

# Porter County Career and Technical Education

A Division of Porter County Educational Services

www.pccte.org

2010 Annual Report Accountability Report to the Public

## Featured Programs

# Students Serve the Community



## Responding to Emergency

A hospital emergency room or an ambulance becomes the classroom for the 20 students enrolled in the Emergency Rescue Technology program based at Hobart High School.

Besides gaining six credit hours from Vincennes University, students can earn 11 different certifications. They spend 24 hours of ambulance clinicals, plus 12 hours of clinicals in an emergency room.

Students are led by EMS

Director **Robert Lamprecht** of the Hobart Fire Department.

The class, Lamprecht said, is ideal for any student who is considering a public safety or health care career. It's great, he noted, to follow up his class with Health Occupations as a senior.

"Several of our students have had jobs waiting for them," noted the 22-year fire department veteran. A student can use his or her EMT certification to get a job that pays well during college.

The program started in 2008-09.

Angelica Vasquez, Chesterton High School graduate, took EMT class followed by Health Occupations. She works for Superior Ambulance and also attends Purdue North Central.

## Hands-on Job Can Be Fun

The lure of a hands-on job has attracted students like Nicolas Echevarria, Portage High School senior, to Auto Mechanics.

Like most of his classmates in Auto 2, he is signed up for future training in auto mechanics after high school.

"I always liked working on cars," Kiefer Beghtel of PHS added. He, too, will pursue a career in auto repair.

The Portage auto class is led by first-year teacher **Mr. Rob Barnes**, who has 24 years of experience in auto repair.

"It's actually fun to come to work every day," Barnes said. He found that he had the patience to work with teen interns while working at Dave's Automotive in Valparaiso. He helped supervise the young workers and, in turn, was responsible for the work they did.

A second auto program is based at the Porter County Career and Technical Center in Valparaiso.



Jason Cochran, Portage High School senior, gets a tip from Mr. Rob Barnes, auto technology teacher.



Diamond Nelson, Valparaiso High School senior, spreads the dough for a cookie bar. She is studying Culinary Science at Boone Grove High School.

## Hungering to Serve

Culinary Science premiered in fall, 2010, at Boone Grove High School.

The future chefs and aspiring cooks work with **Mrs. Heidi Harbaugh**, a teacher of 17½ years. They follow the ProStart curriculum.

"I was always looking forward to cooking," Felix Reyes, Morgan Township High School senior, noted. He wants to major in culinary arts and open a restaurant someday.

Rebecca Woods, Valparaiso High School junior, expects to earn more than one degree in her quest to be a food stylist.

"Cook for yourself if you don't like what I made." This mom's retort prompted Chris Hidalgo, Wheeler High School senior, to step into the kitchen. He hopes to open a restaurant with his uncle after graduating from culinary college.

The Porter County  
Career & Technical Education  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

is a yearly communication tool to  
area businesses and to the taxpayers.  
We welcome comments and  
questions about this report.

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*Participating High Schools*  
Porter County Career and Technical  
Education is proud to be supported  
by the following high schools:

Boone Grove  
Chesterton  
Hebron  
Hobart  
Kouts  
Morgan Township  
Portage  
Valparaiso  
Washington Township  
Wheeler

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# Director's Report

*"The number one predictor of  
post-secondary success is having a  
mature and realistic career goal."*

-- Kenneth Gray, author, **Getting Real**



*Welcome* to the Porter County Career and  
Technical Education Annual Report for 2010.

Career and Technical Education is rigorous, cutting edge technical instruction. CTE is where students discover the **relevance** of their general education. Good math skills and workplace behaviors are expected.

We help students prepare for life after high school. Since our programs are a collaboration among eight school corporation partners, we are able to significantly expand each school's curriculum with many additional career options.

Indiana has embarked on the development of a comprehensive Career Pathways Project that will coordinate the high school and post-secondary curriculum into a single six-year program of study. The model will include the opportunity for dual credit, a broad career curriculum framework, and statewide curriculum standards, along with a dependable state assessment or national certification program. The end result of all this work will be a consistent set of state standards that will be linked to national certification. Our students will leave high school with an identified level of mastery of the skill, a college transcript, and some kind of state or national certification.

New jobs and jobs of the future will continue to require technical skills in addition to the important workplace competencies of punctuality, quality, and teamwork. Students in our programs will perform **internships**, learn **leadership** skills through a student organization, be **mentored** by knowledgeable teachers, and they will gain the powerful technical **experience** that is in such high demand today by employers. Seventy per cent of the skilled workforce of today will be retiring in the next 10 years. Our students will be prepared to fill these workforce needs.

Our Career and Technical Education program has grown to be one of the largest vocational programs in the state. We also boast about having the **best CTE faculty** in Indiana. Many programs meet **state and national certification** criteria. Nearly all of our classes also are approved for **college credit**, so students can get their college transcript started while still in high school.

CTE programs are **good for all kids**. It helps them learn about and decide upon a career before running up against the high expense of college tuition. *The best college students are the ones who have well-developed career goals.* For other students, the ability to go to work at a competitive technical salary is very attractive.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Groth".

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# Striving To Be *The Best*

*PCCTE teachers annually nominate their top students for consideration in the Indiana Awards for Excellence program. A local advisory board along with PCCTE Director Jon Groth reviews these nominations and selects the very best students to represent the PCCTE in the state competition.*

*Congratulations to the following Award for Excellence nominees.*



Doug Demorotski adjusts a distributor.

## He's so curious— always has been

His mom's encouragement got **Doug Demorotski**, Valparaiso High School senior, to take Auto Mechanics for two years.

"He's so curious—always has been," explained Mrs. Kim Demorotski.

This Eagle Scout, nominated for the Award for Excellence, is glad that he took his mom's advice. He enjoys the hands-on experience with teachers Mr. Karl Sickles and Mr. Tony Avalos.

His dream job? Fixing airplane engines and being a test pilot. Demorotski hopes to study aeronautical engineering technology at Purdue University.

This member of the career-tech honor society is not just about nuts and bolts. He cares about people, too, and was nominated by fellow students at VHS for Natural Helpers.

Mrs. Demorotski said she knew her son would benefit from hands-on classes because she and her husband enjoyed technical classes during high school. She also lauded the individual attention provided by the auto teachers.



Rachel Gilliam

## It gives you a head start...

**Rachel Gilliam's** experiences in career-technical classes will allow her to have a good-paying job while attending college.

Gilliam, a Valparaiso High School senior, took the Emergency Rescue Technology class as a junior and is taking Health Occupations this year.

At 18, she will be able to be an EMT and earn \$13 per hour. Her goal is to be a paramedic and then eventually an emergency room doctor.

"I think people should really consider taking a career-technical class," the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) member said. It gives you a head start, and it's really fun, she noted.

Gilliam has volunteered at St. Mary Medical Center in Hobart and will volunteer at Porter Hospital.

## Lots of hands- on activities...

Maybe the stage was set at age 3 or 4 for **Mackenna Geary** to become a teacher.

That's when she had Mrs. Randa Zoladz as a teacher for the first time at First United

Methodist Church preschool in Hobart.

Now in her second year as Zoladz' student in Education and Early Childhood Careers at Hobart High School, this part-time actress and community volunteer is headed for the classroom as a career.

"I really love that she lets us have a lot of hands-on activities with the kids," added the member of DECA and French Club.

Although Geary works now with preschool children, her ultimate goal is to teach English and theater at the high school level.



Elise and Chloe get the attention of Mackenna Geary in the Imagination Center at Hobart High School's Brickie Kidz Preschool.

## Connection with people

A career in dentistry is in the future for **Justin Suggs**, Portage High School senior and Award for Excellence nominee.

Suggs has found his connection with people through more than 1,000 hours of volunteering at a local nursing home to visit his great-grandmother and others.

He has prepared for a dental career by taking Medical Terminology/Anatomy & Physiology, followed by Dental Health, at PHS.

He hopes to attend IUPUI for a pre-dental program, followed by work at the Indiana University School of Dentistry.

He counts instructors Lynn Wilson and Rhonda Doane among his favorite teachers and encourages students to find out what goes on in career/technical classes.



Justin Suggs

*Tell me and I'll forget. Show me, and I may not remember. Involve me, and I'll understand.*

*--Native American saying*

# Success Stories

*The articles below represent just a few of the hundreds of successful graduates from PCCTE.  
Please read and enjoy the success our graduates are having.*



Ali Halkias, shown with daughter McKenzie



John Leach



Kasey Clemens

## Career Tech class gives direction

Get involved. Give back to the community.

These were just two things that **Ali Halkias** learned while taking **Health Careers** and **Health Occupations** at the Porter County Career and Technical Center. She also learned what to expect in her chosen profession of nursing.

This single mom of daughter McKenzie will get her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in May, 2011, from Indiana University Northwest. While a college student, the Valparaiso High School graduate also works at Porter Hospital as a Certified Nursing Assistant and Unit Secretary.

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*Ali Halkias credits two years of career and technical education with getting her on the right path to become a nurse.*

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Taking career ed classes during high school helped open doors in the community.

“Get involved,” Halkias urged. Students “need to take the time to volunteer and do absolutely anything they can to get to know people in the community and learn. The more enthusiastic and ambitious they are, the more likely they will be to succeed.”

## Non-traditional student finds niche

A career and technical class can help a bored, distracted teen figure out why education is important and look forward to going to class.

**John Leach**, a 1997 Valparaiso High School graduate, wasn’t, well. . . thrilled. . . with traditional lecture classes. But a senior year connection with Dave Kenning’s **Electronics and Computer Technology** got him excited and interested in the project-based activities. He said he figured out why education and college were vital.

Kenning “got you involved. He made the class very exciting,” Leach said, as he described Kenning as one of the most influential people in his life.

After earning a degree in Electrical Engineering Technology at Purdue University, Leach went on to work for IBM and then Emerson in the Network Power division. He is a senior engineer who does a lot of software development.

Besides working, Leach values community service. He enjoyed reaching 1,000 students by leading the engineering design squad for an event at the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Discovery and Science.

In his volunteer work, he is following in the footsteps of yet another mentor—Dr. John Cohn, an IBM fellow in the IBM Systems and Technology Group.

## Horticulture major flourishes

Being in a career-tech class led **Kasey Clemens**, Purdue University junior, to a summer job and to a college major.

Clemens, a 2008 graduate of Kouts High School, took **Landscaping Design/Plant Science** with Mrs. Angela Sutherlin for two years.

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*Kasey Clemens has even experienced travel to Europe during her college study of horticulture science.*

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This connection led to a summer job for three years on the private estate at Taltree Arboretum, Valparaiso. It also led Clemens to Purdue University, where she is majoring in horticulture science.

She has even included European travel in her studies. She spent three weeks in England studying the history of English landscapes with 20 fellow college students.

Her future might include plant genetics and breeding—or maybe graduate school for horticulture science or agronomy.

One benefit of a career/tech class, Clemens said, is that it gives you a clear idea of what you will do in the field.

Her teacher found her to be very dedicated. “In the two years I had her in my class, I was able to see her talents in design flourish,” Sutherlin noted.

While in high school, Clemens was nominated for the state Award for Excellence and also participated on Academic Bowl and Spell Bowl teams.

*Our students earned more than 2,730 dual college credit hours in 2009-10.*