



JAGUAR NATION

MARCH 2020 • VOLUME 9, No. 6

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

ERIK FARGO SELECTED AS SCVTHS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

Recently, we completed the second marking level, signifying that we are midway through the school year. It is my hope that students assess their academic standing and attendance at this point to ensure a successful school year. If assistance is needed, we have dedicated tutors and counselors available to offer assistance.

In March, we look forward to continuing to increase student achievement and preparing our students at SCVTS to be college and career ready. Much of the talent will be on display during the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on March 12th, at the NJ SkillsUSA Competitions on March 28th and our Spring Dance Concert on March 27th and March 28th. In addition, our Boys and Girls Basketball teams will be competing in the County and in State Tournaments. I wish all our students the best of luck!

Please feel free to contact me at hmontes@scvts.net or 908-526-8900, ext. 7234

Sincerely,
Hector Montes



Erik Fargo, Agricultural Science instructor at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School, has been selected as the 2019-2020 Educator of the Year. Mr. Fargo is known for being a dedicated, driven, hard-working and compassionate instructor.

When the administrative team led by Superintendent Chrys Harttraft and Interim Principal Hector Montes walked into Mr. Fargo's classroom to announce the award, Mr. Fargo admitted he was, "confused, stunned and surprised to see so many smiling faces."

When asked about his favorite part of the job, Mr. Fargo explained that he "enjoys most working with the students. Seeing the students excited, motivated to do more and realizing the power they have; that's the fun part of the job."

Mr. Fargo attributed his success to the support he receives from administration, his advisory committee and his family. Fargo added that his drive and motivation feeds off of the students' energy and pushes him to do more.

Reflecting on his decision to enter education, Mr. Fargo can remember a few instances where others thought he'd be a perfect fit for the classroom. The first instance he can remember is a conversation he had with his grandfather, who suggested he should become a teacher like his great grandmother. Additionally, Fargo credits a college instructor and a colleague who were influential in pushing him onto this career path.

"It has truly been a blessing to work with all the administrators, colleagues, and students throughout my career," said Fargo. "I am very thankful for this recognition."

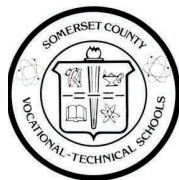
Mr. Fargo is a resident of Bridgewater, where he resides with his wife Sharon and his two sons Kevin and Drew. In his spare time, Mr. Fargo enjoys exercising, especially biking, and spending



Erik Fargo the 2019-2020 Educator of the Year at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School

time with his family. Currently, Mr. Fargo is preparing himself to participate in a triathlon in the not so distant future.*

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





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SCVTHS NAMES NJ STARS AND NJ STARS II ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

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Volume 9, No. 6 • March 2020

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This publication was funded by the
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New Jersey School
NJSPRA
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First Place Winner - Newsletter Category

Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School has announced the students eligible for the New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) and NJ STARS II Program.

The NJ STARS Program, created by the State of New Jersey, provides New Jersey's highest achieving students with free tuition to their home county college. The award "covers the cost of tuition, less any State and/or Federal grants and scholarships, for up to five semesters and covers up to 18 credit hours per semester. Funding for NJ STARS awards is dependent upon annual State appropriations."

The following seven full-time SCVTHS seniors are NJ STARS eligible for the 2019-20 School Year: Yatzeidy Gonzalez (Franklin Park), Anabella Jaime (Manville), Mark Yagual (Bound Brook), Jayda Upton, (Watchung), Brian Coletta (Green Brook), Madison Pitts (South Bound Brook), and Maria Scarpantonio (Manville).

The NJ STARS II provides successful NJ STARS students at NJ county colleges with funding to transfer to a New Jersey four-year college/university to earn a bachelor's degree."

The following 9 full-time SCVTHS seniors were informed that they were NJ STARS II eligible for the



Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's NJ STARS eligible students (back l-r) Yatzeidy Gonzalez (Franklin Park), Brian Coletta (Green Brook), and Mark Yagual (Bound Brook); (front l-r) Madison Pitts (South Bound Brook), Maria Scarpantonio (Manville), Anabella Jaime (Manville) and Jayda Upton (Watchung).

2019-20 School Year: Mira Amin (Bridgewater), Shrey Deshmukh (Hillsborough), Elizabeth Gershater (Bridgewater), Abiram Gangavaram (Watchung), Ruyhak Gupta (Flemington), Adarsh Mavathaveedu (Flemington), Rohan Patel (Somerset), Milan Patel (Hillsborough), and Mayaank Pillai (Hillsborough).*

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

CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ NAMED SCVTHS STUDENT OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY 2020

Christian Martinez, a junior in the Auto Body Program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Student of the Month for February 2020. Christian is the son of Cristobal and Martha Martinez of Bound Brook.

Mathematics Instructor Michele Krause, one of three instructors to nominate Christian, stated, "Christian is a caring and positive member of our school, always trying to make SCVTHS a better place." English Instructor Brittany McGarry added, "Christian helped me create the new Recycling Program and is an absolute rock star attempting to lift this program off the ground." Finally, Theater Arts Instructor Alison Mingle said, "I would love to see Christian acknowledged for the difference he made in our school community."

At SCVTHS, Christian is a founding member of the Student Association for Environmental Awareness (SAFE-A) Club, a student representative for the district's Green Team, a member of the SCVTHS Rotary Club, the Junior Class President, a student ambassador and a member of the SCVTHS Varsity Soccer Team. At his sending district in Bound Brook, Christian is a captain for their varsity cross country team.

Outside of school, Christian works for Archival Marketing Agency and also at Shoprite as a cashier. In his free time, Christian enjoys playing the piano, working out and volunteering at the local animal shelter. After graduating from SCVTHS, Christian plans on continuing his Auto Body education in California. He then plans to obtain a job in the trades to gain the experience necessary to begin a business.

"I love helping others and improving life in my community," said Christian upon receiving the Student of the Month award. "I hope to make the world a better place."*



Christian Martinez