



JAGUAR NATION

NOVEMBER 2018 • VOLUME 8, No.1

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCVTHS STUDENTS NAMED SEMIFINALISTS AND COMMENDED STUDENTS IN 2019 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

This month, schools across New Jersey turn their focus to RESPECT and what it means to us as individuals.

Respect goes hand-in-hand with a person's character. The six pillars of Character Education are: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship.

Our school strives to give students a unique and well-rounded educational experience. In addition to career and academic studies, we promote the importance of character education and teach students about the benefits of being life-long learners. Studies show that developing one's character is an important aspect to achieving a healthy, happy and productive life.

As a community, we need to continue to encourage each other to do our best in all facets of our lives so as to enhance education, personal growth and true connections to one another.

CHARACTER COUNTS!

Sincerely,
Diane M. Ziegler



(left to right): Aromal Suresh of Bridgewater and Janum Shah of Belle Mead, Semifinalists in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program

Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School students Janum Shah of Belle Mead and Aromal Suresh of Bridgewater have been named Semifinalists in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program. Approximately 16,000 Semifinalists were named in the 64th annual Program. The two academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million that will be offered next Spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship® award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to their finalist standing. About half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholarship® title.

In addition to the Semifinalists, the National Merit Scholarship Program named Molly Foster of Flemington, Mahima Gurushankar of Bridgewater, Robert Kramer of Branchburg and Sonia Purohit of Branchburg as Commended Students. A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the Program, will be presented by the principal to these scholastically talented seniors.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by approximately 410 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.*

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

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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NOVEMBER 2018

SCVTHS HOLDS ANNUAL WEEK OF RESPECT AND ANTI-VIOLENCE EVENTS

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Duane Wallace • Editor & Designer

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First Place Winner - Newsletter Category

As part of the annual Week of Respect (October 1-5 in 2018) and in accordance to the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (P.L.2010, c.122), SCVTHS welcomed motivational speaker Nick Tokman of Discovery Channel's "Deadliest Catch." Mr. Tokman spoke of dealing with negative influences, peer pressure, overcoming adversity and leveraging failure for success.

Building on the success of last year's Week of Respect, the Friends of Rachel Club members continued projects which aim to "foster a permanent culture of kindness and compassion" within the school. The Friends of Rachel Club was created in memory of Rachel Joy Scott, who was the first person killed in the Columbine High School shooting on April 20, 1999.

Additionally, the Linkages Department (funded by the NJ Department of Children and Families) at SCVTHS held events during all lunch periods on October 19th to mark National School Violence Awareness Week. Students were encouraged to visit the Linkages literature table for information on violence prevention, peer mediation, coping skills and friendship building. Students were also able to submit drawings and ideas for school approval to paint additional bricks on the school's "Wall of Peace."

As part of a yearly presentation, students in Ms. Deb Gichen's Photography classes created black and white anti-HIB (harassment, intimidation, and bullying)



(l-r): SCVTHS students and Friends of Rachel club members Grace Coulbourne of Branchburg, Phoebe Chen of Hillsborough, SCVTHS SAC/Mental Health Counselor Donna Lenox, SCVTHS students Shianti Frazier of N. Plainfield and Maria Scarpantonio of Manville pose during Linkages Department event.

posters which were put on display in the main lobby of the school during the Week of Respect.

Finally, student artwork from the school's "Wall of Peace" and anti-bullying posters created in Ms. Gichen's classes were converted into digital slideshows and projected onto the school's monitors for all to view.❀

For more information, contact James Strickhart at jstrickhart@scvts.net or (908) 526-8900, x7169.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Nicole Gaeta

Nicole Gaeta, a sophomore in the Cosmetology Program has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Student of the Month for October 2018. Nicole is the daughter of Anthony and Susan Gaeta of Hillsborough.

SCVTHS Spanish Instructor Guillermo Reina nominated Nicole for the Student of the Month award because, "Nicole is just an amazing student. She has this proactive behavior and does much more than what is expected of her." Mr. Reina went on to add, "Her punctuality is excellent and I am very impressed by her organizational and study skills demonstrated by the quality and system she uses in note taking for every lesson."

Nicole has previously earned a place on the Principal's Honor Roll and was named a Stellar Student in Cosmetology. In addition to her academic awards, The Arts Council of Princeton published her painting entitled "The Bronze Bell" in their annual spring anthology aMuse.

Outside of SCVTHS, Nicole plans to begin an apprenticeship at Gaetano's Hair Salon in Raritan in June of 2019. In her free time, Nicole enjoys spending time with family, visiting New York City, frequenting museums, attending plays and vacationing in Florida.

After graduating SCVTHS, Nicole plans to attend Raritan Valley Community College, continuing to learn about hair design, earning a Master of Business Administration degree and opening her own salon.

Nicole is appreciative of the Student of the Month honor adding, "I would like to thank all my teachers who have given me the support and tools to make my future plans a reality."❀



Nicole Gaeta