



# JAGUAR NATION

FEBRUARY 2020 • VOLUME 9, No. 5

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

## SCVTHS WELCOMES NEW INTERIM PRINCIPAL

### PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

As I enter my tenure as Interim Principal, I am encouraged by the outpouring of support by the SCVTS community and look forward to a positive 2020!

Several of the objectives I am currently working on include: communication with the school community, improving attendance, filling vacancies with quality candidates and supporting students, parents, faculty and staff.

Please be sure to attend our annual Open House on Saturday, February 1st. We will have tours, demonstrations and you will be able to meet with teachers and staff members. I will also be available to answer questions. We hope to see you there!

Reminder: Mid-winter recess is February 13-17 (School Closed)

Sincerely,  
Hector Montes

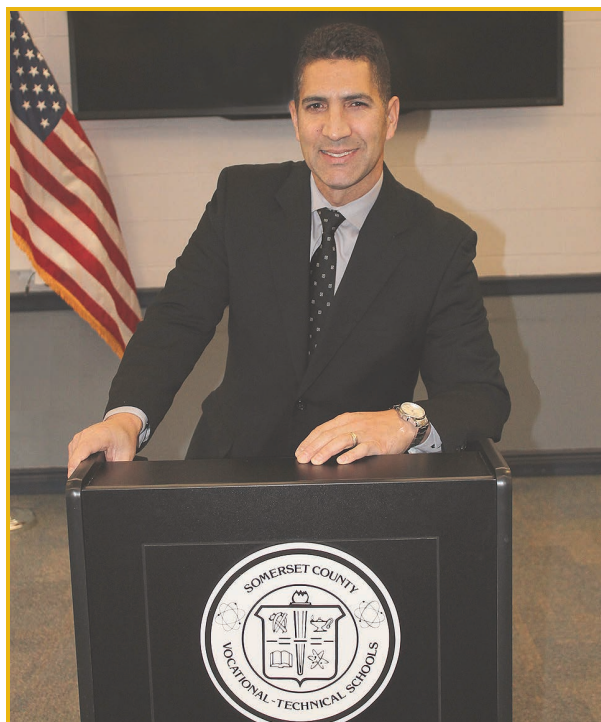


On January 1st, Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School welcomed Hector Montes as new Interim Principal. Montes brings with him 17 years of administrative experience from different levels and systems of education.

Montes previously spent five years at Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools' Woodbridge Campus, where he assisted in the transition of their Academy for Allied Health and Biomedical Sciences. With this experience, Montes believes vocational and technical schools offer students options. "They allow students to either go into a career and/or pursue higher education after high school, the best of both worlds."

In 2017, when Mr. Montes was Principal at the New Roberto Clemente Middle School in Paterson, he was presented the Middle Level Administrator of the Year Award by the New Jersey Association for Middle Level Education. Mr. Montes was selected for this award for his effective leadership exemplifying the tenets of middle level education, creating a positive school climate and culture, and inspiring students and staff. According to the New Jersey Association for Middle Level Education, "This award serves to honor distinction in performance, skill in practice, and passion in participation. In honoring Middle Level Administrators of Excellence, we heighten knowledge of best leadership practices and recognize the value of individual achievement."

Montes added, "My passion for helping youth and teachers succeed has always been at the forefront. I try to think like a teacher, anticipating the resources they need and the



Hector Montes, the new Interim Principal at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School

challenges they may face. Collaboratively, we will work on solutions to problems, achieving success for all."✱

For more information on this story contact James Strickhart at (908) 526-8900, ext. 7169 or [jstrickhart@scvts.net](mailto:jstrickhart@scvts.net).



SCVTHS  
OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 1, 2020  
9am to Noon

SCVTHS DANCE DAY

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 7, 2020  
Noon to 2:30 pm





# JAGUAR NATION

FEBRUARY 2020

## JAGUAR NATION

Volume 9, No. 5 • February 2020

Duane Wallace • *Editor & Designer*  
James Strickhart • *Editorial*  
Sharleen Leahy • *Graphic Production*  
Joseph Alfieri • *Printing*  
Janet Cantore-Watson • *Photography*

## SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

14 Vogt Drive • P.O. Box 6350 • Bridgewater, NJ 08807

A US News & World Report Top Ranked High School!

### VOCATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

William G. Hyncik, Jr., President  
Gregory Lavee, Vice President  
Richard St. Pierre Nadine Wilkins  
Roger A. Jinks, Executive County Superintendent  
Melonie Marano, Freeholder Liaison

### ADMINISTRATION

Chrys Harttraft, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Raelene Sipple, School Business Administrator / Board Secretary  
Hector Montes, Interim Principal  
Maria Johnson, Director of Special Services



This publication was funded by the  
Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

New Jersey School  
**NJSPRA**  
Public Relations Association  
First Place Winner - Newsletter Category

## SCVTHS STUDENTS HOST PANEL OF MEDICAL DOCTORS FOR INTERESTED STUDENTS

As part of their American Spirit SkillsUSA project, Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School Academy for Health & Medical Sciences freshman Aarush Kumar of Hillsborough, Milan Patel of Franklin Park and Jiya Mody of Martinsville coordinated a panel discussion with a variety of medical doctors for students interested in pursuing careers in medical fields.

Attending the panel were a family physician, a cardiologist and doctors practicing hospital medicine. The panel discussion allowed for students from the SCVTHS Academy for Health & Medical Sciences and Health Occupations classes to ask questions and hear about their experiences. The doctors spoke of what drew each of them to the field, why they chose to pursue a career in medicine, how new technology affects their jobs, as well as other life choices and hardships they have experienced. Additionally, each of the doctors spoke of their individual passion as being the main driver in what made them decide to pursue their medical careers.



(back l-r) Dr. John Bucek, Dr. Vipul Mody, Dr. Anju Rustagi, Dr. Sharan Mahal;  
(front l-r) SCVTHS freshman Aarush Kumar of Hillsborough, Jiya Mody of Martinsville and Milan Patel of Franklin Park pose for a photo after the panel discussion.

The career exploration event was well received by all of the students, as this unique opportunity allowed them to gain personal insights from practicing doctors, which they would have otherwise not experienced.\*

For more information on this story contact  
James Strickhart at (908) 526-8900, ext. 7169  
or [jstrickhart@scvts.net](mailto:jstrickhart@scvts.net).

## PARTHAVI PATEL NAMED SCVTHS STUDENT OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY 2020

Parthavi Patel, a sophomore in the Agricultural Science Program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's (SCVTHS) Student of the Month for January 2020. Parthavi is the daughter of Vinod and Snehal Patel of South Bound Brook.

SCVTHS Agricultural Science Instructor Erik Fargo nominated Parthavi for the Student of the Month award because, "Parthavi is an outstanding student. She puts in an exemplary effort for all her class assignments, is always positive, focused, on task, as well as supportive and kind to her classmates. Parthavi is a self-motivated learner who studies outside of class and reads on her own time. I think Parthavi is deserving of this recognition because she has demonstrated all of the above consistently for the last year.

At SCVTHS, Parthavi is a member of the girls' soccer team and a cheerleader. Additionally, Parthavi serves as a Student Ambassador, a member of the Yearbook Club, a FFA Chapter Officer and the SCVTHS SkillsUSA CTE Ambassador. She has also been previously named a Stellar Student and has been named to the Principal's Honor Roll.

Outside of school, Parthavi enjoys spending time with her family, especially her twin sister. Thinking beyond high school, Parthavi would like to further her education at a four-year college to pursue a career in food science, psychology or social work.\*



Parthavi Patel