

# The SP TLIGHT

## CiTi Migrant Education Helps Former Student Become Successful ENL Teacher



*Manuela Mitchell has risen above educational obstacles as a youth in a migrant working family to become a successful teacher who provides similar English as a New Language opportunities she received through the Migrant Education Tutorial & Support Services Program (METS) at CiTi.*

Manuela Mitchell is the story of success.

While she credits the Migrant Education Tutorial & Support Services Program (METS) program with providing a base for her current achievements, it has been her hard work and dedication to improving life for herself and others that has carried her through each triumph.

As a student in the program through Wayne County, her family used to travel from the country Mexico for pear and apple picking seasons. Her family also traveled for migrant work in California to pick oranges and Ohio for corn. The work that she helped her family with also served as a roadblock to her education. She credited the local METS program with giving her the guidance and support to help chase her dreams.

From completing work sheets and working alongside METS tutors in addition to receiving English as a New Language services in school, Mitchell said she has felt indebted to METS staff members for their kindness, support and love.

[Continued on Page 2](#)

## CiTi Project Explore Students Spread Holiday Cheer to Veterans



Students at CiTi practiced skills learned in class to create a happy holiday for local veterans.

Pictured are Elijah Durval and Darcia Crawford (both from Oswego City School District), students in Carolyn Deary-Petrocci's Outdoor Education class, who wanted to complete an act of kindness for veterans staying at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Syracuse. The pair created stockings to be stuffed with personal care items with the help of Assemblyman Will Barclay before they are delivered to the hospital.

Durval said he was thrilled to participate "because my grandfather was a veteran."

## CiTi Migrant Education Helps Former Student Become Successful ENL Teacher Cont.

Continued from Page 1

“They are the main reason why I went to college,” she said. “As a farm worker kid traveling all the time, that’s all I knew, so I thought that was my life. I was 18 and still didn’t have enough credits to be a ninth-grader.”

Though encouragement from the METS program and a counselor at her high school in Sodus, she attended a program at SUNY New Paltz that helped her better prepare for college and obtain her GED. Mitchell went on to the University at Buffalo, experienced language barriers and life struggles before she finished an associate’s degree at a community college. She then earned a bachelor’s degree at Nazareth College and is now working toward her doctorate and administrative certificate.

As a certified special education, Spanish and English as a Second Language teacher working at Williamson Central

School District, Paul Gugel, director of the local METS program through the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation, said Mitchell has been the definition of perseverance. Many former METS students have followed similar paths as Mitchell, Gugel said, and have become shining examples of hard work and dedication.

Mitchell said she just can’t say enough about the METS program.

“They are the ones that helped me realize there are other choices out there and that is a big thing, especially for kids who come here as farm workers and see their parents working,” she said. “Education is not a waste of time. This is a sacrifice to have a better future. Education really is in your own hands; every day you’re learning something new.”

## Educator Inspiring Others to Embrace Social and Emotional Learning



*Pictured is Mexico Teacher’s Assistant Lisa Buske in front of a bulletin board specifically designed to help social and emotional learning.*

As an 18-year veteran of the Mexico Academy and Central School District, Lisa Buske knows social and emotional learning is “more important than ever” and she’s helped her district and community embrace these important skill sets.

Buske, a teacher’s assistant at Mexico Elementary School, does a multitude of things around the school and online to help children and adults alike acquire and effectively apply knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, establish and maintain positive relationships and the whole gamut of social and emotional learning.

“As a teacher’s assistant, I have the luxury of a little more time than the teachers, so I dedicate time in my schedule to help uplift, encourage, inspire and motivate our amazing staff and families to keep moving forward and not to give up,” said Buske. “SEL is important because if the teachers, administration and families don’t care for themselves first, they aren’t going to be able to maintain this level of resilience to endure the pandemic.”

A large part of Buske’s SEL training has been through the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation (CiTi BOCES), where Staff Development Coordinator Liane Benedict and Staff Development Specialist Kate Ginney help organize and lead SEL offerings.

Buske called Benedict and Ginney “an inspiration” for many of the ideas she has utilized and thanked the duo for creating such a strong SEL community in the area.

“They deserve a huge shout-out for organizing and leading so many beneficial SEL offerings, networks and groups to help the staff in Oswego County remain strong and resilient, and to have the tools to share with our students in the process,” said Buske.

Buske organizes monthly SEL bulletin boards for staff and students, sends out an email to staff every weekday with SEL, Leader In Me and motivational boosters, shares videos and links that could help teachers and holds a voluntary Zoom check-in every week to share some strategies and tips she’s picked up through SEL professional development.

Continued on Page 4

## New Printer Expands Learning Opportunities for CiTi Digital Media Students



*CiTi Digital Media Technology Instructor Jon Miller provides an introduction of the new class printer to Sandy Creek students Maryrose Fiore and Eyan Grensild.*

Technology Instructor Jon Miller. “In the class, we learn design, but we also learn how to use the press equipment. Knowing how the printing process works makes you a better designer because you see the process from the start to finish.”

Students in the Digital Media Technology program at the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation will have the opportunity to learn and work on a new Roland printer brought to the Career and Technical Education class this year.

The older class printer allowed for students to print large format jobs such as banners and signs, but it was limited in function and material. The new printer expands capability to things like premium cast vinyl, cloth, window clings, glossy backlit film and more. It’s also a lot faster.

The Digital Media Technology program offers students training in everything from graphic design to illustration to photography. Part of the curriculum this year will also involve creating a business plan, a resume and a portfolio, so that students are prepared for the workforce, college or perhaps their own business.

“There’s a huge advantage of doing all our projects in-house,” said Digital Media

## CiTi Alumni Spotlight

CiTi alum Anthony Canale is a 2010 graduate from Oswego High School and the Public Safety & Justice program. Tony says he went from thinking school was not for him, to someone who graduated with a National Technical Honor Society award and then continued on to earn his Computer Information degree. He gives a lot of credit to his instructors at CiTi BOCES for helping him harness and refine some of the skills that helped him become who he is today. He now works at CiTi as Technology Project Manager. Do you know CiTi alumni who should be recognized for their success? Share their story with the CiTi Public Relations team at [pr@CiTiboces.org](mailto:pr@CiTiboces.org).



## Educator Inspiring Others to Embrace Social and Emotional Learning Cont.

Continued from Page 2

CiT's Benedict noted the ability to connect with awareness, to ourselves first and then to others in the world, is vital to resilience and that of our communities. That includes not only students, but also showing up for educators to support them during this upheaval and changes to our way of educating.

"We are wired for connection, but our opportunities for this are being limited right now," said Benedict. "The impact of this on students, educators, and families must be realized and offered as much time, focus and effort as the content if we are to thrive on the other side of these challenges."

Buske currently works with kindergartners and second-graders in addition to being Mexico Elementary's Leader In Me staff Lighthouse team facilitator. Throughout her career, Buske has also worked as a program TA, 1-to-1, 3-to-1 and the SBIT Coordinator.

## CTE Students Recognized as Most Employable for Quarter One

Career and Technical Education Students at the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation were recently recognized as Most Employable in their class for quarter one of the 2020-2021 school year.

The Most Employable Award recognized students for character traits that make them employable in the field, and one student from each class is nominated each quarter. The program is supported by the Oswego County Federal Credit Union, which provides \$50 gift cards to five lucky students selected at random.

For the full listing of award winners, please visit our website at [CiTiboces.org](http://CiTiboces.org).

QUARTER 1  
2020



**Alissa B.**  
Culinary Arts • Phoenix



**Jarrett H.**  
Industrial Electrical Technologies • Oswego



**David K.**  
Auto Body Repair • APW

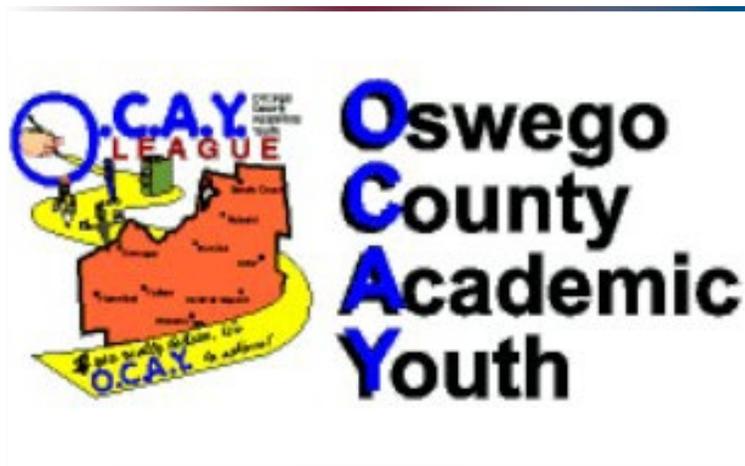


**Ayden W.**  
Heavy Equipment Repair & Operation • Central Square



**Holly M.**  
NV Specialized Careers • Pulaski

## OCAY League Hosts First Virtual Competition



The academic traditions with the Oswego County Academic Youth League (OCAY League) have continued in the 2020-2021 school year, virtually.

Students from eight of the nine component school districts throughout Oswego County participated in the first quarterly OCAY League event, which tasked participants with completing a Jeopardy-style “Trivia Night.” Caitlin White, OCAY League Coordinator, said student teams connected with their coach via Zoom or Google and had 30 seconds to answer each question. Trivia categories included: art and literature, sports and leisure, entertainment, geography, science and nature, history, technology and pop culture.

After each round, coaches tallied point totals and reported to White, and the 94th OCAY League event, and inaugural virtual one, “went off without a hitch,” she said.

“The early planning stages were a little overwhelming, as we had to come up with a theme that would lend itself to being 100% virtual,” White said. “Some schools were fully remote, while others were hybrid, so the challenge was to schedule the event that all students could participate in without missing an entire day of classroom instruction. Students reported having fun and acknowledged their appreciation in being able to participate in OCAY League, even though it looked quite a bit different from past events.”

The Pulaski Academy & Central School District team, comprised of students: Josh Carguello, Matt Pollic, Rafael Aguilar, Madison Wilder, Zoe Eisle, Landon Jones, Micah Charsky and Holly Pacyon, received first-place honors. Second-place was awarded to the Hannibal Central School District team, whose members included: Austin Calkins, Aidan Majeski, Lucas Mason, Marc Fellows, Mason Garbus, Philip Nosko, Robert Andocs and Andrew Blodgett. Oswego City School District students Joseph DelConte, Mary Kate Cloonan, Sasha Loayza, Aidan Robbins, Gretchen Dowd Zeida Olson, Katie Nettles and Amelia Rastley achieved third place.

## CiTi Students Work Together for Holiday Fun and Cake Decorating



Collaboration was the key to holiday fun for students at the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation.

The Culinary Arts Career and Technical Education program offered a community service project with Early Childhood Education CTE students placed at Lura Sharp Elementary School in Pulaski to decorate holiday cakes with CiTi elementary students.

Culinary Arts students prepared boxed cake kits, complete with a small cake, frosting in pastry bags, plasticware and decorations. Guided by the ECE students, CiTi teachers and teaching assistants, the younger CiTi students remained socially distant in their respective classrooms and practiced team building and social skills while they completed their cake creation to take home.

## CiTi ITS: Model Schools Program Empowers Teachers with Technology

The role of the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation's ITS: Model Schools Program has become pivotal as Oswego County school districts have utilized additional technologies to create successful digital learning environments.

ITS: Model Schools staff members have hit the ground running since the spring when the coronavirus pandemic hit. Peri Nelson-Sukert, itinerant computer education specialist, said tech support has become increasingly important as school districts continue to work through challenging times.

"We model everything we are trying to convey; we are still doing remote support; even if we are in a classroom or computer lab, we can still use Zoom and see what's going on and be socially distant," she said. "As long as you have Internet connection, whether it's on a phone or Chromebook or whichever, we can help you."

Face-to-face support through virtual connections has helped hundreds of local teachers improve their understanding of technology programs and therefore helped students learn better, Nelson-Sukert said.

"We can still be together this way and work together for whatever goal needs to be done," she said. "It's knowing resources and where to send people. It's trying to be helpful to everybody; that way we are a central point of information."

The entire ITS: Model Schools team has been able to shine in their respective districts and programs, helping everyone achieve educational success. Nelson-Sukert said the team embraced the opportunities to show how far teaching staff can take online learning and now "they've got it for forever." Teachers using the technologies successfully and excitedly to better help their students has been most rewarding, she said.

Mark Buchanan, itinerant computer education specialist on the ITS: Model Schools team, echoed that sentiment. He said teachers he has worked with in the Mexico Academy & Central School District "have really shifted their strategies and have leveraged what they've learned from blended and flipped learning."

## CiTi Students and Staff Showcase Holiday Spirit and Festive Fun



## New Vision Students Connect Virtually with Duke University School of Nursing



The Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation's New Vision students learned how to better prepare for a career in nursing after they recently connected virtually with a Duke University School of Nursing staff member.

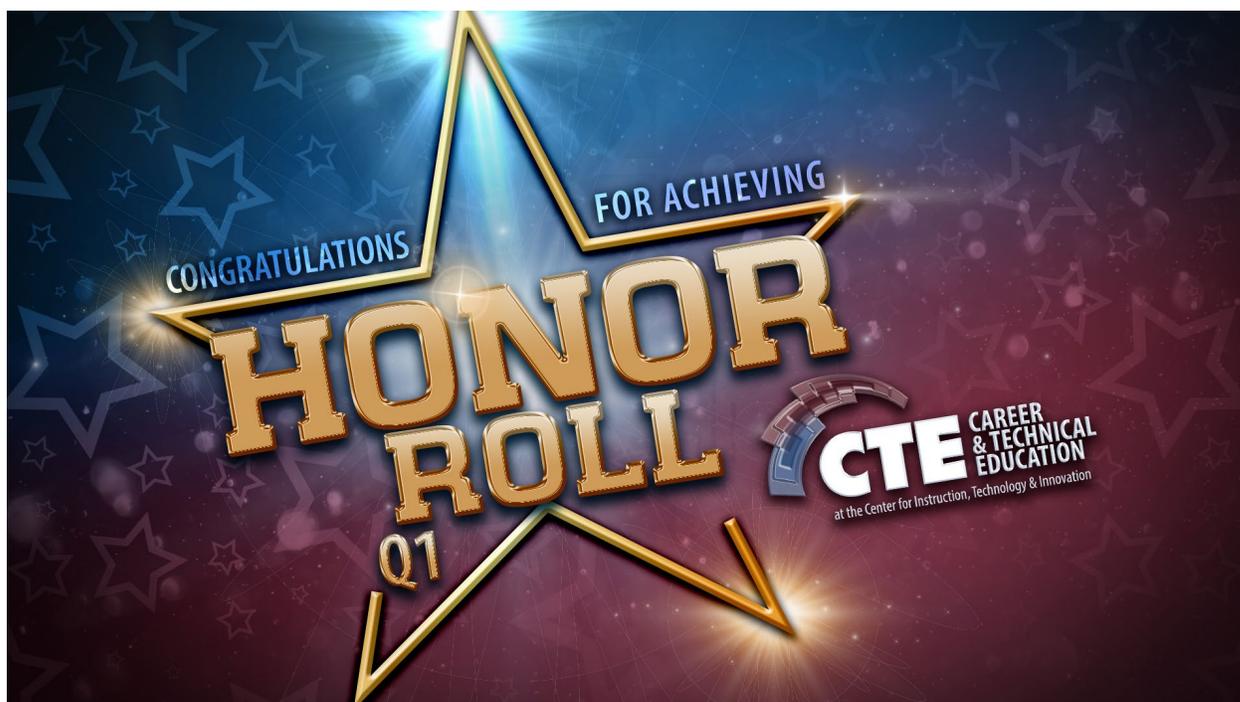
Anne Derouin, the school's lead faculty for its PNP-primary care/MSN program, said the students first needed to be commended for wanting to potentially pursue a job where they try to help others, provide a service and enjoy problem-solving. She provided insight on various organizations for which nurses may work, utilization of telehealth, training requirements, the required national exam, continuing education, travel and average salaries.

Derouin said while there isn't a worry about having a job in nursing in the future because of its high demand, the New Vision students should focus now on excelling in the following classes: biology, chemistry, anatomy, microbiology, psychology and sociology. The latter two are important, Derouin said, because humans are complex, and those courses will better help them to understand human behaviors and be able to build relationships with future patients.

Seeing nursing first-hand through volunteer opportunities will give the New Vision students real-world experience, she said, where they can connect with nursing staff on the job. Although some of those instances may be limited due to the current coronavirus pandemic, New Vision students have been able to take advantage of various rotations at local healthcare sites, such as Oswego Health.

While there are several options for various nursing degrees, Derouin highly encouraged the New Vision students to investigate obtaining a baccalaureate degree science of science nursing.

## Career and Technical Education Recognizes Quarter 1 Honor Roll Achievements



Students are recognized for high honor roll, honor roll, merit roll and perfect attendance each quarter in Career and Technical Education. For a full list of student recognitions for quarter one, please visit our website at [CiTiboces.org](http://CiTiboces.org).

# The SPOTLIGHT



*A publication of the  
Public Relations service at  
the Center for Instruction,  
Technology & Innovation*

**Christopher J. Todd**  
District Superintendent

## Board of Education

John Shelmidine,

*President*

Donna Blake,

*Vice President*

Brian Haessig

Darlene Upcraft

David Cordone

Kevin Dix

Nicole Nadeau

Ted Williams

Vanessa Haskins

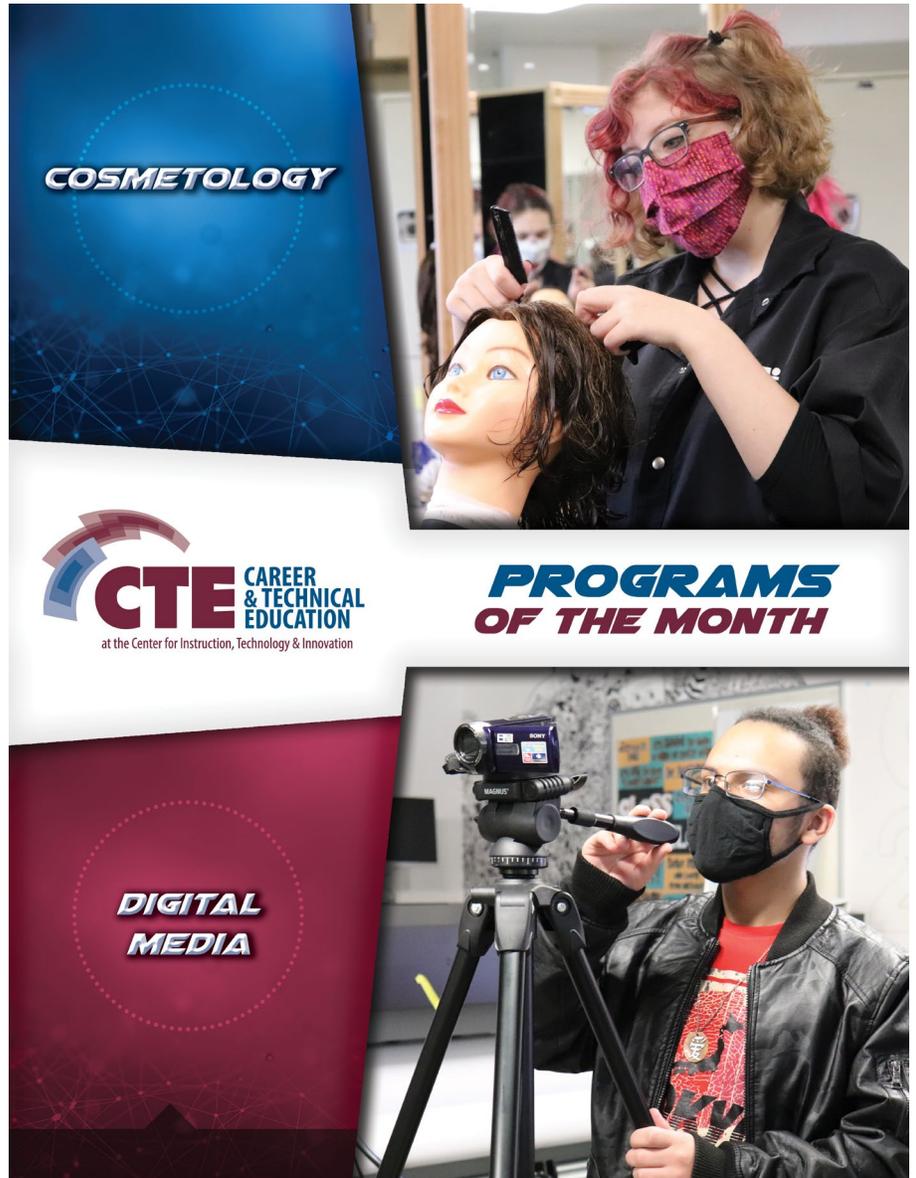
179 County Route 64,

Mexico, NY 13114

315.963.4251

CiTiboces.org

## Career and Technical Education Programs of the Month for December: Cosmetology and Digital Media Technology



Cosmetology and Digital Media Technology are December's Career and Technical Education programs of the month.

Cosmetology offers students the opportunity to gain practical experience and apply classroom theory as they work toward meeting the requirements to take the NYS licensing exam.

Digital Media technology combines the creative elements of fine arts with digital technologies with the latest industry software.

*Follow Us*

