

# The SP TLIGHT

## CiTi Opens Oswego County Federal Credit Union Branch on Campus



*From left, Oswego County Federal Credit Union member solution representative Gabrielle Doten, CiTi students Javen Kelley and Camden Hardy, and OCFCU branch manager Jenna Hopkins stand in the new OCFCU branch at CiTi.*

management skills. Students may also discuss financial topics including job hunting, building credit, taking out a loan, savings and budgeting,” said Hopkins.

Two CiTi students have been hired to work the branch for the remainder of the year. Javen Kelley and Camden Hardy went through an application and interview process conducted by the branch and the CiTi Career Center.

The Center for Instruction Technology & Innovation recently completed construction on the Oswego County Federal Credit Union branch on the main campus in Mexico.

CEO of the Oswego County Federal Credit Union, Bill Carhart, has worked with CiTi on completing the branch, and this is not the first time the OCFCU has worked with CiTi.

“The OCFCU has collaborated with CiTi on their Most Employable student program and have also taught training classes for financial planning,” said Carhart.

Jenna Hopkins is the manager of the CiTi branch and will oversee the new services as well as two student employees. The branch hopes to assist clients with checking accounts, debit cards, loan applications and a texting request service.

“Our mission is to expose these students to money management skills. Students may also discuss financial topics including job hunting, building credit, taking out a loan, savings and budgeting,” said Hopkins.

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## Alumni Feature



*CiTi alum Christian Talamo is from Oswego City School District and is a 2019 graduate of the Welding Technology program! Talamo currently works for Universal Metal Works in Fulton as a fabricator. He said the welding program gave him knowledge and skills that he needed for his career. He said CiTi gave him a lot of hands-on practice that is coming in handy now. 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).*

## CiTi Opens Oswego County Federal Credit Union Branch on Campus

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“I am pretty excited to be working for the credit union, and I love the opportunities offered here at CiTi,” said Hardy.

“I’m definitely excited for the opportunity and the real-world experience,” said Kelley.

The branch will offer services to both students and staff at CiTi. Any resident of Oswego County may also use branch services.

The branch also aims to expand and work with other school districts in the county. OCFCU plans to travel to different schools to expand student financial education.

“We offer scholarships to graduating students and plan on bringing financial speakers to schools as well,” said Carhart.

The Oswego County Federal Credit Union branch is now open at CiTi on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

## Former New Vision Student Interns with CiTi Public Relations



Former New Vision Specialized Careers student Emily Catania is interning with the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation’s Public Relations team.

A 2017 Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Central School District graduate, Catania is now a junior at Keuka College pursuing a bachelor’s in English with a concentration in communications and writing. Catania previously interned with the public relations department at CiTi when she was a senior in the New Vision Specialized Careers program.

“I’ve always loved writing and wanted to use my skills in a way that mattered to the community. Now, I am writing stories that people read every day,” said Catania.

Catania is interning over the month of January through Keuka College’s Field Period Program, which requires students to complete an internship every year. She previously interned at the Keuka College Admissions Office and the Williamstown Public Library.

Currently, Catania is writing pieces for local newspapers about events going on at CiTi, taking and editing photos, managing social media accounts and designing graphics.

“New Vision definitely prepared me for this position. I am very grateful for my instructor’s guidance and opportunities the program provided,” Catania said.

Catania hopes to graduate from Keuka College with her bachelor’s degree in May of 2021 and work in public relations in the future.



*Digital Media Technology students install the OCFCU sign in the new branch at CiTi.*



## Early Childhood Education Students Practice Mock Interviews



*Early Childhood Education student Megan Coe talks with faculty member Carol Taormina during a mock interview.*

Nearly 40 students in the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation's Early Childhood Education program learned first-hand what it's like to talk with parents during a parent-teacher conference.

Students in the program created a hypothetical student, with a fake report card and talked through that student's behavior with a volunteer "parent" faculty member at CiTi.

"This is beneficial for the students because it is a real-life experience for working with children and parents in the future," said instructor Beth Britton.

Students were graded by both Britton and the hypothetical parents for their conferences. Students were evaluated on communication, professionalism and recommendations, among other things.

"This process of mock interviews really helps build our confidence for the future when we have to meet parents," said student Megan Coe.

Each conference lasted about 10 minutes. Britton said each student normally goes into the mock interviews nervous but comes out saying they felt more confident.

## Air National Guard Visits Public Safety



*Career and Technical Education's Public Safety and Justice program welcomes two guest speakers from the local Air National Guard. Pictured, Ross Anderson and Courtney Snyder inform students on the many career opportunities offered through the Air National Guard.*

## Practical Nursing Students from the Center for Career and Community Education Practice Lab Skills

*Students in the Center for Career and Community Education Practical Nursing program practice inserting needles into oranges during class. The program prepares students to work as a practical nurse in home care agencies, nursing homes, hospitals and more.*



## CiTi Social-Emotional Learning Committee Makes and Sends Gifts to Staff



*CiTi Work-Study students at Fourth Street School assemble coffee bags from the Coco Cafe to gift to CiTi staff members.*

A Social-Emotional Learning Committee comprised of staff members recently started at CiTi, with a focus on self-care, re-energizing staff and emphasizing appreciation for both staff and students.

Throughout the year, the committee plans to create team-building activities and self-care initiatives for all staff and students.

Notes of encouragement, surprise pizza, thank-you notes given out to staff and students for random acts of kindness and enhancing spaces for staff and student relaxation are some of the projects the SEL committee will be working toward.

The SEL Committee has already collaborated with Fourth Street School in Fulton, gifting each CiTi staff member with a bag of coffee from their Coco Cafe as a token of appreciation during the holidays. A joy pendant and a custom sticker were also part of the gift.

The SEL Committee has also incorporated Wellness Wednesdays and plans on future self-care and wellness events such as: posting inspirational quotes, offering resources and strategy suggestions for those who need support and a “Can’t Pour From an Empty Cup” initiative, where staff members are given free Keurig cups and bags of tea.

“The Social-Emotional Learning Committee is designed to benefit all in practicing self-care and mindfulness. This focus at CiTi will show our support for both students and staff,” said CiTi Staff Development Coordinator Liane Benedict, who heads the committee.

The SEL Committee meets every month and Benedict encourages anyone who is interested in the committee to join.

## New Security System Comes to CiTi Mexico Campus

The Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation has a new visitor management system coming to the main campus in Mexico called the Raptor Security System.

The system will be used during the school day as a tool to better protect students and staff as well as provide a consistent protocol for tracking visitors and volunteers.

“The system will improve our campus security, helping to keep our buildings safe,” said Director of Facilities Wayne Wideman.

All visitors will be asked to sign-in to the building with a valid driver’s license or government ID to receive a visitor badge to wear during their time on campus. Once a visitor has presented identification one time, they will not be required to do so again; the front desk will be able to search their name in the system.



## E-NABLE Group Builds Hand for Man Who Lost Limb



*Members of the Oswego County e-NABLE team work with a CiTi STRIVE student to assemble a prototype prosthetic hand during school recently. From left is student Dom Harrington and CiTi staff members Tammy Cummings and Lisa Carney.*

A prosthetic hand printed and meticulously assembled by a digital humanitarian group of Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation students and staff will soon help a man in another country live a better quality of life.

As an official e-NABLE chapter, the group works as part of an online global community of volunteers that's using 3D printers to produce free and low-cost hands and arms for children and adults in need.

"Amazing impacts for individuals in need can be made through a little dedicated effort and the desire and willingness to help others," said Tracy Fleming, who helped organize and found the group.

The local e-NABLE group, hosted by the Oswego BOCES Teachers Association, consists of Fleming, Jay-Nel Mera, Barb Kickbush, Lisa

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## CiTi Welcomes New Work Based-Learning Coach Kelly Balcom



*From left, Work-Based Learning Coordinator Carol Taormina, Work-Based Learning Coach Kelly Balcom and Business Education Liaison Garrette Weiss assist CiTi students in the career center.*

The Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation welcomes a new work-based learning coach to its career center on the CiTi main campus in Mexico.

Formerly a teaching assistant for the Career and Technical Education program's Cosmetology class, Kelly Balcom will now work with students on career preparation as a work-based learning coach.

Balcom was drawn to the new position to use her work-based learning certification.

"I wanted to put it to good use and help the whole school," Balcom said.

Balcom works with Business Education Liaison Garrette Weiss and Work-Based Learning Coordinator Carol Taormina in the career center. All three work with students on career preparation, exploration and internships.

Balcom has been visiting classrooms to help students with resumes, internships, job applications and interviews. She

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## E-NABLE Group Builds Hand for Man Who Lost Limb Continued



*Team leader Tracy Fleming, at left, demonstrates a technique used in the hand-building process during a recent e-NABLE meeting at CiTi in Mexico. From left is Fleming, student Chris Dewey, and e-NABLE team members Jay-Nel Mera and Barb Kickbush.*

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Carney, Dave Eastman and Tammy Cummings — all staff members at CiTi.

A 22-year-old man from the Dominican Republic who lost his hand in a work accident will be the first to benefit from Oswego County's e-NABLE group. The team in late 2019 produced the hand for a peer chapter in Maine and the Portland Rotary Club, which will deliver dozens of hands to the Caribbean nation in late January.

Fleming noted the group officially formed several months ago, adding a number of team members are already certified through e-NABLE in building and threading a hand. While learning the process, Fleming created a unique tool that helps ensure the hand stays at a 30-degree angle during threading, a critical step in the process.

In recent weeks, the group has started including some students from the CiTi STRIVE program, teaching them about the methodology and process while assembling replica hands.

Carney, who recently brought students from her algebra course to work with the group, said the hope is to get more pupils involved in the 3D printing and building process.

Some students may even become certified in the process through e-NABLE, she added.

Fleming thanked those who have made financial donations to help purchase materials for the effort. Donations can be made to the group via GoFundMe at: [www.gofundme.com/f/CiTiTeachersAssociationE-NABLE](http://www.gofundme.com/f/CiTiTeachersAssociationE-NABLE)

The group also noted they are happy to provide interactive demos for students and adults locally, introducing the concepts of 3D printing to make a difference in the world. To schedule a demonstration, contact the group at [EnableOswegoCounty@gmail.com](mailto:EnableOswegoCounty@gmail.com).

## CiTi Welcomes New Work Based-Learning Coach Kelly Balcom Continued

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recently visited the first-year CTE Welding Technology class and taught students how to fill out job applications, resume worksheets and cover letters.

"I want to make students who attend CiTi employable and teach them soft skills they'll need for a professional career," says Balcom. Her other goals are helping students gain off-campus jobs or internships while attending CiTi, going into as many classes as she can and being a positive role model for students.

Balcom's favorite part of the job is the interactions with students.

"It means I made an impact on students, who I may not have known two months ago," she said.



## Career and Technical Education Classes Tour SUNY Oswego Technology Education Department



*Career and Technical Education students in Advanced Metal Manufacturing tour the Technology Education Department at SUNY Oswego. Industrial Electrical Technology and Construction Technology programs also toured the campus.*

## Students Recognized with Most Employable Awards for Quarter Two

Students in Career and Technical Education were recognized with Most Employable Awards for quarter two.

Nominated by their instructors, students had to have a minimum grade point average and attendance requirement to be eligible. Of all the nominations, five students were selected from a random drawing for a gift card from the Oswego County Federal Credit Union.

Students who were presented with Most Employable awards were: Connor Billings (New Vision Specialized Careers), Kelsey Combs (New Vision Law and Government), Kelton Crofoot (Automotive Body Technology), Megan Coe (Early Childhood Education), Nicole Redford (Nursing Assistant), Jeff Klein (Computer Coding), Sammy Sawyer (Automotive Technology), Nick McCombie (Outdoor Power Equipment Technology), Trevor Gebo (Construction Technology), McKenna McCormack (New Vision Allied Health), Jacob Wright (Public Safety and Justice), Brayden Hartman (Industrial Electrical Technology), Dalton Gibson (Culinary Arts Year 2), Ryan Whitcomb (Heavy Equipment Repair & Operation), Jozlyn Fiorito (Culinary Arts Year 1), Zachary Moore (Digital Media Technology), Kaila Loadwick (Cosmetology 1) and Mitchell Donaldson (Advanced Metal Manufacturing).



*Career and Technical Education students are presented with Most Employable Awards for quarter two. Pictured to the right in both photos, Oswego County Federal Credit Union Business Development Specialist Danielle Hayden congratulates the students. The OCFCU presents gift cards to Most Employable students selected in a drawing.*



# The SPOTLIGHT

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## Career and Technical Education Programs of the Month for January: Nursing Assistant and Construction Technology



*The month of January showcases the Nursing Assistant and Construction Technology programs in Career and Technical Education. Above, students from the Oswego City School District are featured. Nursing Assistant students practice practical lab skills on mannequins and also work with residents at local rotation sites. The Construction Technology program covers topics of carpentry, electrical, masonry and plumbing. You've probably seen them out and about in the community working with local organizations like ARISE to build house ramps for those in need.*