



# JAGUAR NATION

NOVEMBER 2022 • VOLUME 12, No. 2

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

## SCVTHS WORLD LANGUAGE STUDENTS WELCOME NY EMMY-WINNING CBS REPORTER

### PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

During the month of October, Back to School Night was a success with a standing room audience in our Auditorium. A special shout out goes out to Student Ambassadors for assisting with hallway traffic.

Our students participated in the Start Strong and PSAT Assessments, as well as community drives in support of Breast and Childhood Cancer Fundraisers and Hurricane Fiona relief efforts. In addition, we participated in Hispanic Heritage Month, Week of Respect and School Violence Awareness Week activities.

Interim reports are now available in Genesis. If needed, create a plan for improvement with your Guidance Counselor as tutoring is available. The first marking period ends Wednesday, November 9th.

Our school will be closed on November 10th and 11th for the NJEA Convention. Please support our Annual SkillsUSA Thanksgiving Drive, benefiting SCVTHS families.

Sincerely,  
Hector Montes



(left to right): SCVTHS Spanish Instructors Guillermo Reina, Daysi Lakhlif, Rafael Catalan, CBS Reporter Camilo Montoya, SCVTHS Supervisor of Academics Teresa Morelli, SCVTHS Special Education Instructors Mary Kreiss-Papalski, Charles Schade and SCVTHS Principal Hector Montes gather after Camilo Montoya's presentation

In celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, students in the Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School (SCVTHS) World Language classes were recently visited by bilingual-journalist Camilo Montoya-Galvez. Montoya-Galvez is a three-time NY Emmy award-winning journalist for CBS, who reports on immigration topics, policies, events, and the people affected.

After immigrating from Cali, Colombia, Camilo found a new home in Randolph, New Jersey where he became a student of current SCVTHS Spanish Instructor Mr. Guillermo Reina. Recalling Camilo as a student, Mr. Reina stated, "I strongly believe that every student has the potential to be the best in life. When I met Camilo Montoya, I saw certain attributes that made me believe that he was going to be a successful person academically and in his personal life. He was very dedicated to his studies, showed great integrity, and was ready to help or volunteer in many activities."

Camilo began his presentation by showing a few of his recent segments for CBS. Camilo spoke of his journey as a Spanish-only speaking boy in Columbia to a national journalist with CBS. Camilo also discussed his personal struggles from being an ESL (English as a Second Language) learner in grade school to his college experience at Rutgers University double-majoring in journalism and Spanish, and finally his dream job as an English-speaking reporter.

Camilo highlighted the importance and advantages of being bi-lingual as a reporter and credited his passion for the topics he reports on as one of the main reasons for his success. When covering immigration, Camilo stated that he prefers speaking to the people being affected rather than to politicians since the stories of regular people are more compelling.

At the end of his presentation, Camilo answered questions from the students about his untraditional career path.

Reflecting on his own journey, he explained to the students that in order to be successful they will need to follow their passions, "work really hard," and always "follow your dreams."

"I am very proud of Camilo," added Mr. Reina. "You can tell he loves what he does and I'm glad he accepted our invitation to inspire some of our students."\*

For more information on this story contact James Strickhart at [jstrickhart@scvts.net](mailto:jstrickhart@scvts.net).



NJEA  
CONVENTION  
SCHOOL CLOSED  
November 10 & 11, 2022

SCVTHS Theater Arts Dept. Presents  
"The World Goes 'Round"  
November 17, 18 & 19th • 7:30 pm  
for tickets call: 908-526-8900, x7258





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NOVEMBER 2022

## SCVTHS CUT-A-THON GENERATES DONATIONS FOR CANCER RESEARCH

### JAGUAR NATION

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SCVTHS Cosmetology student Marianna Gonzalez performs a facial during the Cosmetology Cut-A-Thon

On Thursdays and Fridays throughout the month of September, the Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School (SCVTHS) Cosmetology Program held its yearly Cut-A-Thon. At the end of the Cut-A-Thon, the students successfully raised \$400.00 to be donated to The Children's Hospital Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research.

All proceeds from the event are being donated in memory of Ms. Francis' niece, Mackenzie Wright. At age seven, Mackenzie, of Delaware Township, lost her battle with Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare form of cancer of the connective tissues typically found in children.

"Over the past 15 years our team has raised over \$225,000," stated Cosmetology Instructor Julie Francis. "100% of every donation goes to the Pediatric Oncology Department at CHOP (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia) to fund research, clinical trials, treatment and support survivors."

Ms. Francis went on to add, "Our students did an amazing job applying their applications and knowledge of various services in support of this event!"\*

*For more information on this story, contact James Strickhart at [jstrickhart@scvts.net](mailto:jstrickhart@scvts.net).*

### ROWAN de WET



Rowan de Wet

### STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Rowan de Wet, a freshman in the Welding program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Student of the Month for October 2022. Rowan is the daughter of Chris and Mary de Wet of Manville.

SCVTHS English Instructor Mr. Miller nominated Rowan for the Student of the Month award stating, "Rowan demonstrates a real effort and desire to learn. Rowan is always respectful of school policies and personnel and is actively involved in classroom activities, including friendliness and support for other students."

At SCVTHS, Rowan is an honor roll student. Outside of school, Rowan enjoys playing tackle rugby for Morris Rugby and training in Kyokushin karate.

After high school, Rowan plans to become a sculptor and hopes to own "a small house in the forests of Vermont." In her free time, Rowan enjoys writing, making art, and studying psychology.\*