

# The SPOTLIGHT



## CiTi's Credit Accrual & Recovery for Everyone Program Moves to Mexico



*Alexis Smith, a student enrolled in the CARE program through the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation, is elated to learn in the recently remodeled CiTi Lanes educational space in Mexico.*

There have been no strikes for students enrolled in the Credit Accrual & Recovery for Everyone program since the program moved to CiTi Lanes in Mexico.

CiTi's alternative education program space is in the former bowling alley, and Principal Robyn Proud said she couldn't be more thrilled. She said she is most excited about the continued partnership with SUNY Oswego, whose practicum students remote in via Zoom to teach lessons to CARE students.

"It's been about building relationships with students and their families," she said. "We will always continue to be the CARE family, in-person or remotely. We're a one-room schoolhouse again, and there are different learning pods."

Oswego City School District sophomore Alexis Smith said she has been thrilled to learn in the inviting environment with all the supports of teachers and staff around her.

"You can go at your own pace and [the program] helps me become more independent on my own," she said. "It's calm and relaxing here."

## Culinary Arts Students Virtually Connect with Chef and BBQ Business Owner



Culinary Arts students recently learned a valuable lesson from guest speaker Chef Aaron Oster: the food industry is more about relationships with people.

Oster participated in virtual visits via Zoom video chats with several of the CTE students who gathered information about working in the food and hospitality industry, including opening a business. One of the most impactful lessons Oster offered was his business' focus on hiring people for their drive, integrity and work ethic over a plethora of industry experiences.

"This is a business of people who enjoy being in the service of others," he said. "If you bring good energy to the business, then I want you in our business. You'd be surprised what a smile and a good attitude can do for a business; it completely changes the space."

Oster's virtual connections were made possible by CiTi's Distance Learning program.

## P-TECH Students Overjoyed with In-person Instruction



Students enrolled in Oswego County Pathways in Technology Early College High School have been ecstatic to begin the 2020-2021 school year with five days of in-person instruction each week.

Since the coronavirus pandemic closed school buildings for the health and safety of all, P-TECH Principal Brian Heffron said the technology-focused program had afforded an abundance of virtual learning experiences before the program's in-person instruction was reinstated.

Throughout the summer months, students in the new cohort virtually participated in P-TECH's jump start and bridge programs to get them ready for dual-level educational experiences. P-TECH's curriculum is expedited to include college-level courses for the young high school students.

"We found students to be very engaged, and our teachers created a very diverse program with a lot of breakout sessions," Heffron said. "We had a very active summer, and while they were virtual, they didn't stop."

During the summer, both supply packages and care items were delivered to new P-TECH students so they would feel welcomed and relaxed with their increased educational responsibilities. Heffron said students have been excited and engaged with group, virtual projects, independent learning, connections and mentoring with industry partners, but nearly nothing else has compared to the return of in-person learning for the hands-on students.

"We can still work on projects without close contact," he said. "I have seen more motivation; there's a hunger to continue doing what we're doing here."

Mentoring sessions with industry partners will continue, and students will have the opportunity to participate in industry challenges where they will have to design, revise and perfect a project. The students this year, he said, have a drive for learning and both they and the P-TECH staff are committed to remaining safe so in-person instruction may continue.

Students who successfully complete the P-TECH program will earn both a Regents diploma and an associate's degree in applied science at no cost to their families. For more information about P-TECH, visit [CiTiboces.org/PTECH](http://CiTiboces.org/PTECH).

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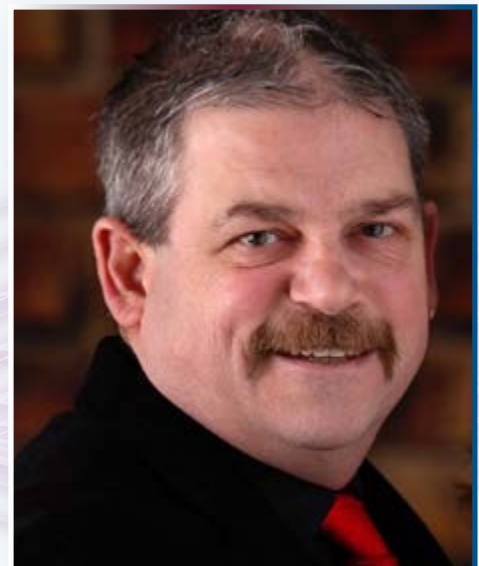
**World Teachers' Day Celebrated Oct. 5****School Board Recognition Week in October**

*World Teachers' Day is a nice reminder to show appreciation to teachers and all educators. CiTi extends a heartfelt thank-you to all our amazing staff.*



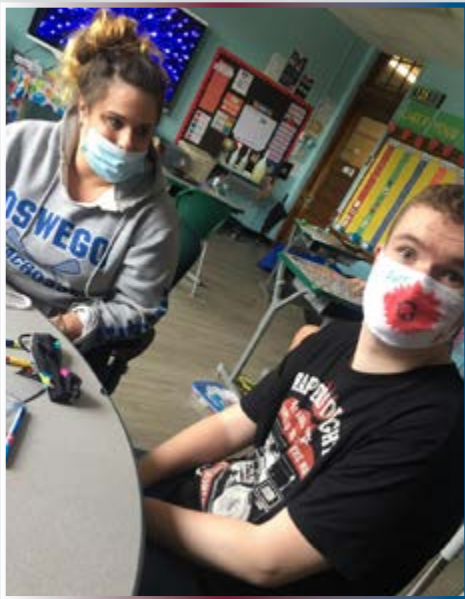
## CiTi Alumni Spotlight

CiTi alum Christopher Blum is a 1980 graduate from the Oswego City School District and the Carpentry program. Blum is currently the Facilities Director for Oswego Health. He said the BOCES program helped him not only learn carpentry skills but lessons in estimating, troubleshooting and problem solving. 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).





## Fourth Street Students Make Homemade Face Masks



## Upcoming Adult Education Courses

Visit [CiTiboces.org/adultofferings](https://CiTiboces.org/adultofferings) to check out upcoming programs and courses offered to adult learners like this Auto Technician program. Don't have a high school diploma? There are options for you, and possible funding or financial aid as well.

**Tuition:** \$1,695

**Program Length:**  
160 hours

**Schedule:**  
M, T, TH,  
approximately 8 weeks,  
AM and PM  
sessions available

**Location:**  
CiTi Campus  
(179 County Rt 64,  
Mexico, NY 13114)

**Start Date:**  
January 11

**CiTi**  
Center for Instruction,  
Technology & Innovation  
Build Your Future

**AUTO TECHNICIAN**



## A New, Temporary Vision, for CiTi's New Vision Programs



The Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation's New Vision programs have new, temporary homes.

Thanks to the continued support from the city of Oswego, Oswego Mayor Billy Barlow and St. Joseph's Church, students enrolled in the New Vision Allied Health and New Vision Specialized Careers programs have instructional classroom spaces embedded in the community where they are doing their rotations. While the programs are typically housed on SUNY Oswego's campus, the temporary meeting space at St. Joseph's Church and the classroom on the third floor of the Oswego Police Department building have been a saving grace to provide in-person instruction for New Vision students.

"I never thought I'd be able to go into the hospital here and do these rotations a few months ago," said Jennifer Gasser, a New Vision Allied Health student from the Central Square School District.

She said she is thankful for the opportunity and new learning space so she can home in on the health-related career she would like to pursue. Classmate Josh Carguello, of the Pulaski Academy & Central School District, echoed that sentiment.

"I was excited to go in general surgery because at first there was uncertainty with what we were able to see," he said.

Having observed two cholecystectomies in the operating room at Oswego Health, Carguello said he also gained knowledge on operating room preparations and staffing, among a list of additional topics.

Instructor Emily Kirch said it's "been incredible" to see the community of Oswego rally around the New Vision students and support their educational goals. She added that it's been nice having the students in-person because she and instructor Dianna Nesbitt both have missed students while school buildings were closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Nesbitt added the New Vision connection to the police department with program graduate and current OPD officer Chelsea Giovo is also nice to show students that their career goals are not too far away from being achieved.

## CiTi Student Uses Hunger for Hands-on Work to Finish OSHA Training Early



Kaden King, a Heavy Equipment Repair & Operation student, is a go-getter.

The junior Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Central School District student has such a love for hands-on work experience that he completed the required 10-hour Occupational Safety and Health Administration required training in just over one day. HERO students were given class time to

study and complete the online training, which was required before any equipment operation could begin. King went

above and beyond to finish the process at home so he could get right to work.

"I've run tractors since I was 6," he said. "This was just so I could go out and work. I am open to learning anything; it's fun."

King has been ecstatic to learn how to operate a backhoe, skid-steer, excavator, bulldozer and payload as part of his Career and Technical Education experience at CiTi. His teacher, Nick Marshall, said he is proud of King for his work ethic and drive. Throughout the next several weeks and beyond, King and his classmates, who now also have finished the OSHA training, will continue to operate the heavy equipment doing various tasks on the back property of CiTi's main campus in Mexico.

## CiTi Welcomes SUNY Oswego Practicum Students



*English teacher Savannah Zohler mentors SUNY Oswego practicum student Erin Vargo who will assist in the English classes for CiTi's Career and Technical Education students through December.*

CiTi recently welcomed the first practicum students from SUNY Oswego to its English classes for Career and Technical Education students. Teachers Savannah Zohler and Rachelle Salmonsens said they are thrilled to guide SUNY Oswego students Erin Vargo and Isabella Dockery as the pair prepares for student teaching experiences next semester.

"It's been extremely helpful," Zohler said. "(Vargo) has been able to teach some lessons and see a little bit of everything. I keep telling her: 'If you can handle teaching during this pandemic, you will be able to do just about anything!'"

Throughout the last several weeks, Vargo said she has observed the classroom and is ecstatic to "be on the other side of the desk." She taught a lesson she created and is happy to gain hands-on classroom experience.

"Every day I come here I am so excited," she said. "We push into any of the CTE programs whose students get English credits. I feel like I'm learning so much because of all the programs I go into."

Both she and Dockery said they are grateful to CiTi for the practicum placement because some SUNY students still await placement and preparation for their student teaching. Dockery also has learned to modify planned activities to keep social distance and health and safety practices in check.

"It's fun; I'm learning a lot," she said. "I've known I wanted to be a teacher my whole life, and I think English is so important."

Salmonsens said having Dockery in the classroom brought her back to her practicum experience, and she has aimed to provide the best learning experience for her. She said she has been impressed with Dockery's enthusiasm and drive for helping students learn.

## Early Childhood Students Create Masks for their Classroom





# National Principals Month

October is National Principals Month, and we at CiTi would like to thank all of our amazing principals for their hard work, dedication and love of students:



**Mike Thurlow**  
CTE  
Principal



**Mallory Douglas**  
Assistant  
CTE  
Principal



**Brian Heffron**  
P-TECH  
Principal



**Antwaun Dixon**  
Alternative/  
Exceptional  
Education  
Principal  
at Mexico  
Campus



**Carol Scaccia**  
Alternative/  
Exceptional  
Education  
Principal  
at Volney  
Elementary



**Gary Brisson**  
Principal at  
Bridges



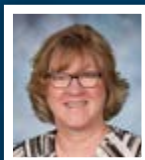
**Erin Simmons**  
Alternative/  
Exceptional  
Education  
Principal  
at Fourth  
Street School



**Guy Linton**  
Alternative/  
Exceptional  
Education  
Principal  
at Fourth  
Street School



**Jennifer Poindexter**  
Alternative/  
Exceptional  
Education  
Principal  
at Pulaski  
Elementary



**Robyn Proud**  
Principal at  
CiTi Lanes



**Bonnie Finnerty**  
Interim  
Alternative/  
Exceptional  
Education  
Principal at  
Central Square  
Middle School

# The SPOTLIGHT

*A publication of the  
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the Center for Instruction,  
Technology & Innovation*

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District Superintendent

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



**PROGRAMS  
OF THE MONTH**

Construction Technology and Nursing Assistant are October's Career and Technical Education programs of the month.

Construction Technology provides students with hands-on carpentry and masonry experience and more.

The Nursing Assistant program prepares students for an career in healthcare as a nursing assistant or a foundation for continued education.

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