

THE PASSAIC COUNTY TECHNICAL INSTITUTE TECHNICIAN

PCTI'S AWARD WINNING NEWS PUBLICATION

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A SPECTACULAR SENDOFF

Graduating the Class of 2016

Like Dorothy clicking her shoes to leave the magical Land of Oz, so did the Class of 2016 bid farewell to PCTI: the school like no place else.

Their tender goodbye came in the form of this year's 52nd Commencement Ceremony. On Thursday, June 16th, 750 of PCTI's best and brightest Bulldogs walked across the football field for the last time as seniors.

For the first time in PCTI history, graduation was livestreamed internationally for family and friends across the world! Fans from fifteen different countries, including

the UK, Pakistan, Macedonia, the Dominican Republic, Peru, and Canada tuned in for the epic event. PCTI's Video Production students, under the direction of Instructor Jody Lazarski, broadcast the ceremony with the skillful operation of a multi-camera system.

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The Class of 2016 processed onto the field with fellow members of their fourteen diversified areas of study. Each program was led by PCTI's NJROTC and their respective program banners. This year, graduates wore colorful stoles embroidered with their career area. They passed underneath the school's giant inflatable mascot Spike, and along the football field that was beautifully transformed by flowers. More than 3,500 family, friends, and parents came out to support the graduating class.



"For the first time in PCTI history, graduation was livestreamed internationally for family and friends across the world."



LIKE NO

Class Co-Presidents Natalie Rotger and Zill Ratanji welcomed everyone in attendance and addressed fellow seniors with the Invocation. They were followed by other class officers, as well as Valedictorian Mohammed Ahmed and Salutatorian

Patrick Kiel, who reminisced about profound events in their PCTI careers and what awaits them in the future.

diplomas, graduates enthusiastically thrust them in the air and waved to onlookers in the stands.

Following both speeches, Superintendent Diana C. Lobosco and Principal Dr. Michael Parent congratulated students and addressed the Class of 2016. Joining the festivities were members of the PCTI Board of Education and the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Freeholder Director Theodore Best and Paterson Mayor Joey Torres provided encouraging remarks to the students.

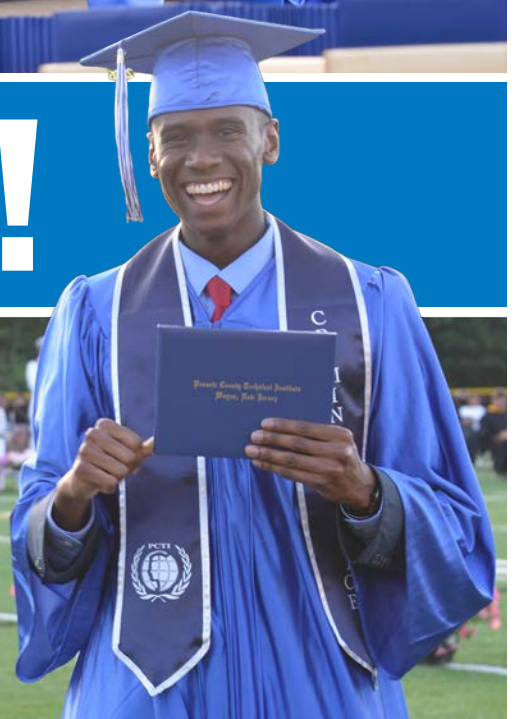
This year's graduation was bittersweet. It marked the end of an era, when students continue their journey along the path of adulthood. Wherever it may lead, they are certainly prepared for the future, thanks to their unique experiences at PCTI, a school *like no place else!*

The air was buzzing and electric as members of the Class of 2016 rose to receive their diplomas from Board of Education President Al Alexander, Vice President Damaris M. Solomon, and Commissioner Glenn Brown. Advisors of the Class of 2016 also provided assistance. Upon receiving their





PLACE ELSE!



“On Thursday, June 16th, 750 of PCTI’s best and brightest Bulldogs walked across the football field for the last time as seniors.”



Rejoicing in the Longevity of the Bulldog Family

PCTI offers hearty congratulations to celebrate an elite group of “silver” staff members who have been part of the Bulldog family for the past twenty-five years.

Vernon Black, *Custodian*
Terrence Delaney, *Maintenance*
Fred Dieckmann, *Secretary for Custodial Maintenance*
Janice Alvarez, *Cosmetology Instructor*
Luis Colon, *Graphic Arts Instructor*
Mark Philips, *Graphic Arts Instructor*
John Nuzzo, *Food Service Director*

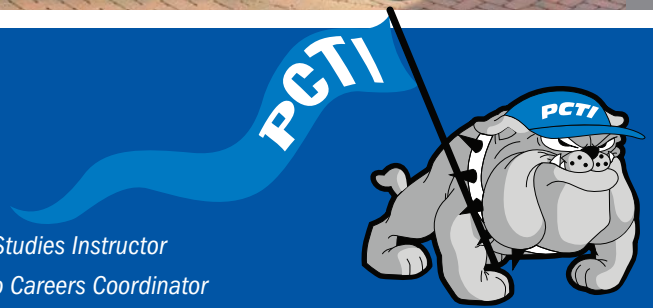


2015-2016 RETIREES

It's time to say goodbye and best of luck to the members of the PCTI family who are embarking upon new chapters in their lives. Thank you for your tireless dedication to our students and school.

Robert Gray, *Assistant Principal*
Brian Brower, *Science Instructor*
Michael DiPatria, *Landscape Design Instructor*
Elda P. Fontane, *Academy of Medical Arts Instructor*
Wilford Guevara, *Guidance Counselor*

Joseph Michaels, *Social Studies Instructor*
Ronald Nicosia, *School to Careers Coordinator*
Munir Seen, *In-House Security*
Marjorie Adams, *In-House Security*
Linda Dudik, *Social Studies Instructor (In Memoriam)*



Culinary Students Place First in National NASA HUNCH Challenge!

Sierra Bronas, Jada Sanders, and Carolan Terrero reached for the stars when they received first place in the national NASA HUNCH Culinary Challenge. Their award winning Red Pepper Risotto entrée will be processed for flight for astronauts to enjoy on the International Space Station!

Culinary and Manufacturing students who participated in the HUNCH initiative were also invited to a regional ceremony held at Lincoln Technical Institute where they showcased their talents for all to see. They were presented with certificates, met with NASA dignitaries, and received the unique opportunity to sign a stowage locker that will be sent into space.

A FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS IS A FEAST FOR THE SENSES!

PCTI celebrated a night featuring culture, culinary delights, and of course creativity with the School of Communication Arts' *Festival of the Arts* event. This year's theme hearkened back to the days of old by being held at the historic Lambert Castle in Paterson, NJ.

As guests arrived, they were greeted and served by students dressed in renaissance attire. Culinary and Performing Arts Music students added to the entrancing ambiance with a spread of delectable treats and jazzy ballads. Video Production students showcased their camera work skills by conducting interviews in front of live audiences.

Once inside, those in attendance experienced cultural enrichment two-fold:

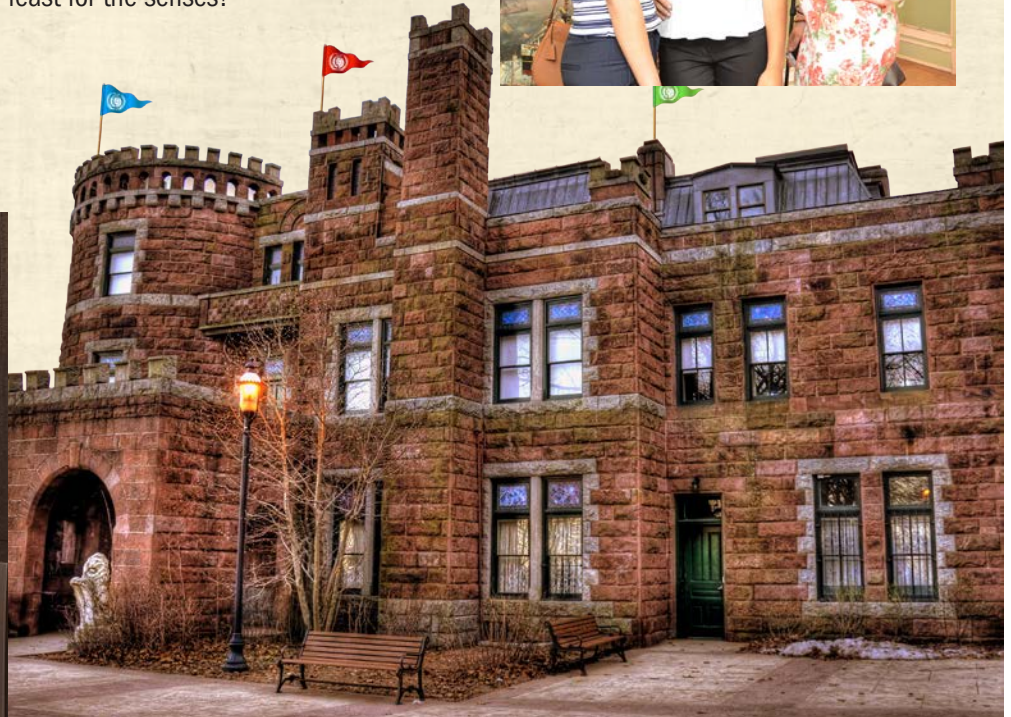
FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS



discovering the rich history of Paterson through the Lambert's personal collection and by witnessing the superb portfolio pieces of Graphic Design, Advertising Art & Design, and Video Production students. Beautiful artwork was displayed throughout all three floors of Lambert's Castle. Vocal Program students added to the creative depth of the evening with magnificent musical interludes, while minstrels provided enhancing mood music.



The evening's success is largely credited to co-curricular efforts of all program areas working seamlessly together. Congratulations to all, this year's *Festival of the Arts Exhibition* was a feast for the senses!



STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS PRO

Paper Mill Applauds Man of La Mancha as “Rising Star”



Paper Mill Playhouse honored PCTI's Man of La Mancha with their **Rising Star Award for Excellence in Outstanding Scenic Achievement**. The prestigious award recognizes the intricate scenes and backdrops that were created by Instructor Robert Vendetti and PCTI School of Construction Technology students, the quality of which is comparable to what is found on the stages of Broadway. Paper Mill's **Rising Star Awards** are presented by the Investors Foundation and are modeled after the famous Tony Awards.



Dancers Declared Among the Best!

Joy Giuffre was selected by the by the National Honor Society for Dance Arts as the national winner of the 2016 NDEO Artistic Merit, Leadership, and Academic Achievement Award! Classmate, Anaya Gass, received honorable mention.



Haas Awards Students with Scholarship

Twelve Manufacturing Technology graduates electing to continue their education in machine-based training and engineering were gifted a generous \$12,500 scholarship from the Gene Haas Foundation.



Students Hailed National ASL Competition Winners

The National ASL Honor Society sponsors an annual ASL literature competition replete with cash prizes. Out of more than three hundred and twenty entries, five of our students were recognized! Their fantastic accomplishments include Ashley Alvarado - 1st place Original Story, Kimberly Vasquez - 1st Story Retell, Michael Rosario - 2nd place Story Retell, We' McDonald - 3rd place Story Retell, and Kevin Mendoza - Honorable Mention, Story Retell.

LOVE PCTI IS LIKE NO PLACE ELSE

Sophomores Selected for Pre-College Program



Ethan Singh, Stephen Danso, and Jeremy Crespo were selected for NJIT's Experience STEM through Engineering Design (ESTEMED) program. The intermediate robotics course expands on the STEM experience with the help of engineering design, using groups to research problems that can be solved by a robot using the Engineering Design Cycle.

Bulldog Football Star Nominated for National Game



Carter Warren has been nominated to play in the 2017 US Army All-American Bowl during the East vs. West match-up game to be televised live on NBC on January 7th, 2017. He is one of four hundred national nominees, only ninety of which will be selected to play.

Senior Named America's Best High School Pastry Chef!



Julie Velasquez of the School of Culinary Arts won the America's Best High School Pastry Chef competition! In addition to the honor of boasting a national title, Julie received a full tuition scholarship for the AAS Baking and Pastry Arts Program at Monroe College.



Senior Selected as Gates Millennium Scholar

Devin Bristow is one of 1,000 elite students to be selected as a Gates Millennium Scholar for the Class of 2016. The prestigious scholarship is presented to those who exhibit strong leadership, community service, and academic achievements. More than 53,000 students applied, making the final class of Gates Scholars one of the most competitive candidate groups in the program's history!

As a Gates Millennium Scholar, Devin will receive funds to attend any U.S. located, accredited college or university. The scholarship is renewable based on program guidelines and Devin may be eligible for fellowship funding through the master's and doctoral levels.

Student Receives NJAFPA Scholarship

Amit Singh was awarded the NJAFPA Student Grant Award worth \$2,500 in scholarship for his participation in the extended-day Title I funded program for Calculus. He was one of only six recipients in New Jersey to receive this award.



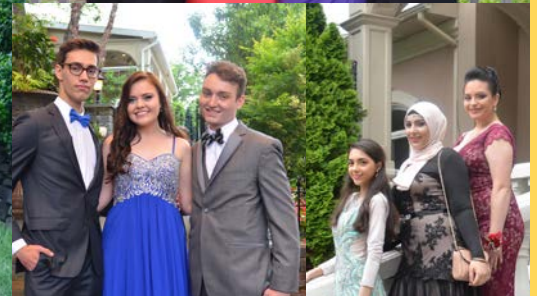
Celebrating Achievement with Senior Awards Night

Select members of the Class of 2016 were invited to enjoy Senior Awards Night, a time when they are rewarded with generous scholarships to benefit their academic futures. The evening highlighted student excellence and achievement with scholarships presented by numerous business, educational, community, and military sponsors. PCTI's Education Foundation awarded more than \$34,000 to fifty-two students! In addition, they selected ten students at random to receive Apple iPads to assist with future studies. In total, one hundred and thirty-seven seniors were honored at this year's event. Congratulations to all and thanks to those who made Senior Awards Night a success!



LIGHTING UP THE NIGHT

Seniors made it a night to remember when they attended this year's prom at the Westmount Country Club on Friday, June 3rd. The magical evening treated all in attendance to dancing, dining, and laughter with great friends. One thing's for certain, the memories made will last a lifetime!



Committing to an Athletic Future



Congratulations to PCTI's senior-athletes who signed contracts to play sports at their future universities during National Signing Day.

Athletes of the Month



MARCH



APRIL & MAY

Congratulations to PCTI's March Athletes of the Month Nick Legreaux, Denise Callaghan-Crespo, and Azhane Williams, and to the April & May Athletes Students of the Month Zachary Polzer, Aaniyah Robinson, N'Angel Hodge, and Ibrahim Salem.

Senior-Athletes Receive Accolades

PCTI held the annual Athletic Awards Night which recognized the honors senior student-athletes achieved throughout the year. Thirty-seven students were honored as Multi-Sport Athletes. Others received recognition as NJTAC Male and Female Scholar Athletes of the Year, the NJSIAA Scholar Athlete of the Year, the Big North Conference Student-Athlete, and PCCA Student-Athlete Nominations. Students were also awarded with Gold and Silver Bulldog Awards if they received more than seven varsity letters.



Director of Athletics, Nic Nese, presents Jenna Albanese with the Female Athlete of the Year award.

A Tribute to Asian Pacific Heritage

Students celebrated Asian Pacific Heritage Month with an assembly that gave audience members a true taste of tradition. Talents were showcased through the likes of a fashion show, dance, and so much more. Congratulations on a job well done!



Appreciation for Sacrifice *Never Forgotten*

PCTI celebrated Memorial Day with an outside presentation where veterans bore witness to a touching display of patriotism and thankfulness. AP History students welcomed all in attendance, Advertising Art & Design students delivered hand-drawn artwork to those who served, and NJROTC students stood at attention and presented the colors. In addition, Alexis Gonzales was honored for his first place state win of the VFW Patriotism contest at the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary convention in Wildwood, NJ. He also took home seventh place in the nation!



LPN CAPPING CEREMONY

Passaic County Technical Institute recently celebrated sixty-two years of the Licensed Practical Nursing program with the annual Capping Ceremonies. Students from both the Day and Evening programs received their caps and pins.



LPN students of the Day program celebrate their Capping Ceremony.

Honoring the Definition of Success



Congratulations to PCTI's 3rd and 4th marking period Circle of Success members for being recognized as excelling in their career areas.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

VALEDICTORIAN



JUNE
Mohammed Ahmed
Academy of Medical Arts

- Earned a potential 40 college credits
- Bilingual in Bengali and English
- Certified EMT-B, CNA, & Basic Life Support
- Selected for Freshmen Foundation for Success and Circle of Success
- Involved in FBLA, ERASE, HOSA, the Sign Language Club, Boys Golf, the Chess Team; selected for WLHS

Goal: Graduate from Rutgers University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology/Mathematics, become a doctor

SALUTATORIAN



JUNE
Patrick Kiel
Academy of Information Technology

- Earned a potential 14 college credits
- Lifeguard and Scuba Diving certifications, Eagle Scout
- Selected for Boys State, previous Circle of Success member
- Involved in Volleyball (Captain), FBLA, SkillsUSA, selected for National Honor Society (Vice President)
- Competed and placed in SkillsUSA & FBLA competitions

Goal: Graduate from the University of Miami with degrees in Marine Science & Biology, earn a PhD



APRIL
Raphael Garcia Jr.
School of Construction Technology

- Ranked in the top 11% of his class
- Achieved great academic standing with a GPA of 3.89
- Enrolled in SUPA American History course
- Selected for Circle of Success
- Works at Henry's Plumbing Supply

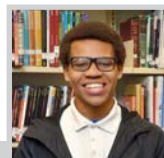
Goal: Attend New Haven University, receive an education in Music Production/join a union and become an Apprentice



APRIL
Diana Espinal
School of Education and Human Services

- Achieved stellar grades with a GPA of 4.12
- Earned a potential 11 college credits
- Consistently achieved Honor Roll status
- Class Representative, involved in SkillsUSA, Book Club, Environmental Club, willPower for girlPower, & ERASE
- Communications Officer of the Sign Language Club
- CPR and First Aid certified

Goal: Graduate from Kean University with a degree in Early Childhood education, attend graduate school and become a School Counselor



MAY
Devin Bristow
Academy of Information Technology

- Ranked in the top 8% of his class
- Earned a potential 15-20 college credits
- Selected as Bill Gates Millennium Scholar
- Involved in Football, Varsity Track/Field, Cross Country, FBLA, National History Club, Engineering Club, Environmental Club, etc.
- Prior Circle of Success member

Goal: Graduate from Pepperdine University with degrees in Computer Science/Mathematics, receive Master's degree in Mathematics, and PhD's in Philosophy/Theology; become a missionary, eventually become a Pastor/Reverend



MAY
Richer Mendiola
Academy of Criminal Justice

- Ranked in the top 5% of his class
- Earned a potential 12 college credits
- Involved in NJROTC, Boys Swim team, ERASE; selected for NHS
- Circle of Success member
- Sales Representative for Fun Creation Studios, as well as seasonal Life Guard
- Certifications include FEMA, Telecommunications, First Aid, Lifeguard, and EMS

Goal: Graduate from the University of New Haven with a Bachelor of Science in National Security Studies; become a Federal Agent

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Passaic County Technical Institute

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Partnership with Lincoln of Wayne



PCTI's Education Foundation partnered with Lincoln of Wayne for the "Driven to Give" initiative, a program that offers the opportunity for \$8,000 in funds to be raised for future educational grants for instructors of the Bulldog family. More than 300 faculty and staff got behind the wheels of Lincoln vehicles to ensure the cause was a success!

Thank you to Peter Spina, sponsor of "Driven to Give," and his team for the opportunity to participate in an event that will enrich the instructional endeavors of our teachers.