



JAGUAR NATION

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SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

—Eleanor Roosevelt

Greetings! It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2019-2020 school year. This is an exciting time to be at SCVTHS, and there have never been more opportunities to learn and grow in the classrooms, in career programs, on the playing fields, and in clubs and activities. We believe in the importance of authentic, experiential learning, and we know that students thrive when they are embraced by a culture of equity and inclusion.

We have an ambitious year ahead of us as we look to continue our tradition of excellence and student success.

This year's seniors on the soccer fields:

Boys: Dan Manticof (captain), Milan Patel (captain), Mayaank Pillai & Mark Yagual

Girls: Elizabeth Gershater, Lilliana Gomez, Sarah Sconda (captain) & Mahek Vakharia

Best of luck to our student athletes for a great season!

Sincerely,
Diane M. Ziegler



SkillsUSA HONORS SCVTHS INSTRUCTOR PRATIMA PATIL AS OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR

Pratima Patil of Edison, a science instructor at Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School, was recognized with SkillsUSA's Outstanding Career and Technical Educator award during the 55th annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference held in Louisville, Kentucky.

According to SkillsUSA, the Educator of the Year is awarded for outstanding teachers who guide SkillsUSA student members to becoming leaders in their chosen fields. Not awarded regularly, the award is only given when the SkillsUSA Board of Directors wants to honor an exceptional educator for his or her service and dedication to career and technical education and SkillsUSA.

"One of the many things that makes Pratima an outstanding educator is her emphasis on teaching her students soft skills, such as creative thinking, problem solving, communications, teamwork and entrepreneurship," said Tim Lawrence, executive director of SkillsUSA.

"She wants to mold every student into a self-directed, motivated and responsible decision-maker," he added.

Pratima Patil reflected on receiving the award by saying, "I thoroughly enjoy being a part of SkillsUSA. Over the years, I have witnessed several students transform their lives by improving their personal and leadership skills. Although I have been recognized as an outstanding advisor, our school's consistent success in SkillsUSA is a team effort with all the advisors playing a role in assisting our hard-working, goal-oriented students to explore and compete in a myriad of competitions."

New Jersey SkillsUSA State Director Peter Carey added, "We are extremely proud of Pratima Patil's recognition as the 2019 National SkillsUSA Outstanding CTE Educator. Her dedication and enthusiasm has significantly contributed to the success and recognition of the students of the Somerset County Vo-Tech chapter of SkillsUSA."

SkillsUSA is a nonprofit partnership of education and industry seeking to strengthen our nation's skilled workforce. Driven by employer demand, SkillsUSA helps students develop necessary personal and workplace skills along with technical skills grounded in academics. This SkillsUSA framework empowers every student to succeed at work and in life, while helping to close the "skills gap" which causes millions of positions to go unfilled. Through SkillsUSA's championships program and curricula,



Pratima Patil receives SkillsUSA's Outstanding Career and Technical Educator award from SkillsUSA Executive Director Tim Lawrence during the 55th annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference held in Louisville, Kentucky

employers have long ensured that schools are teaching relevant technical skills. With SkillsUSA's new credentialing process, they can now assess how ready potential employees are for jobs. SkillsUSA has more than 360,000 annual members nationwide in high schools, colleges and middle schools, covering over 130 trade, technical and skilled service occupations. SkillsUSA is recognized by the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor as integral to career and technical education.*

For more information contact: www.skillsusa.org

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

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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SCVTHS STUDENTS WIN RECORD NUMBER OF SkillsUSA GOLD MEDALS

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At the 55th Annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC), held in Louisville, Kentucky from June 24-28, 2019, students from Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School earned a total of 19 medals, including 17 Gold. The 19 medals are the most SCVTHS has ever won at a national competition. Additionally, the state of New Jersey finished with an all-time number of 57 medals. New Jersey SkillsUSA State Director Peter Carey commented, "New Jersey SkillsUSA smashed all previous state records for national medals, and our total of 57 medals was the 3rd highest in the country. It's a credit to the advisors and instructors who worked very hard to prepare the New Jersey competitors. Everyone associated with our organization should be extremely proud.*"

*The list of SCVTHS students who received medals is as follows:**

GOLD

Career Pathways Showcase: Business Management and Technology – Vyonce Lawson (North Brunswick) and Janki Patel (Franklin Park)

Career Pathways Showcase: Health Sciences – Krishna Mody (Martinsville), Shanaya Sood (Hillsborough) and Amanda Williams (Hillsborough)

Customer Service – Veda Kota (Hillsborough)

Health Knowledge Bowl – Mathew Abraham (Hillsborough), Ruhyak Gupta (Flemington), Natasha Mody (Martinsville) and Rohan Patel (Somerset)



Members of the SCVTHS Gold medal winning Quiz Bowl team (L-R): Omar Khasawneh (Somerset), Mona Marhaba (Bridgewater), Evan Sapirman (Hillsborough), Varun Punnam (Bridgewater), SkillsUSA Executive Director Timothy W. Lawrence, Quiz Bowl team members Abiram Gangavaram (Watchung) and Rima Amin (Bridgewater) pose for a photo after receiving their medals at the 55th Annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference.

Quiz Bowl – Abiram Gangavaram (Watchung), Evan Sapirman (Hillsborough), Rima Amin (Bridgewater), Omar Khasawneh (Somerset), Varun Punnam (Bridgewater) and Mona Marhaba (Bridgewater)

SILVER

First Aid/CPR – Sarah Adams (Bridgewater)

BRONZE

Medical Terminology – Adarsh Mavathaveedu (Flemington)

**Please note, the above listing omits students who have either not completed a media release form or wished to not be included.*

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

New Jersey School
NJSPRA
Public Relations Association

First Place Winner - Newsletter Category

SCVTHS INSTRUCTOR RECEIVES THE NEW JERSEY 2019 AMERICAN LEGION EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

On June 13th, Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School (SCVTHS) Social Studies Instructor Ed Graf was presented with The American Legion, Department of New Jersey's 2019 "Educator of the Year" Award at the 101st Annual State Convention in Wildwood, New Jersey.

Nominated by American Legion Post 35 in Union, NJ, Mr. Graf stated that he was "truly honored" to receive the "Educator of the Year" award. Mr. Graf was selected for the award for his tireless dedication to organizing educational programs at SCVTHS such as the yearly Proud to be an American Day, Veterans Day Program, the school's Pearl Harbor memorial, as well as field trips to places such as Naval Weapons Station Earle and Fleet Week New York. Additionally, this year, Mr. Graf and his students fundraised over \$14,000 to ensure that no school funds were spent on Proud to be an American Day.

Graf spoke of "how nice it was to meet other outstanding educators from around the state at the ceremony." Mr. Graf added, "It is great to be able to impart these values to our students."*

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



(left to right): Ed Graf is presented The American Legion, Department of New Jersey's 2019 "Educator of the Year" Award by American Legion State Commander Raymond A. Miller at a ceremony in Wildwood, NJ on Thursday June 13, 2019.