

# PORTER COUNTY

## Career and Technical Education

A Division of Porter County Education Services

2017 End of Year Report Accountability Statement to the Public

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

## Flexibility reaps opportunities, rewards

Flexibility.

That has been a key word in 2017 as Career and Tech Ed teachers and students go about their days amid construction trailers and giant machines.

The year has been one of planning and anticipating a number of projects: increased space at the Career Center for a new Precision Machining classroom, improvements in space for CAD, Video Production, Health, Electronics, and Marketing, and renovation of the 1912 train depot to house a new Cosmetology program.

Other classes have experienced updates. Cooks Corners Elementary School is renovating space for Early Childhood Education, while Computer Tech Support has moved into new space at Valparaiso High School. Even Portage High School classes have been impacted while its

west wing gets a new look.

CTE teachers are asked daily to be flexible while following the attendance and assessment calendars of eight school districts.

They guided their 1,086 students in 16-17 to earn 4,457 dual college credits and multiple certifications in areas such as EMT, state Cosmetology license, and Certified Nursing Assistant.

The district welcomed new teachers Naomi Dobrowski, Culinary Arts; Jason Fleming, Emergency Medical Services; Ed Garcia, Auto Services Technology; and Darren Sandilla, Criminal Justice. It welcomed Pam Mishler-Fish, representing Vincennes University, to seek even more dual credit opportunities for District 5 students.

As always, classes included the opportunity to help others and to give back to the community.

A January field trip to South Bend gave Annabell Folsom of Hebron High a chance to apply skills learned in Health Science Education II.

She used the Heimlich maneuver to dislodge a piece of candy from a classmate's throat. The field trip to an ice hockey game at Notre Dame continued as scheduled.

Construction Trades students at Chesterton High turned their focus in fall, 2017, to building two halves of a modular home on the school's grounds. Later the halves will be transported to a home site. Housing Opportunities will utilize the 900 sq. ft. home for a low income family.

Also providing service to the community and CTE students is Mark Zimmerman. The retired human resources executive was honored with the Spirit Award by the **NWI Times** and Porter County United Way for his work to help CTE students create professional resumes and hone interviewing skills.

Director Jon Groth was inducted in the Society of Innovators for his leadership in repurposing the train depot for use as classroom space.

Hannah Christy, Video Production student, won the Drive Safe Chicago Public Service Announcement contest in the winter.

Her video about a tired, distracted girl took top honors. Other finalists Payton Ball and Mackenzie Taulbee also represented PCCTC in the contest, which drew almost 100 entries.

### **Sophomores and juniors:**

Looking for interesting electives that lead to a good career?

Apply to join our Career and Tech Ed family. Visit our programs

**Jan. 23 or Feb. 6**

See the full schedule at [pccte.org](http://pccte.org) (select Enrollment tab)



Hannah Wild and Sarah Clinton deliver Career Cart treats.

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. Ginger Bolinger**, Superintendent  
Duneland School Corporation

**Dr. E. Ric Frataccia**, Superintendent  
Valparaiso Community Schools

**Mrs. Amanda Alaniz**, 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

*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 Express Press

# Director's Report



## Welcome to the 2017 Porter County Career and Technical Education Annual Report!

We proudly declare that Career and Technical Education is rigorous, cutting edge technical instruction. CTE is where students discover the relevance of their general education.

We help students prepare for life after high school. Our programs are a collaboration among eight school corporation partners that expands each school's curriculum with many additional career

options. Our programs help students decide on a career and their future after high school.

Many things are new in Porter County Career and Technical Education. Our enrollment is high, and we are always working to expand our capacity. Next year, we will have a new program in Firefighting. The new program will be hosted at the MAAC (Multi-Agency Academic Cooperative). This is a brand new state-of-the-art professional training facility for first responders. Our students will be studying Fire Science alongside professional first responders.

Facility expansion at the Career and Tech Center is scheduled to be completed by the start of the 18-19 school year. Improvements will include a new and larger Precision Machining lab that will allow us to double our student enrollment. We will also have new, improved facilities for our Electronics, Video Productions, Marketing, and CAD programs. Additionally, improved building security, parking lot, and traffic flow improvements will also be finished.

Another change for next year is that we will be opening a Cosmetology school on our campus in the renovated 1912 Grand Trunk Train Station, making the class more convenient for students and less expensive for parents.

Our Career and Technical Education program has grown to be one of the largest vocational programs in the state. We 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 transcripts started while still in high school.

For the Class of 2016, 100 per cent of students who completed six CTE credits here earned a high school diploma. Also, 100 per cent of students who completed six CTE credits had placements in college, military or work settings upon graduation.

CTE programs are good for all kids. It helps them learn about and decide upon a career before facing 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.

**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)

## Excellence Award Nominees Identified

*Four seniors selected to represent Career & Tech Ed District 5*



Hannah Christy

“Hard work pays off,” in the words of **Hannah Christy**, Boone Grove High School senior, left.

Two years of Video Production and Media Studies have helped Hannah gain confidence. The 18-year-old is looking at Indiana University or Loyola University to continue in a media-related field.

Besides producing athletic and other events, she served as queen in the Madrigals dinner this year and has been active in school drama activities since freshman year.

Making connections and helping people inspire **Brock Pappas**, 17. The Washington Township senior would like to become a physician's assistant or earn a master's degree in nursing. He has studied Health Science Education 1 and 2 at the Career Center.

The three-sport athlete counts Student Council, National Honor Society and DECA among his school activities.

Career and Technical Education has shown him all different options for the future, he added, and will let him jump right into college studies.

Forensic psychology interests **Austyn Pryatel** after a year of Early Childhood

Education and a year of Criminal Investigations.

The Morgan Township senior will combine a double major of Criminal Justice and Psychology at Trine University.

Career and Tech Ed class has helped this 17-year-old shape what she'd like to do after high school and also helped her meet new people and make friends who have common interests.

Her long list of school activities includes four years of Key Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and FFA.

**Megan Stilwell**, Portage High School senior, will use skills learned in Health Science Education 1 and Dental Careers to become certified as a chair side dental assistant while studying to become a teacher. She might even become a career and tech ed teacher. She counts Indiana University among possible destinations.

Her activities have included Natural Helpers, both as a member and staffer, Student Council and National Honor Society. CTE classes have given this 17-year-old more of a sense of responsibility and a sense of what exactly to expect in college.



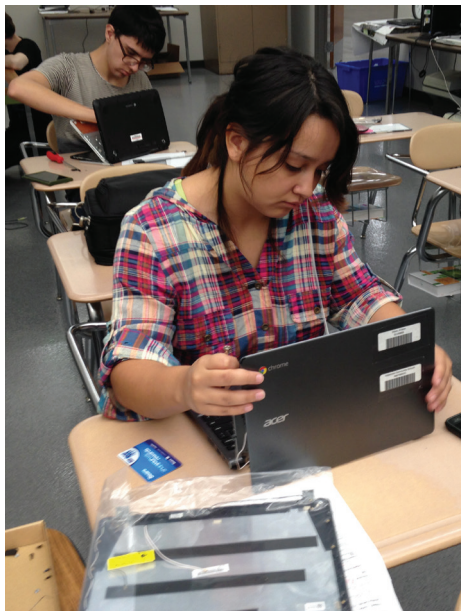
Megan Stilwell



Brock Pappas



Austyn Pryatel



Computer Tech Support students such as Sarai Chavez repair laptop computers. They get a chance to learn real-life software and hardware skills to use in the workplace.

## *Fire & Rescue class developed*

The newest Career & Tech Ed class, **Fire and Rescue**, was developed in 2017 and will premiere in fall, 2018.

The class will meet at the new state-of-the-art Multi Agency Cooperative (MAAC) Emergency Services Training Facility in southeast Valparaiso.



Enrollment forms for all 2018-19 CTE programs are due by Feb. 9 or before to high school guidance counselors. Choices



range from CISCO Networking to Auto Services Technology to Electronics. More information is available at [www.pccte.org](http://www.pccte.org).



## Former Students Proud to have been in CTE

Two former PCCTE Construction students are among the workers who are transforming the Career Center.

Site manager **Will Hoefflicker** spends his days overseeing renovations at seven school buildings in Valparaiso Community Schools, having already seen the completion of the new Heavilin Elementary.

The 27-year-old manages schedules and communicates with his employer, Skillman Corp., plus foremen, contractors and architects. He prepared for his job by taking Construction Trades while a student at Valparaiso High School (VHS) and followed up with a degree in Construction Management.

Hoefflicker recommends career and tech ed classes as a good foundation and the best part of the school day.

“Construction class was my out,” he noted. He sometimes misses the hands-on aspects of his job but credits his hobby of flipping houses with keeping him grounded on his skills.

“I can’t say enough good about the career center,” added 2014 VHS graduate **Kyle Bishop**.



Kyle Bishop

The 22-year-old project engineer took two years of Construction at PCCTC and is working on a degree in construction management while also being employed.

His current work involves a lot of e-communications to keep plans and drawings up-to-date as changes come in. He reviews needed adjustments and sends details to the project architect.

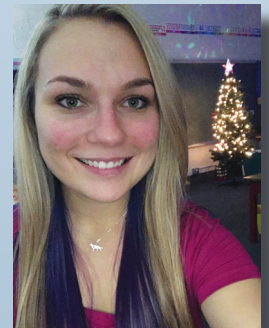
The classroom was a draw for former Computer



Site manager Will Hoefflicker oversees the Career Center renovation project.

Aided Design student **Samantha Allen**.

The Washington Township graduate attended the career center from 2008 through 2010 but found herself drawn to be a teacher at Union Center Elementary School. Working at a day care center while a student at Purdue Northwest convinced this second-year teacher that her future was in the classroom, specifically with kindergarten students.



Samantha Allen

However, “I absolutely loved my time at the Career Center and learned so much! The class definitely helped me clear my path for college and gave me the tools I would need to be ready after high school,” she noted.

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!*