



The Spotlight

January 2019

Culinary Arts Students Learn from Franchise Restaurant Experts



Culinary Arts students visit Red Lobster and Longhorn Steakhouse. The students were able to learn what it takes to run the front of the house as well as the inner workings of a professional kitchen. As an added lesson, students were able to help prep their own lunch at each restaurant.

CCCE's Kerschner Spent Years in Alaskan Wilderness Fighting Oral Disease Epidemic



CCCE Teacher Melanie Kerschner smiles during her time working in the Alaskan tundra. For seven years, Kerschner helped educate and care for thousands who do not have easy access to oral health options.

Though she now helps educate aspiring dental assistants at the Center for Career and Community Education, for years Melanie Kerschner educated and cared for those who reside in the western Alaskan wilderness, many cut off from access to basic health needs.

Facing at times temperatures 40 below zero and a treeless, windy and snow-covered arctic tundra, Kerschner stayed seven years on a mission to improve the dental care of more than 26,000 Alaskan natives in 48 remote villages.

Working for the company Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation, Kerschner was a member of the Dental Health Aide Therapist (DHAT) program and would leave the small town of Aniak, which she called home, for a week or more at a time.

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Career Connections Facilitate Future Opportunities for Students



CiTi hosts the New York State Distance Learning Consortium's first Career Connection of 2019. Career Connections facilitate career opportunities for high school students. Mechanical engineer Al Daniels and electrical engineer Rob Pompo from IPD Engineering talked to students from throughout New York about what it means to be an engineer, the types of projects engineers participate in and the education needed to be an engineer. Daniels and Pompo also answered questions from students that ranged from 'what type of engineer is the most sought-after' to 'what are the best qualifications to have to enter the field of engineering.'

CCCE's Kerschner Spent Years in Alaskan Wilderness Fighting Oral Disease Epidemic

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Kerschner — who began teaching prospective dental assistants at CCCE after her Alaskan experience came to an end — recounted her time as a humbling experience that was both physically and emotionally challenging.

"I was unprepared for what I saw," said Kerschner. "It was not the lack of flushing toilets, paved roads or vehicles. Within my first days there, I saw there was an epidemic of oral disease."

The flights toward the western coast of Alaska could be treacherous in the winter. After loading roughly 400 pounds of equipment onto a small plane, the team needed to lug it to camp usually by snowmobile, and set up in schools or small clinics.

Upon arrival, the team worked long hours to see patients — sometimes until midnight to ensure everyone was seen.

"I devoted all I had to help make a change," she said.

Kerschner's passion is still for improving the oral care of children, adding she always encourages her students at CCCE to "make a difference" and educate all about how to keep their smiles healthy.

Those looking to get into the field and learn from her bevy of hands-on knowledge can sign up for the spring 2019 class that begins in February.

An Oswego County Career Chat for those interested in becoming a medical or dental assistant is slated for Jan. 30 at the River's End Bookstore in Oswego from 6-7 p.m. For more information about the programs, contact Rob Elia at (315) 593-9469.

Oswego County Career Chat

**January 30, 2019
River's End Bookstore**



Oswego County P-TECH Recruits for 2019-20 School Year



P-TECH Principal Brian Heffron speaks with eighth-graders recently during a recruitment presentation at Phoenix Central School District. While attending P-TECH, students can still receive their high school graduation credits while simultaneously earning college credit through Onondaga Community College when they reach their junior and senior years of high school.

Students countywide can earn a high school diploma and an associate degree on the way to being ready for a career in manufacturing after graduation. Oswego County Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) is recruiting eighth-graders now.

Recruitment for this fall's freshman class recently began, with P-TECH Principal Brian Heffron and his team planning to showcase their program to eighth-graders and parents at all nine districts around Oswego County. Foundational seeds are planted at the middle-school level since the P-TECH commitment is a five-year process, from freshman year of high school through graduation and one to two additional years.

During a recent stop at Emerson J. Dillon Middle School in Phoenix, Heffron offered enticing words for the advancement of the eighth-graders' education: obtaining a two-year, associate degree at no cost to them or their parents. Presenting along with Heffron were students and program advocates Gage Amos, Ella Heckert and Noah Hosier.

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Early Childhood Ed. Practices Mock Parent-Teacher Conferences



Early Childhood Education students practice mock parent-teacher conferences with Career and Technical Education staff and administrators. The exercise presented a learning opportunity for students to manage what sometimes could be a difficult conversation with parents.



Oswego County P-TECH Recruits for 2019-20 School Year

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While attending P-TECH — located at the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation's main campus in Mexico — students can still receive their high school graduation credits while simultaneously earning college credit through Onondaga Community College when they

reach their junior and senior years of high school.

P-TECH was created because its local industry partners — Davis-Standard, Huhtamaki, Sunoco, Fulton Companies and Novelis — have a strong need for a skilled workforce. P-TECH provides advanced education for a mechanical or electrical engineering technology degree, which perfectly align with job openings at those companies.

Students who are strongly interested in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields should seriously consider P-TECH, Heffron said.

After an application process, up to 50 students will be selected for the upcoming freshman class. For more information, visit www.CiTiboces.org/ptech.

CTE Programs Recognized as High Quality

Four CiTi Career and Technical Education programs have been recognized as "High Quality CTE Programs" by the National Research Center for Career and Technical Education at the Southern Regional Education Board (NRCCTE) and the New York State Education Department (NYSED). The four programs are:

- Computer Systems and Networking - Cisco and A+
- Digital Media Technology
- Nursing Assistant
- Outdoor Power Equipment Technology



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