



JAGUAR NATION

MARCH 2017 • VOLUME 6, No. 5

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

CHRIS MILLER SELECTED AS SCVTHS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

Our Open House was a great success, and I want to thank students and staff who contributed to making the day be the best it could be. Visitors were able to clearly see how great our school is and learn more about what we have to offer. Also, with our special CTE Month guest speaker, Kayleen McCabe, students, staff, and guests at our Open House event received first-hand information about the benefits of pursuing a career in the construction and design field.

Currently our school's three honor societies are teaming up on a special community service project called "Dunk Your Kicks." National Honor Society for Dance along with National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society members are collecting gently used sneakers for donations now through April 7.

Special congratulations go to English instructor, Mr. Miller, our 2017 Educator of the Year!

School Spirit Alert

- HOBA Blood Drive – March 2 from 8am to 1pm
- National Honor Society Induction Ceremony – March 16
- Winter Sports Banquet – March 9

ON THE COURT:

Elijah Bowers became the fifth player in school history to score 1000 career points in basketball! What an accomplishment. Great job Elijah!

Check out our sports schedule on our website and come on out in a show of support and cheer our teams on! Go Jags!

Sincerely,
Diane M. Ziegler



Chris Miller, an English instructor at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School, has been selected as the 2016-2017 Educator of the Year. Mr. Miller is known for being a very dedicated, innovative, and hardworking instructor.

When Superintendent Chrys Harttraft and Principal Diane Ziegler walked into Mr. Miller's classroom to announce the award, he expressed surprise. "It was the furthest thing from my mind," he said.

Mr. Miller did not initially know he wanted to become a teacher. After graduating from high school, he worked in the printing industry for nearly 20 years before deciding to change careers. Mr. Miller went on to graduate with a bachelor's degree in English with a concentration in technical writing from the University of Delaware. After graduating, Mr. Miller spent some time as a writing consultant before ultimately turning to teaching. Mr. Miller's first teaching job was in a middle school. While there he realized he would prefer teaching at the high school level where he could delve deeper into his subject matter than at lower grade levels.

Mr. Miller has been teaching at SCVTHS for the past ten years, where he truly enjoys being in the classroom and working with the students. Miller also has an appreciation for the comradery the instructional staff has at SCVTHS. "The teachers here are a professional group of people. We all learn and help each other," he said.

Beyond the classroom, Mr. Miller is a teacher leader who mentors and assists new teachers at SCVTHS. In addition, during his time at SCVTHS



Chris Miller (center), the 2016-2017 Educator of the Year at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School with Principal Diane Ziegler (left) and SCVTS Superintendent Dr. Chrys Harttraft (right).

he has furthered his education by receiving a master's degree in educational technology from New Jersey.

Mr. Miller reflected on receiving the Educator of the Year Award, saying he is "proud." He went on to add, "I appreciate being recognized."

Mr. Miller is a resident of Somerville, NJ. He admits that he is constantly working, but when he takes a break he enjoys taking his two dogs on walks, reading and writing journals. He is the father of four and grandfather of two.*

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



DANCE PERFORMANCE

Images Inspiring Dance
Friday – March 31, 2017
Saturday – April 1, 2017
7:30 SCVTHS Auditorium
for info: mglennon@scvts.net



SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS
14 Vogt Drive • P.O. Box 6350 • Bridgewater, NJ 08807 • (908) 526-8900
A US News & World Report Top Ranked High School!



Find us on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter



Visit our site scvths.org



JAGUAR NATION

MARCH 2017

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH EVENTS HELD AT SCVTHS

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

VOCATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

William G. Hyncik, Jr., *President*
Sarah Costa, *Vice-President*
Theodore Smith Steve Rodzinak
Roger A. Jinks, *Executive County Superintendent*
Patricia L. Walsh, *Freeholder Liaison*

ADMINISTRATION

Chrys Harttraft, Ed.D., *Superintendent of Schools*
Raelene M. Catterson
School Business Administrator / Board Secretary
Diane M. Ziegler, *Principal*
Maria Johnson, *Director of Pupil Services*

This publication was funded by the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

JAGUAR NATION

Volume 6, No. 5 • March 2017

Duane Wallace • *Editor & Designer*
James Strickhart • *Editorial*
Sharleen Leahy • *Graphic Production*
Janet Cantore-Watson • *Photography*



In celebration of February as Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School has been hosting a variety of events to raise awareness of career and technical education.

During the first week of February, SCVTHS wrapped up its local SkillsUSA competitions. SkillsUSA is a career and technical student organization that provides leadership as well as technical, and professional skills to students. Students are able to participate and compete in 100 different career contests ranging from Welding to Cosmetology. The students who won these local competitions will now go on to compete at the state level.

If successful there, the students may then go on to compete at the national level in Louisville, Kentucky this June.

In addition during the first week of February, Kayleen McCabe of the DIY Network's Rescue Renovation, held two assemblies for SCVTHS students and spent time visiting them in their CTE classrooms. Kayleen spoke of many topics during the assemblies including her five seasons hosting a television show, safety, and the challenges of being a female contractor in a male driven industry.

On February 4th, SCVTHS held its 10th Annual Open House. Over 500 interested students and community members toured the SCVTHS campus and interacted with instructors and students.

To close out CTE Month, Congressman Leonard Lance visited SCVTHS and took a look at the new Mechatronics, Engineering, and Advanced Manufacturing (MEAM) Program.✿

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



(left to right): Dr. Michael John McDonough, President, Raritan Valley Community College; Dr. Chrys Harttraft, SCVTS Superintendent; William Smith (Somerset); Congressman Leonard Lance, and Stephen Demcher (South Bound Brook)

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Anjana Nair



Anjana Nair

Anjana Nair, a junior in the Academy for Health and Medical Sciences, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Student of the Month for February 2017. Anjana is the daughter of Rajesh and Mridula Nair of Franklin Park.

SCVTHS Spanish Instructor Guillermo Reina nominated Anjana for the award because, "Anjana is an exemplary student who always goes beyond what is expected from her. She is extremely kind and takes the initiative to help other students in the classroom. She's always on target, always ready to volunteer or to participate in class."

Anjana is heavily involved in extracurricular activities both at SCVTHS and within Franklin Township. Anjana has been learning Indian Classical music since the age of 5, participates in the Princeton Girl Choir, and trains in the Indian Classical Dance known as Bharatanatyam. Additionally, Anjana is part of the Franklin High School Model United Nations and Asian Awareness Clubs. Currently, Anjana serves as the Committee Head of the Health and Wellness Committee in the Franklin Township Youth Council. She has been volunteering at the Youth Council since the age of 12 and as the Committee head, she works to organize health-related events for the youth of Franklin Township. Anjana has also volunteered as a camp counselor for the Hindu Temple and the Cultural Society of USA.

This past summer, Anjana performed an internship with the Alzheimer's and Related Disorders Society of India in her home state of Kerala, India.

At SCVTHS, Anjana participates in SkillsUSA. In the 2015-2016 school year, her Career Pathways Showcase Health Services Team competed and won 1st place at the SkillsUSA national competitions in Louisville, Kentucky.

After graduating from the Academy at SCVTHS, Anjana plans to pursue her post-secondary education in the biomedical engineering field and hopes to transition into medicine. Ultimately, Anjana would like to attend Johns Hopkins University and become a Pediatric Oncologist.

When she finds free time, Anjana enjoys singing, playing the ukulele, and watching movies.

Anjana wanted to add, "The Academy has opened so many doors for me as a student and I want to use this platform to reach great heights and hopefully change lives in the future."✿