

# PORTER COUNTY

## Career and Technical Education

### A Division of Porter County Educational Services

2015 End of Year Report Accountability Statement to the Public

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

## *Students Benefit from Real-Life Experience*

It takes a village—not just to raise a child but to guide and teach a Career and Technical student.

The 1,072 half-day students in 36 programs learn from not only their teachers but also from guest speakers, student support coordinators, volunteers and other helpers.

Juanagene Nietert, a longtime art teacher for Valparaiso Community Schools, came out of retirement to serve as a paraprofessional in Precision Machining at the Career Center.

She helps students shape metals, thread and learn precision measurement. Most surprising to her is that teacher Greg Carmack teaches so many life skills while preparing future machinists.

Kathy Martinez, a 1998 Portage High graduate and student in teacher Mark Fischer's first printing class, has returned to teach graphic design and help students find an easier way to do a task in the graphic imaging lab, which has grown to include T-shirts, decals, signs, mugs, license plates and more.

Lifelong gardener Laura Tucker not only helps horticultural science students to release monarch butterflies, clean seeds and plant gardens. The master gardener also shows the benefits of gardening as a life-long pursuit that teaches patience from hard work.

She has helped teacher Angie Sutherlin for at least five years.

It's all hands on deck at Pines Village Retirement Communities for advanced culinary students on Thursdays.

Joel Fabugais, food operations manager, assigns students to make desserts, prep ingredients or help chefs make entrees such as meatloaf or a casserole.

"It's help for us, too," he noted, besides giving the students real-world kitchen experience.

Electronics students have benefited for several years from the volunteer help of Joe Baker and Stan Schorum, retired engineers.

"I enjoy coming," Schorum said, noting that he helps mainly with mathematics and the physics of electronics.

Portage graduate Dan Thorn has returned to the Construction Trades representing his heating and cooling company.

Thorn helped with the HVAC back in 1967 while part of the building trades class himself.

These are just a few examples of the guest speakers, volunteers and others who bring real-life experience to CTE classes on a regular basis.



Chef Mel & Sydney Behrnt at Pines Village



Anthony Stutz with Mrs. Nietert



Joe Baker & Stan Schorum

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.

PORTER COUNTY  
CAREER & TECHNICAL CENTER  
1005 North Franklin Street  
Valparaiso, Indiana 46383  
219-531-3170  
www.pccte.org

Jon Groth, Director  
Porter County  
Career & Technical Education  
jgroth@valpo.k12.in.us

Please visit our website:  
[www.pccte.org](http://www.pccte.org)

PORTER COUNTY  
EDUCATION SERVICES BOARD  
Dr. David Pruis, Superintendent  
Duneland School Corporation

Dr. E. Ric Frataccia, Superintendent  
Valparaiso Community Schools

Dr. Richard Weigel, Superintendent  
Portage Township Schools

Dr. Stacey Schmidt, Superintendent  
Porter Township School Corporation

Dr. Rod Gardin, Superintendent  
East Porter County School Corporation

Mr. John Hunter, Superintendent  
Union Township School Corporation

Dr. Nathan Kleefisch, Superintendent  
MSD of Boone Township

Mrs. Diane Massa, Executive Director  
Porter County Education Services

*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

This document was printed and disseminated with 100%  
funding from the federal Carl D. Perkins Vocational and  
Applied Technology Basic Secondary Area Vocational  
District Grant, project number 09-4700-6455. Porter  
County Career and Technical Education does not  
discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender,  
national origin, age, or individuals with disabilities,  
including limited English proficiency.

Editor: Debbie Heitmann  
Printed by Home Mountain Printing

# Director's Report



## Welcome to our 2015 Annual Report,

Career and Technical Education prepares students to be ready for careers and college. We emphasize college credit and national certifications and credentials. We are the place for young people to start their futures.

Last year, our students earned 4,224 transcripted college credits, which saved their parents approximately half a million dollars in tuition. The credits also demonstrated that our students are college and career ready. Many will use these credits as they work toward advanced degrees.

**Porter County Career and Tech programs are proud of our most recent state data for school reporting standards. Our District ranks 2nd in the state on overall state performance.**

- Program Completion Rate: 100%
- Placement in work, college, or both: 94.6%
- Technical Skill attainment: 96.3%
- H.S. Graduation: 97.5% (compared to the statewide graduation rate of 86.4%)
- In addition, program participants earned 4,224 college credits last year

Our students also are being recruited regularly by regional employers. Our manufacturing, electronic, and mechanical graduates appear to be in the highest demand by local industry, and these graduates also seem to earn the highest pay. Students are also graduating with numerous credentials to include: Certified Nursing Assistant license, CPR/AED/First Aid Certification, Solidworks Associate Certification, Cisco Certified Network Entry Network Technician Certification, Indiana Cosmetology License, Child Development Associate Credential, Student Electronics Tech Certification, Indiana Firefighter and EMT-B Certification, Final Cut Pro (a professional video editing software), and ASK Marketing Fundamentals Certification.

In addition to industry credentials, students will also be building their portfolios to include a resume, cover letter, and job interviewing practice. All students will graduate with a Technical Certificate in their career area and a Work Ethic Certificate assessing their workplace skills. Students are also eligible for scholarships, honor society membership, and many outstanding student awards.

Our vision and mission are strong; we want to provide the opportunity for all students to be successful in life. We want to build and enhance the quality of the workforce and the citizenry in our community.

We use two building management philosophies that are research based. The first is based on the Johnson and Johnson One-Minute Manager Series. That philosophy is based on catching people doing the right thing. We applaud positive behavior over and over again. Believe it or not, positive behavior starts replicating itself everywhere, and kids and staff want to be caught "doing the right thing".

The second philosophy we have embraced is the Seattle Fish Market Philosophy, which encourages and supports employees and customers to have fun at work. Research has shown that the best learning occurs when one is emotionally invested in one's learning. We know a classroom where fun is acceptable promotes more learning.

Our faculty and staff are tremendous. They make up the best Career and Technical Education staff in Indiana. Our students come from some of the best, most rigorous high schools in Indiana. For more information about our students and programs, please visit our website at [www.pccte.org](http://www.pccte.org) or stop by for a visit.

Jon Groth, Director/Principal  
Porter County Career and Technical Education  
1005 N. Franklin Street, Valparaiso, IN 46383  
jgroth@valpo.k12.in.us, 219-531-3170, Ext. 8225 [www.pccte.org](http://www.pccte.org)

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

-- Kenneth Gray, author, *Getting Real*

# 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.



**Dylann Chitwood** of Chesterton High School, has studied Health Science Education 1/Anatomy and Physiology and Dental Careers.

This senior plans to study chemistry and ultimately get a doctorate of dental surgery. She would love to have her own dental practice.

She has been active in lacrosse and a dance troupe. She describes herself as a multi-tasker and problem solver who is reliable under pressure.

Teacher Kayla Vodnoy had Dylann for Spanish 3 and French 2. She noted that Dylann has matured a lot, and her dental class played a significant role in her development.

Energetic **Brooke Regalado** of Washington Township High School works three jobs. Blythe's Sport Shop, Life Care Center of Valparaiso, and ValpoLife.com call upon her regularly. This senior has studied Entrepreneurship /Sports & Entertainment Marketing and Strategic Marketing/Principles of Marketing at the Career Center.

She wants to attend University of Tampa or Northwood University to study automotive marketing. She would love to be head of marketing someday for a major corporation like Ford or Toyota.

Counselor Jennifer Symer at Washington Twp. called Brooke a role model who is energetic, reliable and resourceful.



**Amanda Sandilla** of Hobart High School has studied Early Childhood Education (ECE) at Hobart High for two years.

She plans to study elementary education with an emphasis on English at Calumet College of St. Joseph on a softball and academic scholarship. She would love to teach kindergarten through third grade.

Cheryl Bunch, ECE teacher, described Amanda as a flexible "go-to person" who is the first to volunteer for a project.

Sandilla has volunteered at Joan Martin Elementary School and interned with a second grade teacher.

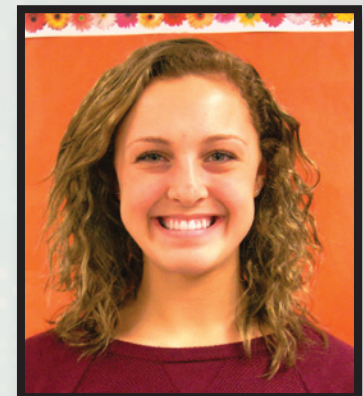


**Danielle "Dani" Suiter** of Valparaiso High School loves to help others.

This outstanding volley-ball player has studied Health Careers and Health Occupations, also known as Health Science Education I and II.

Teacher Suzanne Edwards mentioned that Dani has qualities of integrity, intelligence and great character.

The Health Occupations Students of America president plans to study nursing at Duquense University in Pittsburgh, where she will also play volleyball. The Pittsburgh area will definitely be an asset for her education because of the wide range of hospitals and medical centers.



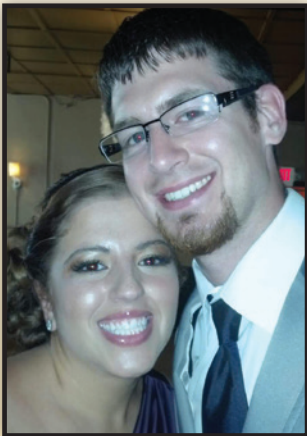
*Also nominated as outstanding CTE program of the year was Video Production and Media Studies.*

The program was honored as the outstanding television program of the year in 2015 by the Indiana Association of School Broadcasters. A final nominee was the Career Center's Alternative Energy Demonstration Project Initiative.

# 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 experiencing.

## PHS graduate back in dental classroom



Ten steps ahead of the other dental hygiene college students.

That's how **Lisa Dehnart** said she felt in college with CTE classes giving her that jump start.

The former Lisa Whitworth took Medical Terminology, Anatomy and Dental Health before she graduated from Portage High in 2006.

She has come full circle and now teaches Dental Health Careers to juniors and seniors at the Hammond Area Career Center. She also maintains her craft and her contact with patients as a dental hygienist part-time.

"I wish every student would be in a CTE program," she added, noting that she helped pay for college by working as a dental assistant where she had interned during high school.

"If you have any inkling to do a profession, take a CTE class to get your feet wet. Find out now if it is right for you or not."

Dehnart said her husband, her high school sweetheart, wishes he had taken a CTE class. He has finished studies to be a vet.

Her mom, she said, was also very supportive of how CTE classes helped her start her career.

## CAD instruction still meaningful in career



An area project manager and drafter/designer is still using what he learned 15 years ago in a CTE class.

"I would not be where I am today without Mr. (Frank) Horvath and the Career Center," said **Kevin Salyer**.

The 2001 Kouts graduate took two years of computer drafting design and went on to earn a degree in architectural technology from

Purdue North Central.

Salyer had a great attitude, Horvath said. "His understanding of computers, the software we used and his professional work ethic, I believed would bring him success," he added. "I am very pleased to hear of Kevin's success."

Salyer uses his skills at Timber Tech Engineering in Kouts. He works with customers on a daily basis and conveys their design wishes to engineers.

He took the time last May to pen an email of support for the CTE district.

The husband and father of two has also been a Kouts firefighter since 2001.

Horvath is now retired, and the CAD class has grown to include animation and use of 3-D printers under Bill Guinee. The class fills quickly with highly qualified students and has a long wait list.



## CTE classes pay off for aspiring machinist

"If you find a class that interests you, take it".

That's the advice of **Steve Thorne**, current Vincennes University student and Task Force Tips scholarship recipient.

The Valparaiso High School graduate said he benefited from both his Entrepreneurship/ Sports & Entertainment Marketing and his Precision Machining classes at the Career Center.

"Without vocational, I wouldn't be where I am today," he noted. He learned many life skills, personal finances and interviewing skills—plus technical and mechanical skills to prepare him for real life in industry.

His scholarship has covered such items as tuition and room and board. He simply needs to purchase tools for his future as a well-paid machinist. He works during breaks at Task Force Tips and plans a future there upon completing his two year plus program.

He said he also loves the Vincennes campus on the Wabash River and the excellent instructors and machines that are available.