



# JAGUAR NATION

FEBRUARY 2018 • VOLUME 7, No. 4

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

## SCVTHS HOSTS ELEVENTH ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

### PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

Our annual Open House event is on Saturday, February 3. Staff and students are working hard in preparation to showcase what is offered here at SCVTHS. This is a great day for families to come and see who we are and what we do!

Many of our students and teachers have been preparing for local and state level SkillsUSA contests. I would like to extend a message of encouragement to all students involved in SkillsUSA this year. You have all been working hard for the upcoming competitions, and I wish you the best of luck. Show everybody what you're made of, and most importantly, have fun doing it!

#### School Spirit Alert

• From January 29 to February 2, our school will be hosting a traveling display featuring the Harlem Renaissance Exhibit in honor of Black History Month. Please stop by our cafeteria to see how the exhibit connects culture beyond the classroom.

#### On The Court

Check our website for upcoming events and help cheer our boys and girls on the court! -

- Feb. 21 at 4:00pm - Senior Night for girls team:
- February 14 at 4:00pm - Senior Night for boys basketball and the cheerleading squad

#### Upcoming Events

- Open House: February 3 (Snow date February 10)
- National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Week - February 17-24

Sincerely,  
Diane M. Ziegler



In celebration of Career and Technical Education Month which takes place every February, Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School (SCVTHS) will hold its 11th Annual Open House from 9 am - 12 noon on Saturday, February 3, 2018. A snow date of February 10th has been set in case of inclement weather.

During the event, faculty, staff and student ambassadors will be available to answer questions, give tours, and provide information on each of the seventeen Career and Technical Education Programs available at SCVTHS. The Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School students who have volunteered to become student ambassadors will lead tours and speak as representatives for their Career and Technical Programs. Prior to the Open House, student ambassadors have been assisting SCVTHS staff with touring Somerset County middle schools in an effort to increase awareness of Career and Technical Education. Furthermore, the student ambassadors also play important roles in helping to prepare and decorate for the annual Open House event.

Some other highlights of this year's annual Open House include a full review of all academic offerings and program specific demonstrations. In addition, hors d'oeuvres will be served by Culinary Arts students and guests can meet with advisors of SCVTHS sports teams, extracurricular activities, and clubs.

The Open House will also include SCVTHS Honors Dance Department's Dance Day. Interested students are invited to visit the Dance Department studios and attend free classes taught by the faculty. Classes offered during the day for high school students are Ballet or Jazz at 9:00 am and Modern at 10:00 am. There will be a dance performance at 11:00 am, featuring the SCVTHS Tap Company and Repertory Company, showcasing the work of student choreographers. Pre-registration for Dance Day is required by emailing Maureen Glennon at [mglennon@scvts.net](mailto:mglennon@scvts.net). The deadline for pre-registration is Thursday, February 1, 2018.

SCVTHS is a fully accredited, four year high school located on an eighty acre campus at 14 Vogt Drive in Bridgewater, New Jersey. Serving all of Somerset County, SCVTHS accepts students on a full or shared-time basis for challenging programs that combine training in occupational and academic skills. Along with Career and Technical Education offerings, students are provided

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

# OPEN HOUSE 2018

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS OF STUDY

- Academy for Health & Medical Sciences
- Agricultural Science ~ Auto Body ~ Auto/Diesel Technology
- Carpentry ~ Cosmetology ~ Culinary Arts
- Dance ~ Electrical Construction
- Graphic Communications ~ Health Occupations
- Integrated Technology Systems ~ Law & Public Safety
- Mechanics, Engineering & Advanced Manufacturing
- Plumbing Technology ~ Theater Arts ~ Welding

**Preparing you for College, Career or BOTH!**

**Saturday February 3 9am-Noon**

Snow Date February 10, 2018

APPLICATION INFORMATION • GIVEAWAYS • DEMOS • TOURS

Pre-Register online at [SCVTHS.org](http://SCVTHS.org) or call 908.526.8900 x 7243 or x 7250

14 Vogt Drive Bridgewater, NJ 08807

with the opportunity to take a variety of rigorous college preparatory academic courses. SCVTHS has been providing quality education and technical skills training in Somerset County for over fifty years. ✨

All interested guests are encouraged to pre-register for the SCVTHS Open House online at [www.scvths.org](http://www.scvths.org) or call 908-526-8900, ext. 7250 or 7243.

SCVTHS  
OPEN HOUSE  
SATURDAY - FEB. 3, 2018  
9 am to 12 noon

SCVTHS DANCE DAY  
SATURDAY - FEB. 3, 2018  
9 am to 12 noon



SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS  
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A US News & World Report Top Ranked High School!



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# JAGUAR NATION

FEBRUARY 2018

## JULIE FRANCIS SELECTED SCVTHS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

### JAGUAR NATION

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Duane Wallace • *Editor & Designer*

James Strickhart • *Editorial*

Sharleen Leahey • *Graphic Production*

Janet Cantore-Watson • *Photography*

### SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS VOCATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Diane M. Ziegler, *Principal*  
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Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders



Julie Francis, a Cosmetology instructor at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School, has been selected as the 2017-2018 Educator of the Year. Ms. Francis is known for being a hardworking, caring, dedicated, and selfless instructor, who consistently goes above and beyond.

When Superintendent Chrys Harttraft and Principal Diane Ziegler walked into Ms. Francis' classroom to announce the award, she was "shocked, surprised and in awe." As much as she was caught off-guard, Ms. Francis said "it feels good to know that all of the hard work and efforts are being recognized."

Ms. Francis started working at Somerset County Vocational & Technical Schools twelve years ago as a Cosmetology Assistant. She enjoyed the structure of the teaching world and working with the students so much that she decided to pursue her teaching certificate through the alternate route program at Rutgers University. Julie Francis' other educational credentials include receiving a Cosmetology license from Hunterdon Polytech and graduating from Rider University with a degree in Business Management.

Beyond the classroom, Ms. Francis serves as a senior class advisor and is involved in many fundraising activities including a yearly Cut-A-Thon and Toy Drive to benefit Cure Search for Childhood Cancer Research and the Memorial Sloan Kettering Pediatric Center. In addition she organizes a yearly pink hair extension fundraiser to raise awareness for breast cancer research to generate funds for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Additionally, Ms. Francis is a member of the New Jersey SkillsUSA Cosmetology Executive Committee.

Julie Francis is a resident of Stockton, where she resides with her husband Nigel and their two children Macie (4)



SCVTHS 2017-2018 Educator of the Year Julie Francis

and Nathan (2). In her spare time, Ms. Francis enjoys going to the beach and spending time with her family.

"It is an honor to get this recognition. Through the peaks and valleys of life, it shows how your efforts don't go unnoticed. Things like this show everything you do is worth it."\*

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

## STUDENT OF THE MONTH

## Veda Kota

Veda Kota, a sophomore in the Academy for Health & Medical Sciences Program, has been selected as SCVTHS Student of the Month for January 2018. Veda is the daughter of Rajesh and Sri Kota of Hillsborough.

SCVTHS Social Studies Instructor Dr. Tokarsky-Unda nominated Veda for the Student of the Month Award because, "Veda has consistently demonstrated a desire to learn, and exudes enthusiasm for socio-cultural and historical topics. She pursues learning independently simply because it interests her – a true intellectual-in-the-making."

At SCVTHS, Veda is a member of the Red Cross Club, Doctors without Borders Club, and serves as a student ambassador. Outside of SCVTHS Veda volunteers with the Oncologist and Hematologist Associates of Central New Jersey and the Amy Feinman Foundation.

Veda's extra-curricular activities include playing the piano, singing in the Princeton Girl Choir, practicing Tae Kwon Do, reading, writing poetry and novels, watching documentaries and learning different languages. In addition she participates in the Red Cross Youth Council, the Waksman Student Scholars Program and serves as founder and president of the Science Olympiad.

Veda has placed in the top five of many Mid-Atlantic Music Teachers Guild (MAMTG) piano competitions, performed at Carnegie Hall twice with her choir, and has even published her own novel.

After graduating from SCVTHS, Veda plans on pursuing a career in medicine, business, or law. She stated that she likes a lot of different things and doesn't want to limit herself at this time. Veda added, "If there's one thing I want to do when I'm older, it would be to help people."\*



Veda Kota