

# PORTER COUNTY

## Career and Technical Education A Division of Porter County Educational Services

2016 End of Year Report Accountability Statement to the Public

www.pccte.org

### *CTE Students, Programs on Fast Track*



Kyle Stowers and Macie Carpenter assist Cathie Dull of Opportunity Enterprises with fudge samples at the depot open house.

That's the ticket!

From the rechristening of the 1912 train depot on Career Center property to numerous state and local honors, 2016 went down as quite a year.

A chilly Oct. 25 found hundreds of local residents, leaders and train aficionados checking out the vintage Grand Trunk depot. Inside they found students in costumes befitting the era of passenger train travel, demos of health care throughout the ages and a timeline of developments with the depot, which will eventually hold classroom activities.

The depot project and rooftop solar energy project brought honors for Director Jon Groth. He was inducted as a Fellow into the area Society of Innovators.

Video Production & Media Studies garnered two prizes as best CTE program in the state and as the Indiana Television School of the Year.

The district welcomed new teachers for 16-17. Jennifer Golenia started a new Computer Tech Support class at Valparaiso High School. Other new teachers are Beth Ammons, Marketing at PCCTC; Allen Cochran

and Brian Carden, Work Study at Chesterton High; Tom Garzella, Construction Trades at Chesterton; Mike Wester, Auto Services Technology at PCCTC; and Eric Witt, Industrial Mechanics at Portage High.

Former students are frequent visitors at their previous CTE classes. Four alumni were honored in May as part of the 21 under 21 Community Leaders.

Honorees included Jordan Berdovich, former Health Occupations student; Michael Johnson, former Industrial Mechanics and Machining student; Trevor Mahlmann, former Video Productions student; and Jim Schergen, former Auto Services Technology student.

Emily Tezak, former Health Occupations student, was honored in September with a One Region Promise of the Future Award for persons under 21 who are making a difference.

All are successfully pursuing college and/or employment and using the skills they used in CTE classes.



The new computer tech support class at Valpo High gives Alexander Del Risco a chance to work on hardware as Cooper Smolek and Collin Sovich observe.

**CTE students in 2015-16 earned 4,960 dual college credits, more than 99 percent of which were at no charge to the student or parent.**

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

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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



## Welcome to our 2016 Annual Report,

Our public high schools are fortunate to have an enhanced career and technical education curriculum available to all juniors and seniors. We have had students like **Dani Suiter**, a star volleyball athlete from Valparaiso High School, who is now attending Duquesne University on an athletic scholarship. She learned through her Health Science Ed 2 program that she has the compassion and ability to be a future nurse.

**Abbey Thomas**, another VHS student, explored our Media Production course and then took our Marketing course where she really found her passion to operate a small business someday. Abbey was a four-year cheerleader and varsity softball player. She is happy she has discovered her career passion before asking her parents to help pay for college at Purdue University.

We have other athletes like **Mariah** and **Hailey Haveck** from Morgan Twp HS, who participate in everything at their high school. Both took Health Science Ed 1 last year to explore options for their future careers. Hailey has decided to pursue a career in athletic training while studying Fundamentals of Sports Medicine this year. Mariah will continue toward nursing by taking our Health Science Ed 2 program where she will earn her Certified Nurse Assistant license.

**Connor Gustafson** from Kouts HS, **Cody Jaskulski** from Hobart HS, and **Matt Wright** from Boone Grove all finished our two-year Precision Machining program. All earned 12 college credits earned, and all of them are already employed by Urschel Laboratories along with full scholarships to Vincennes University. **Jena Hammonds** (Wash Twp HS) already works as a machinist at Task Force Tips and attends Vincennes as the first recipient of the Women in STEM Careers Scholarship. **Bradley Atwood** ('015 Wash Twp grad), is working at Custom Crimp in Valparaiso while attending the Modern Machining program at Ivy Tech with his employer paying the tuition.

More than 70 students earned their Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) license this year. Many have gone directly to work using their CNA license. **Brooke Jabo**, Boone Grove HS grad, has already been hired at Valparaiso Care and Rehab. Brooke is now attending Trine University where she wants to major in physical therapy but continue to work at the nursing home during vacations and summers.

We enhance student options and expand their choices. The examples above are only a few of the numerous outstanding students we have worked with who have found success in starting on a career pathway while in high school. Porter County Career and Tech Education classes are for juniors and seniors, those students who are ready to accept the responsibility of adulthood as soon as it is offered to them. We work hard with all of our students to create a future career and educational plan. We help many of our students find high paying jobs right out of high school, while others go on to college where the college credit they earn in our classes can be applied toward a degree. For more information, please go to [www.pccte.org](http://www.pccte.org)

The faculty, staff, and students of the Porter County Career and Tech programs appreciate the support of our local employers, sending schools, and the Porter County Board of School Superintendents for their encouragement of our work. We are committed to helping all students "find a path to success".

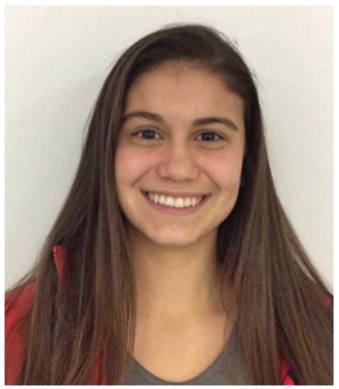
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*"The number one predictor of  
post-secondary success is having a  
mature and realistic career goal."*

-- Kenneth Gray, author, *Getting Real*

# District Stars Identified

*Two students were chosen as District Stars this year*



Dental hygiene or orthodontics is the chosen path for **Taylor Nemtuda**.

The senior at Chesterton High School has studied Health Science Education 1/Anatomy & Physiology and Dental Careers. Her GPA is 3.644.

Her teachers describe her as an exceptional student in the classroom and in a clinical setting. She is a classroom

leader and has a strong work ethic.

“This avid runner is easy-going, dedicated, compassionate and always smiling,” said Rhonda Doane, dental instructor.



Twelve-hour days interning for the Northwest Indiana Oilmen, a baseball team in Whiting, did not discourage **Payton Ball**.

The Wheeler senior has jumped on opportunities to be in a press box, do color commentary, hold a media pass and put his camera to use.

Ball, who aspires to a career in sports journalism, has studied

Video Production and Media Studies for two years. His GPA is 3.234.

Kelli Ellis, student support coordinator, described Ball as dynamic and hard-working with a smile on his face at all times.

## Horticulture Program Nominated for Award

Future gardeners and agronomists alike find themselves taking this year’s featured Career and Technical Education class.

The program has been nominated for the state’s Outstanding Program Award for Career and Technical Education.

**Horticulture Science and Landscaping** is a one-or two-year opportunity based at Morgan Township High School.

Angie Sutherlin has led the program for 14 years and teaches out of a modern greenhouse plus a traditional classroom.

Students are able to earn up to six dual college credits at no charge from Ivy Tech Community College.

They might go on to universities such as Purdue to study plant propagation, agricultural management or other fields.

Practical experience includes working together, planting together and getting a chance to design some landscapes and gardens during the winter months on computer aided design software.

Students can even earn two science credits in Advanced Life Science toward any Indiana diploma.

State awards will be granted in February.

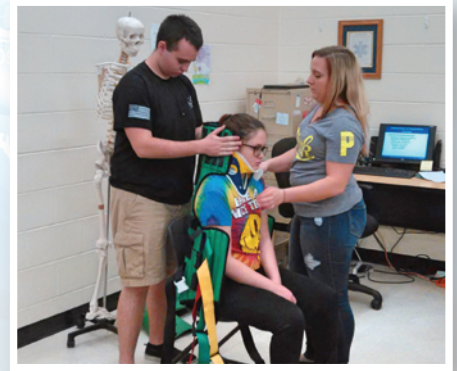


Portage Construction Trades students work on footings for a brand new house.



Virtual Reality is the latest way for CAD students to get help in designing houses and other structures. Andrea Day, Wheeler High Counselor, checks it out.

Open Houses for CTE programs will take place January 24th and February 7th. See [www.pccte.org](http://www.pccte.org) for details.



Bryce Tuesburg, Sarah Castilleja, and Alexis Hall practice in EMT Class using a Kendrick Extrication Device (KBD) to remove a patient from a car.

The articles below represent just a few of the hundreds of successful graduates from PCCTE.

## Former Students Proud of Impact of CTE Class



Health Science Ed 2 teacher Suzanne Edwards welcomes visitor Katelyn Necco.



Trisha Nowak



Mackenna & Daniel Coffey



Sophia Guardida & Stephen Weis

Former CTE students are “on the right track” in locales near and far. Future ER physician **Katelyn Necco** is completing steps to be the youngest deputy coroner in Indiana. The 2016 Portage High School graduate is a fulltime student at Valparaiso University. She started in the coroner’s office as an intern almost three years ago. She studied Health Science Ed 1 and 2.

**Trenton Tyler**, a 2016 Chesterton High graduate, has followed up on his Computer Tech Support class by working at Brummitt Elementary as a technology aide. His tasks have included challenging issues like ISTEP set up and resolving software glitches, said Principal Nino Cammarata.

**Three former students** from Early Childhood Education at Hobart have landed as close as Hobart and as far as Jasper, TX.

**Caylee Stahl** is in her first year teaching fifth grade at Joan Martin Elementary in Hobart. She credits the ECE program with giving her a good foundation and good classroom management techniques.

**Trisha Nowak**, who teaches first grade at East Chicago Urban Enterprise Academy, found that she stood apart in her education classes at Manchester University by knowing how to write lesson plans and observations.

**Mackenna Coffey (nee Geary)** enjoyed having teacher Randa Zoladz as a preschool teacher as a young child and later as her CTE teacher. Taking a CTE class “made my decision to be a teacher so much easier,” said the drama teacher based in Texas. She married her childhood sweetheart, Daniel, who teaches at the same school.

Nursing has taken **Sophia Guardiola** all over the world. Now holding a doctorate in nursing practice in acute care, the 2003 Portage High grad is currently working as an adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner in neurosurgery in Phoenix, AZ. She has done travel nursing, mission trips and worked as a staff nurse at Rush University Medical Center for 10 years. She credits her CTE classes of Medical Terminology with Anatomy and Health Occupations with giving her a strong foundation for medical terminology and a level of comfort with providing patient care.

John Fashing, Diesel instructor, is proud of 2016 Hobart High graduates **Jacob Lynch** and **Ryan Pajonk**. Both are working at YRC (Roadway Express) for Mechanics Local 701 in Illinois after two years of Diesel Service Technology and making good wages.

IF YOU ARE A FORMER CTE STUDENT, PLEASE DROP US A LINE AT:

[www.pccte.org/former\\_students.htm](http://www.pccte.org/former_students.htm).

*We would love to hear from you!*