

# CiTi THE SPOTLIGHT

WINTER 2022

## CITI EXPANDS CTE OFFERINGS WITH AGRICULTURAL STUDIES AND DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAMS

The Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation (CiTi) will expand its Career and Technical Education (CTE) offerings in the 2022-23 school year with the addition of a Dental Assisting program and Agricultural Studies program to meet students' interests and a county-wide need for employment in these emerging industries.

The CTE Agricultural Studies program—which coincides with Americans' growing interest in farm-to-table dining and buying locally sourced produce and goods—will engage students in exploring sustainable farm-to-table pathways through plant sciences, horticulture, small animals and conservation. Nearly 100 acres of CiTi-owned forest would be used to expand CiTi Farms for various program highlights, like beekeeping, while students collaborate with those enrolled in CTE Heavy Equipment Repair & Operation (HERO), Construction Technology,

Welding Technology, Culinary and Industrial Electrical Technologies programs to complete projects.

CiTi Director of College & Career Education Marla Berlin says Oswego County 10th-graders were overwhelmingly enthusiastic about the Agricultural Studies program when surveyed in December 2021.

"We're hoping what we're already doing, what the students say they'd be interested in and the resources we have on our campus will help us get that program up and running," she said.

CiTi was awarded a grant from Cornell University to purchase a cement mixer and tools to build a shed to store items for the Agricultural Studies program, along with cold frames to protect seeds and plants from freezing weather.

Students in the Dental Assisting program will learn how to work alongside dentists to treat patients. Dental assistants may perform basic patient care, prepare equipment, handle instruments and maintain dental records.

This course will prepare students to take dental X-rays, sterilize instruments and assist with dental procedures. Some topics of study include emergency care, infection control, preventive dentistry, clinical assisting and dental radiology. Students will practice skills in a dental lab set up. Students who successfully complete this program will be prepared to take the licensure exam for dental assistants.

Students interested in these two programs, or any of CiTi's CTE programs, may visit [CiTiboces.org/](http://CiTiboces.org/) CTE for more information and enroll through their home school's guidance counselor.



## VOLNEY ELEMENTARY STUDIES SOLAR SYSTEM

*CiTi students at Volney Elementary learn about the solar system and make mini models after they selected the planets they found the most interesting.*



# CITI CTE WELCOMES OSWEGO COUNTY 10TH GRADERS FOR ORIENTATION DAY



Current CiTi Culinary Arts and Oswego High School student Nia Hernandez-Perez, at left, showcases a technique that is learned in the course to a prospective student, Central Square's Hannah Sparkman. Tenth-grade students from around the county toured CiTi and the CTE programs to check out the various learning spaces and programming options.

CiTi has nearly two dozen Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs in a wide-ranging array of fields that combine rigorous academics, innovative technology and collaborative teaching with work-based learning experiences.

Students attending the 10th-grade orientation were greeted as a group before spending around half an hour with one class of their preference before moving to a second and departing to their home district.

Those who attended Culinary Arts got to explore the lab and help scoop cookie dough to be baked, while students touring the Nursing Assistant program did a scavenger hunt, a geriatric patient simulation and more. Each program showcased its spaces and ensured the students left knowing the skills and tools they would develop during the course.

Tenth-grade students from all nine Oswego County public school districts got to experience student life at the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation's Career and Technical Education programs during an orientation day last week.

Throughout the day, prospective students got a look at the programming, skills taught, learning spaces, instructors and even got hands-on demonstrations as they considered which programs may fit best with their future goals, be they college, employment or military.

"It was a fantastic day," said CiTi CTE Principal Michael Thurlow. "It was awesome we were able to get so many students from all around the county in the doors and display what we have to offer through their school. We hope they choose to come back and learn a number of career and life skills at one or more of our outstanding programs."

CTE offers students the unique opportunity to earn a Regents diploma with an industry-approved credential and prepares learners for an exciting and competitive 21st century career.

For more information on offerings, visit [CiTiboces.org/CTE](http://CiTiboces.org/CTE)

## CITI STUDENTS GIVE BACK, COORDINATE SUCCESSFUL FOOD DRIVE

The Student Senate, National Technical Honor Society and SkillsUSA members organized a Food Drive that ran the month of December. More than 1,000 items were donated to the Mexico Food Pantry over the holidays.





# AIR NATIONAL GUARD, CITI HOLD INAUGURAL 'LADIES DAY!' EVENT TO ANSWER FEMALE STUDENTS' QUESTIONS ABOUT MILITARY CAREERS

Representatives from the Air National Guard recently partnered with the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation to host a first-ever "Ladies Day!" event to answer questions from CiTi's female students about career opportunities in the military.

Staff Sgt. Sarah Pietricola, a recruiter with the Air National Guard's 174th Attack Wing and 2015 graduate of Mexico Academy & Central School District, welcomed dozens of CiTi's female Career & Technical Education (CTE) students for an informal discussion with hot cocoa and refreshments provided.

"It was great to be able to have a nice, sit-down conversation and to answer questions from a female's perspective," she said. "I was really receptive to the idea because my experience, so far, has been mostly with males interested in joining."

The Oswego County native says she always tries to give back as much as she can to CTE students, many of whom may not be aware of the plentiful opportunities offered through the Air National Guard.

"We have careers for nurses, public affairs specialists, chefs, and so many other fields," Pietricola said. "We have jobs people don't think we have that are taught right here at CiTi."

## FOURTH STREET SCHOOL STUDENTS SUPPORT OCO NUTRITIONAL SERVICES MEALS ON WHEELS



*Some of our Fourth Street School students participated in making holiday cards during art class for the OCO Nutritional Services Meals on Wheels Program. Holiday cards were handed out at the OCO Nutritional Services party and delivered with the Meals on Wheels in December.*



*Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Sarah Pietricola joins female CTE students to answer questions about careers in the military.*



**NEW WEBSITE  
FOR THE CENTER  
FOR INSTRUCTION,  
TECHNOLOGY  
& INNOVATION:  
WE WANT YOUR  
FEEDBACK!**

CiTi is embarking on the journey to improve our website and digital presence! Your feedback is invaluable to us. Please take a few minutes to share your perspective on how we can improve our website!

<https://forms.gle/NCN3wdsDNS6pqU7a9>



## 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 2021-2022 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.

The following students were recognized for quarter one: Makayla Schwartz (Central Square, Cosmetology), Noah Waldron (Hannibal, Construction Technology), Marjorie Lagoe (Oswego, Nursing Assistant), Leslie Warner (Oswego, Culinary Arts), Joshua Layton (Hannibal, Automotive Technology), Jace Townsend (Pulaski, Public Safety & Justice), Cameron Waugh (Fulton, Digital Media Technology), Thomas Chmielewski (Mexico, Heavy Equipment Repair & Operation), Nate Brown (Oswego, New Vision Specialized Careers), Emma Lee (Central Square, Nursing Assistant), Taylor Baker (Central Square, Industrial Electrical Technologies), Rose Giberson (Oswego, Early Childhood Education), Nick Bragg (Oswego, Computer Coding) and Aidehn Welling (Fulton, Welding Technology).

## UTICA NATIONAL PRESENTS CITI WITH SAFETY EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Utica National Insurance Group has recognized the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation once again with its 2021 School Safety Excellence Award in recognition of outstanding efforts to create a safer school environment.

The award is indicative of CiTi's diligence and adherence to safety principles prescribed to safety group members. In the Utica National Safety Excellence Award program, schools can earn distinction at varying levels by meeting specific criteria to enhance overall school safety using specific, quantifiable surveys. Among many categories are bully prevention programs, district safety policies and protocols, and more.

Aleisha Hartford, coordinator of Safety and Risk, runs the safety and risk service that CiTi offers to school districts, which provides reviews, recommendations and assistance with district safety policies, including protocols and trainings to help minimize instances of accidents and injury, and to safeguard the educational environment.

CiTi has received this award consecutively for more than a decade.



*From left, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services Michael Sheperd and Safety and Risk Coordinator Aleisha Hartford proudly display CiTi's 2021 school Safety Excellence Award presented by the Utica National Insurance Group.*



# MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG ADULTS ENTERING THE WORKFORCE

Oswego County Workforce New York's (OCWNY) Youth Works program has many opportunities for 16–24-year-olds to gain skills and support their employment success. One of the most popular services they offer young adults is paid work experience, which provides participants with real work experience while receiving guidance from OCWNY staff. OCWNY staff can address needs, issues, and concerns that arise during the work experience to help young adults gain the professional skills needed to retain employment.

The participant is set up as an OCWNY employee and paid by Oswego County; a contract is constructed with the business to outline work expectations and job skills for the participant. The business does not have a monetary obligation to the work experience participant. Participating businesses are asked to supervise participants, teach them how to perform job duties, and help shape them into successful employees. OCWNY is in constant contact with participants and businesses throughout the duration of the contract for continued support.

Paid work experience is an excellent opportunity for businesses that want to give back to the community and can be paired with existing internships. The youth benefit greatly from this service as it allows them to make mistakes and learn from businesses in a controlled environment. Youth gain valuable professional and job skills during this time, which make them more employable.

Another great opportunity for young adults and businesses is Private Sector Paid Work Experience. This service is modeled after OCWNY's On-the-Job Training program, in which OCWNY reimburse businesses up to 100% of wages for new employees during the initial training period. Private Sector Paid Work Experience contracts must be completed prior to the new employee's start date and cannot exceed 13 weeks. Throughout the program, the business submits progress notes, time sheets and paystubs to OCWNY staff for reimbursement submission. Once the training period is completed successfully, the business agrees to retain the employee. This is a great opportunity for businesses to offset the onboarding costs of new employees.

The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) employs Oswego County youth between the ages of 14–24 for six to eight weeks each summer. This program gives local youth the opportunity to gain valuable employment skills while receiving support from OCWNY staff. Youth are placed at a variety of worksites throughout Oswego County based on their interests and transportation situations. Businesses interested in participating in SYEP complete a worksite proposal prior to the program start and receive placements based on youth availability. The youth are paid by Oswego County, so there is no cost to the business. This program allows the business to gain an employee(s) for the summer and can shape tomorrow's future.



## Oswego County Workforce New York

Phone: (315) 591-9000

Email: [ocwny@oswegocounty.com](mailto:ocwny@oswegocounty.com)

## The Career Center at 200 North Second Street Fulton, NY 13069

Monday – Friday 8:30 – 4:30 p.m.

For more information, visit us at:

[www.ocwny.org](http://www.ocwny.org)

[oswegocountyyouthworks](https://www.facebook.com/oswegocountyyouthworks)

[oswegocountyworkforcenewyork](https://www.facebook.com/oswegocountyworkforcenewyork)

[oswego-county-workforce-new-york](https://www.linkedin.com/company/oswego-county-workforce-new-york)

[@OswCoWNY](https://twitter.com/OswCoWNY)

## CITI CELEBRATES CTE MONTH



CELEBRATE TODAY  
OWN TOMORROW!

Career and Technical Education Month®, or CTE Month®, is a public awareness campaign that takes place each February to celebrate the value of CTE and the achievements and

accomplishments of CTE programs across the country. Check out CiTi on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for individual student success stories posted throughout the month of February.



## KRISTINA METCALF ALUMNI STORY

SmartStyle Hair Salon Manager Kristina Metcalf is a 2013 graduate of Sandy Creek Central School and the CTE Cosmetology program. During her childhood, Kristina spent time at her grandma's Pulaski salon, Barb's Hair Studio, and with her aunt who is also a stylist.

"I kind of grew up around it and took a fascination to it," she said.

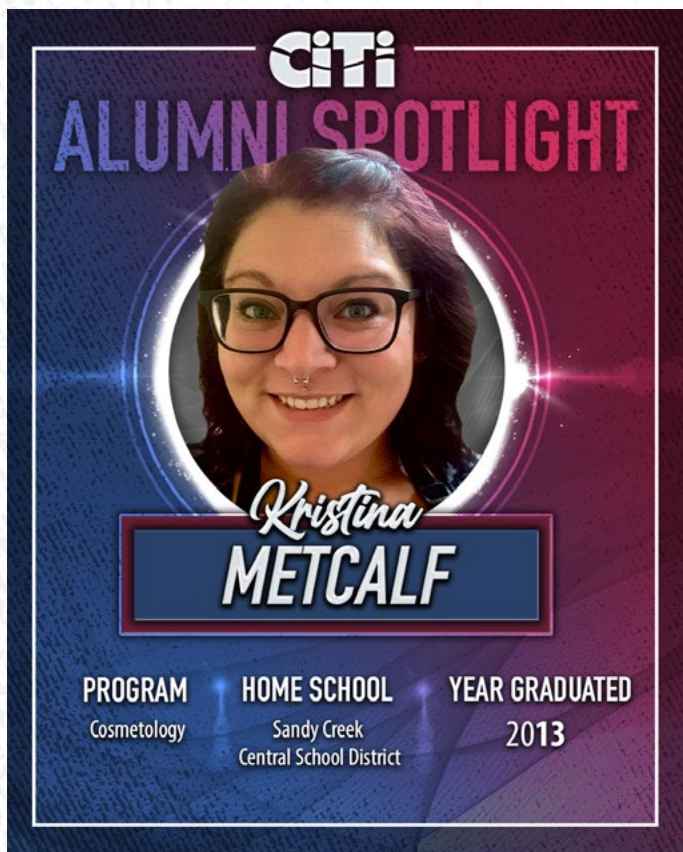
During her time at CiTi, Kristina was particularly inspired by Cosmetology Instructor Ines Rovito who left an impression on her and the way she approaches each customer's style and how she manages her businesses today.

"(Ines) always took an interest in what we were doing and wasn't just about 'Do it this way and be done,'" Kristina said. "She was personable, easy to get along with, and she wanted you to understand why you're doing what it is you're doing."

Following graduation from CiTi, Kristina worked at her grandmother's salon for a couple years before taking on the role as manager of two SmartStyle salons in the Watertown area where she currently works.

Kristina says careers in hairstyling are in growing demand and encourages current high school students interested in the trade to take advantage of a debt-free start to a lifelong career.

"I enjoyed not having any loans and being able to literally walk out of high school with a career," she said.



## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PARTNERS WITH PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE ON CPR EDUCATION



*Two classes in Career and Technical Education recently partnered up to learn CPR collaboratively, Early Childhood Education and Public Safety and Justice.*

## CITI OVERCOMES BARRIERS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

When state regulations regarding the coronavirus pandemic changed once again, CiTi staff members stepped up to overcome barriers to student learning. Working with the Onondaga County Health Department and the Mexico Academy & Central School District transportation department, New Vision students, Oswego County P-TECH students and CTE Nursing Assistant students were transported to the NYS Fairgrounds for the opportunity to receive COVID-19 booster vaccinations. The quick action allowed for no gaps in student programming and educational learning experiences for the students, who participate in collegiate learning through SUNY Oswego (New Vision) and Onondaga Community College (P-TECH) as well as rotation career shadowing experiences at local health centers (CTE Nursing Assistant and New Vision Allied Health.)



# ***REGISTER NOW!***

# ***CAREER***

# ***FAIR*** ***FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2022***



**REGISTER ONLINE AT [CITIBOCES.ORG/CAREERFAIR](https://citiboces.org/careerfair) OR EMAIL [CAREERCENTER@CITIBOCES.ORG](mailto:careercenter@citiboces.org)**

## **WHEN:**

Friday, April 29, 2022  
from 9:00-1:30

## **WHERE:**

CiTi Main Campus  
179 County Route 64  
Mexico, NY 13114

## **WHO:**

Career & Technical  
Education, P-TECH, and  
Adult Education students

*Meet Adult Ed., Career & Technical Ed. and P-TECH students seeking internships or employment.*





## CAREER AND TECHNICAL COLLABORATION AT CITI YIELDS TO FARM-TO-TABLE LEARNING EXPERIENCE



The Project Explore, CTE Advantage and various Career and Technical Education programs at the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation are collaborating on a farm-to-table learning experience for students.

Deaton's Agway, local to Pulaski, recently donated seeds to Project Explore and CTE Advantage students, who organized and distributed some of them to local non-for-profits, but also planted some of them in their class greenhouse.

When the produce is ready for harvesting, the class will work with the Culinary Arts program to develop recipes using the ingredients for a full farm-to-table experience.

And the collaboration between programs doesn't end there — Welding Technology did the framework for the wagon; Heavy Equipment Repair & Operation will help plow and prep the field in the spring and still Construction Technology built the class' storage shed.

"It's a great experience for the students," said Instructor Carolyn Deary-Petrocci. "They are learning about different species of seeds and how much agriculture has changed the trades."

## ADULT HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM



*All High School Equivalency (HSE) classes will prepare students for the New York State General Equivalency diploma exam.*

### How to Enroll:

Contact the CiTi Lifelong Learning Center at

**315.593.9400**



Or use the QR code to request a phone call!



## CTE STUDENTS PREPARE FOR SkillsUSA

*Career and Technical Education students are preparing for the upcoming Area II Regional SkillsUSA competition, to be held at SUNY Morrisville on Feb. 11. High School students from across the state will compete in different contests in hopes of being selected for the State SkillsUSA competition.*

*Pictured, Thomas from Mexico Academy and Central School District practices a demonstration in Heavy Equipment Repair & Operation.*