



JAGUAR NATION

JULY 2019 • VOLUME 8, No. 9

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Congratulations Class of 2019!

One hundred and eighty-eight students received their diplomas in eighteen different vocational programs ranging from Automotive Technology to the Performing Arts. The ceremony was held on Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Auditorium of Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School located at 14 Vogt Drive in Bridgewater.

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

We come to the end of another school year and what a busy and successful year it has been! Our students have grown and learned a lot this year and are ready for a little down time.

Summer is a time to recharge lives, not smart phones and video game batteries. It is a time to slow down and take stock of one's surroundings. It is a time to catch up on reading, traveling via the printed word to the outer limits of one's imagination.

I want to extend a special thanks to our PTO, who, as usual, went above and beyond the call of duty to provide whatever was necessary to add to our students' already rich school experience.

A final word to SCVTHS students: Thank you for all your hard work throughout the school year. I am so honored to be your principal.

Best wishes to our graduating seniors, whom I will miss greatly. Please come back and visit and let us know how you're doing. Everyone will have a safe and happy summer break.

Until next school year, here's wishing you love, laughter and learning.

Respectfully,
Diane Ziegler



The following listing of graduates omits the students who have either not completed a media release form or wished to not be included.

Mathew Abraham Hillsborough Academy	Kimberly Chauca Raritan Health Occupations	Brian Fullagar Basking Ridge Carpentry	Jordan Jackson** Bridgewater Dance	Daniella Matarazzo Hillsborough Cosmetology	Samantha Regimbal** Branchburg Dance	Geremiah Styles Somerset Graphic Communications
Spencer Acciarito† Warren Theater Arts	Phoebe Chen* Hillsborough Theater Arts	N'Keya Gager South Bound Brook Health Occupations	Jayden Johnson† Hillsborough Agricultural Science	Stephanie Melgar Somerset Law & Public Safety	Declan Reilly Bridgewater Graphic Communications	Gabriella Su* Bridgewater Mechatronics
Sarah Adams Bridgewater Health Occupations	Chestina Cosentino Bridgewater Graphic Communications	Isaiah Gely Somerset Graphic Communications	Tamara Jones Branchburg Graphic Communications	Malachi Melli Bridgewater Mechatronics	Melissa Reyes-Martinez Bound Brook Cosmetology	Evelyn Sullivan* Raritan Academy
Massimo Allegro Bridgewater Integrated Technology	Gavin Costello* North Plainfield Welding	Matthew Gentile Gillette Plumbing	Kamari Kelton† Somerset Cosmetology	Nicholas Merola Branchburg Carpentry	Melissa Rivera-Hernandez South Bound Brook Health Occupations	Aromal Suresh* Bridgewater Academy
Jaden Almodovar-Morrow rinceton Graphic Communications	Christopher Crapanzano Basking Ridge Plumbing	Eric Gersick Bound Brook Electrical Construction	Omar Khasawneh* Somerset Academy	Amethyst Milochik† South Bound Brook Health Occupations	Daniel Rolon Neshanic Station Electrical Construction	Tawe Tawe Hillsborough Academy
Elizabeth Alpizar Raritan Cosmetology	Karnav Dalal* Somerset Academy	Elisa Gislao Branchburg Graphic Communications	Jakub Kosik Branchburg Welding	Jacob Mingledolph† Somerset Culinary Arts	Carolyn Romero Bound Brook Health Occupations	Jasmine Tebbi* Hillsborough Academy
Kyle Amerman Bridgewater Academy	Qualea Davis Somerset Cosmetology	Erica Giurlando** Bridgewater Dance	Robert Kramer* Branchburg Academy	Justin Mollo Washington Plumbing	Brianna Roper Bridgewater Auto Body	Sage Thomas Peapack Graphic Communications
Arleen Arias Bound Brook Graphic Communications	Tara Davis Bridgewater Graphic Communications	Stephanie Gollop Bound Brook Cosmetology	Ryan Krushinski Somerset Auto/Diesel Technologies	Taliyah Moseley† Hillsborough Cosmetology	Annika Rossi Somerville Graphic Communications	Bohdan Tokar Manville Integrated Technology
Kenton Asea† Martinsville Electrical Construction	Alexander Dayton North Plainfield Auto/Diesel Technologies	Stephanie Gomez-Vanegas Bridgewater Culinary Arts	Ritika Kumar Hillsborough Law & Public Safety	Ishmael Murillo Bound Brook Electrical Construction	Alexus Rothschild Bridgewater Graphic Communications	Victoria Tosi Hillsborough Theater Arts
Richard Baginski† Branchburg Electrical Construction	Dylan D'Costa* Warren Academy	Jacquelyn Goytia Hillsborough Cosmetology	Haley Labraccio Hillsborough Auto Body	Jake Newman Somerville Culinary Arts	Max Rothschild* North Branch Academy	Zachary VanCleaf Hillsborough Welding
Kirstein Balao† Bound Brook Health Occupations	Ian Miguel De Los Reyes Bridgewater Integrated Technology	Mahima Gurushankar* Bridgewater Academy	Emily La Polla Bridgewater Electrical Construction	Alexander Norgalis Branchburg Culinary Arts	Brenden Ryan Bridgewater Electrical Construction	Nicole VanderWal† Hillsborough Health Occupations
John Barker Branchburg Auto Body	Anchal Dhir Warren Theater Arts	Ky'hire Harris Somerset Carpentry	Brittany LaFace*† Warren Health Occupations	Jessica Olivera-Hernandez Bound Brook Health Occupations	Michaela Ryan Branchburg Dance	Christopher Vargas Manville Carpentry
Mary Belford Branchburg Cosmetology	John Dolan Hillsborough Plumbing	Morgan Heacock† Bridgewater Culinary Arts	Allison LaMont Branchburg Theater Arts	Osvin Osorio Raritan Plumbing	Jeremy Salvato† Branchburg Electrical Construction	Laura Villagra Bridgewater Cosmetology
Ella Benson Bound Brook Culinary Arts	Nicholas Donnadio Hillsborough Auto Body	Kenneth Hecht Raritan Plumbing	Vyonce Lawson* North Brunswick Academy	Victoria Pantagis** Green Brook Dance	Evan Sapirman* Hillsborough Academy	Ajshe Vucetaj Raritan Graphic Communications
Gillian Berko Bridgewater Cosmetology	Jacob DuMont† Branchburg Electrical Construction	Michael Heller Bridgewater Graphic Communications	Bradley Livecchi Bridgewater Plumbing	Carly Parauda** Hillsborough Dance	Mesara Scarpellino South Bound Brook Graphic Communications	Sarah Weber† Bridgewater Health Occupations
Christian Bogado Hillsborough Carpentry	Kaitlyn Eberhardt† Bridgewater Agricultural Science	Evelyn Hernandez-Jimenez Bound Brook Integrated Technology	Jacqueline Lockhart Somerville Cosmetology	Janki Patel* Franklin Park Academy	Jillian Scott Branchburg Health Occupations	Emily Weigand Branchburg Cosmetology
Jeustin Bonilla-Barrantes Manville Culinary Arts	Ashley Ellis Manville Graphic Communications	Jeffery Hill Raritan Welding	Drew Lotter† Bridgewater Theater Arts	Mukta Patwari* Bridgewater Academy	Axel Segura-Mendez† Bound Brook Electrical Construction	Anthony Wesner South Bound Brook Auto/Diesel Technologies
Brianna Bowly** Phillipsburg Dance	Madison Eurick Branchburg Culinary Arts	Laila Hill-Glover Raritan Graphic Communications	Gilliana Loyola* Green Brook Academy	Ashley Pelaez Bound Brook Health Occupations	Grace Sellinger** Basking Ridge Dance	Allison Willoughby Branchburg Cosmetology
Jennifer Brady Bound Brook Theater Arts	Elrad Exil Somerville Law & Public Safety	Jenna Hope† Martinsville Theater Arts	Stephanie Machado South Bound Brook Health Occupations	Melodee Petrushka** Somerville Dance	Janum Shah* Belle Mead Academy	Hannah Winters** Hillsborough Dance
Jacqueline Brilliant† Hillsborough Culinary Arts	Brigitte Flores† North Plainfield Health Occupations	Hunter Horton Neshanic Station Electrical Construction	Alyson Maher Hillsborough Graphic Communications	Alexis Pitti Hillsborough Law & Public Safety	Nicholas Shimsky Somerville Auto/Diesel Technologies	Sarah Yagual† Bound Brook Health Occupations
Michael Caldarella Bridgewater Auto Body	Gino Florio Stirling Electrical Construction	Amiyah Howard Somerset Cosmetology	Kristina Mangino Manville TOPS	Abigail Podgejko*† Raritan Agricultural Science	Sadie Smith Millington Culinary Arts	Bhavya Yalamanchili† Bridgewater Health Occupations
Kaylyn Castro Bridgewater Cosmetology	Erin Ford** Bridgewater Dance	Andrew Idak Warren Academy	Mona Marhaba* Bridgewater Academy	Tiffany Powser Bridgewater Health Occupations	Samantha Soldan Gillette Culinary Arts	Paige Zaborowski† Bridgewater Cosmetology
Sarah Castro Raritan Health Occupations	Molly Foster* Flemington Academy	Francesca Infante-Meehan† Gillette Theater Arts	Nicola Marotto† Bridgewater Cosmetology	John Puluka Somerville Dance	Islam Soliman Somerset Academy	
Peter Cataldi Branchburg Auto Body	Chance Friedman† Basking Ridge Theater Arts	Justyna Jachimska† Bedminster Health Occupations	Dayanara Martinez* Bound Brook Academy	Sonia Purohit* Branchburg Academy	Aamon Sparrow Somerset Graphic Communications	

† Member National Technical Honor Society
* Member National Honor Society
** Member National Honor Society for Dance Arts



JAGUAR NATION

JULY 2019

SCVTHS SENIOR SELECTED AS 2019 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR

JAGUAR NATION

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Sharleen Leahey • *Graphic Production*
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This publication was funded by the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Sonia Purohit of Branchburg, a senior in the Academy for Health and Medical Sciences at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School, has been selected as a 2019 U.S. Presidential Scholar. Sonia has been invited with the other scholars to the National Recognition Program (NRP) in Washington, D.C. in June.

Sonia spoke of being selected as a 2019 U.S. Presidential Scholar stating, "Although this award might be in my name, it certainly would not have been possible if not for the amazing support I received from my family, teachers, and my guidance counselor, Ms. Lawler, throughout high school. I am extremely honored to have been chosen, and I can't wait to meet the other scholars and hear their stories in a few weeks."

According to the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program website, "Each year, up to 161 students are named as Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by executive order of the President, to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. To view a



Sonia Purohit

complete list of the 2019 Scholars, please visit the website: <http://www.ed.gov/psp>."

This fall, Sonia will attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where she will continue her studies in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields.✳

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

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Abigail Podejko

Abigail Podejko, a senior in the Agricultural Science Program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Student of the Month for June 2019. Abigail is the daughter of Jennifer and Bryan Podejko of Raritan.

SCVTHS Agricultural Science Instructor Erik Fargo nominated Abigail for the Student of the Month award stating, "Abby has set the bar very high in this high school Agricultural Science Program for leadership, dedication, responsibility, work ethic, effort, and maturity. She leads by example with a positive attitude even if things aren't easy." Mr. Fargo went on to add, "Abigail actively participates and leads in class. You can always depend on Abby for following through, meeting deadlines, communicating to her peers the importance of matters and catching things that should be done if forgotten. She does all of this in an embracing nature. She also demonstrates a sense of urgency and communicating what is needed from her peers to reach the goal. She is focused in class and pushes herself and class partners to be productive and thorough. Abby is the model student. I expect that she will grow greatly in the post-secondary atmosphere and bring great things to the institution she selects. It is difficult to demonstrate all that Abby has done for herself as well as for this high school and the Agricultural Science Program. I am hopeful that my words reflect what a true honor it is to have such a wonderful student."

At SCVTHS, Abigail is a student ambassador, member of the National Honor Society, served as president and secretary for the

National Technical Honor Society, and served as president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer of the SCVTHS FFA chapter. During her time in the Agricultural Science Program, she has attained three honorary FFA degrees (Greenhand, Chapter and New Jersey State) for her effort and work. Furthermore, Abigail is the 2019 Career and Technical Education Valedictorian.

Outside of school, Abigail works at Wegmans cheese and deli departments. Additionally, she will soon be working the summer Twilight Program as Ms. Gichan's assistant.

In her free time, Abigail likes to spend lots of time with her friends and continues to pack her schedule with drawing and taking "advantage of all opportunities that arise."

After graduating from SCVTHS, Abigail plans on attending the County College of Morris to obtain an associate's degree in Agribusiness. She then plans to go onto a four-year college to study plant biology and sustainable agriculture.

Abigail reflected on the award and her time at SCVTHS saying, "Being that it is my last year, I would like to recommend students to attend SCVTHS. The staff, teachers and community will support you and encourage you to strive. Without Mr. Fargo, my Ag Science advisor, I would not know what brings me passion. I would like to thank him for never losing hope in me and always greeting me with a smile. I feel like the daughter he doesn't have."✳

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



Abigail Podejko