Glen Buford and Heidi Harbaugh**, CTE Culinary faculty at Boone Grove HS for completing their ServSafe certification. That is an important step toward getting our students college credit in our Culinary program.



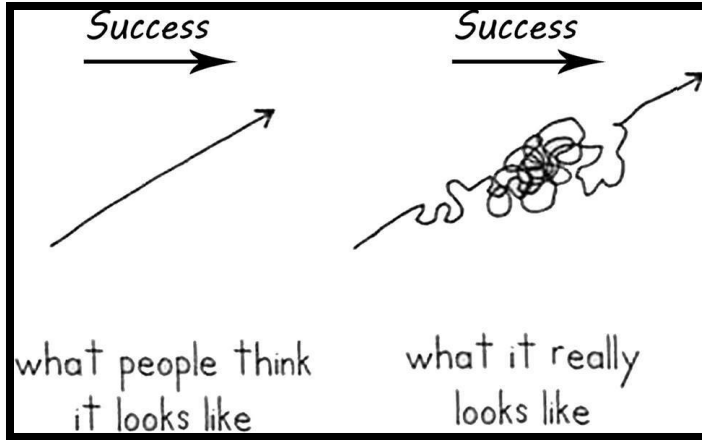
**Tenacity (defined) Winston Churchill:**

*Success is going from one failure to another without loss of enthusiasm!*

### Teacher Bob Phelps and Former Student Anna Hanson Recognized for GoodLife Award



What an exciting evening to have one of our outstanding Career and Tech Center teachers receive a GoodLife award and to share it with a graduate who was also selected. Mr. Phelps, our Video and Media Productions instructor, winner of numerous state awards for Best Program in Indiana among others receive the award on August 11. His former student, Anna Hanson who works as a Video Producer/Editor with Ideas in Motion also received one of the 6 prestigious awards presented at the awards dinner. Congratulations Mr. Phelps and Anna, you both make us all look good.



**Gene Haas Foundation Donates \$12,500 to Scholarship Fund for PCCTE Students Pursuing Manufacturing Careers -- June 8, 2016**



(L-R) Jon Swartz (regional Haas Rep), Greg Carmack (Precision Machining Instructor), Jon Groth (CTE Director/Principal), and Jeff Holtzapple (Haas VP/Gen'l Mgr) are shown presenting a scholarship donation to the Porter County Career and Tech Center. Haas has been a great partner in our efforts to train the best manufacturing students in Indiana. Over 10 students matriculated to post-secondary programs following the 15-16 school year and numerous others went right to work, some enrolling the Area Apprenticeship program right after high school.



Pictured is Olivia Foster, a Boone Grove HS CAD II student who participated in the Chalk the Walk charity event this summer, is shown doing a sidewalk drawing for Horizon Bank. Olivia is a talented artist, whose career goal is to work as an animator for Pixar.





**Tom Garzella**  
**New CHS Bldg Trds Teacher**

Mr. Garzella is returning to teaching after a 20+ year career in construction management. He has overseen large and medium size commercial developments over his career. Tom is married and has two children. He loves football and helping young people plan their careers. He is a Purdue and Chicago Bear fan.

**Beth Ammons and Mike Wester**



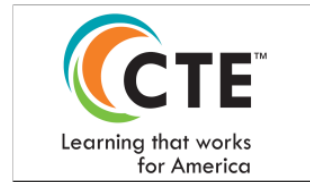
Beth Ammons pictured above is our new Marketing teacher at the Career and Tech Center, Mike Wester is our new Auto Tech teachers. Mrs. Ammons is an experienced teacher having previously taught in the North Judson School Corporation. She has a Bachelors degree from Ball State and done graduate work at Bethel College. Mrs. Ammons loves the outdoors and is an avid backpacker, traveler, snow skier, and runner. Mr. Wester will be teaching our Auto Tech students this year after an extensive career as an automotive technician, including NATEF/ASE certification. He has over 26 years of experience working at several well-respected area auto facilities. He served on our Portage Auto Advisory Committee, and as Director of the Valparaiso Soap Box Derby, and as a volunteer with the Wheeler High School Drama Department. His goal is to help all students improve their technical skills in his class and to become contributing members of our society.

**Please Do Not Text and Drive**

Texting behind the wheel is killing people. Youthful drivers are especially at risk. One in ten teen drivers involved in a fatal crash were distracted, and a quarter of teens send a text every time they drive. Texting while driving is dumb and illegal, but even worse would be explaining how you lost a friend because of your unnecessary texting. Please sign our No Texting While Driving Pledge in our Career Center Commons Area.

- ✓ Put your phone away while driving (purse or glove compartment)
- ✓ Designate a passenger to do the texting for you
- ✓ Pull over to answer the phone or to type or read a text
- ✓ Don't be the next Distracted Driving victim!

*Following is an unsolicited testimonial from a former student. This student graduated 17 years ago and her story validates the effectiveness of Career and Technical Education.*



**name:** Nichole Goodrich

**content:** Hello! I'm a Class of 1999 Student of Mr. Horvath's CAD Class. I recently read an article about vocational education and re-posted it on Facebook with a comment about how important my vocational education was. I was just speaking to my boss about this and reiterating the fact that I wholeheartedly believe that everyone at the PCCC had a leg up as soon as we graduated, whether some of us entered the workforce immediately or went on to college, or - like myself - did both! This conversation led her to ask a few questions about what we called the Porter County Career Center and I decided to look it up online. How awesome to hear the programs are going strong!

I'm a 2005 graduate of Purdue with a B.S. in Engineering Technology and an A.S. in Building Construction Management. I've worked in the land surveying profession since 2004. I worked in the field for many years in South Bend and Southwestern Michigan and I worked for Territorial Engineering, LLC in Walkerton as the Survey Department Manager for 6 years and am now at DLZ in South Bend. I have 4 more courses to complete before I can sit for my Professional Surveyor's exam and will start back on that journey this Fall at Purdue Northwest!

80% of my workweek is comprised of utilizing the skills Mr. Horvath taught me. While I went on to college to fine tune and enhance those skills, without the intensive one on one I got with Mr. Horvath, and his enthusiasm for the field of drafting, I wouldn't be where I am today. We started on Release 14 of AutoCAD and today I'm proficient in AutoCAD Civil 3D 2014, which I use every day.

Thank you Mr. Horvath (her Career Center instructor) and Porter County Career Center!!!!

**Students can submit testimonials like the one above by going to our website and clicking on the "contact us" link.**

**[www.pccte.org](http://www.pccte.org)**



For contact information for all Apprenticeship programs in Northwest Indiana, go to [www.webuildnwi.com](http://www.webuildnwi.com) and then click on "Trade Careers". You will get trade information and find out when and how to prepare for the application process.

**Porter County Career and Tech program is proud of our most recent state data for school reporting standards (2014-015 School Year). Our District ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state on overall state performance:**

*Program Completion Rate: 100%*

*Placement in work, college, or both: 95.8%*

*Technical Skill attainment: 94.9%*

*H.S. Graduation: 97.7% (compared to the statewide graduation rate of 86.4%)*

*In addition, program participants earned 4,230 college credits last year*

## Calendar

- August 26, First Blood Drive of the Year, 730 – 2 pm
- August 30, Arcelor Mittal Check Presentation to Depot Project, 1 pm
- Sept 13, 6 pm, Back to School Night at the Porter County Career and Tech Center

## Our Newsletter

*Porter County Career and Technical Education News* is a newsletter for promoting the high achievement of our staff and students. Written contributions to the newsletter are always welcome. Most articles should be written in 100 words or less. Please fax (531-3173), call (531-3170), or email (jgroth@valpo.k12.in.us) with news to be published about you and your students.

It is the policy of the Porter County Career and Technical Education Program to comply with all state and federal regulations prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability in enrollment procedures or access to programs.



[www.pccte.org](http://www.pccte.org)



*Porter County Career and Technical Education*

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