



# JAGUAR NATION

NOVEMBER 2013 • VOLUME 2, No. 9

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

On stage, our Theater Arts students are putting the finishing touches on their Fall production. Students are performing the school adapted version of Avenue Q, a Tony Award-winning musical. A special presentation was given at the October 28th Board of Education meeting and a preview for the school is scheduled for November 20th.

### School Spirit Alert:

As we fall into the holiday season, energies are focused on collecting food for our school's annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. This is a community service project of which we are very proud. With our Class Advisors encouraging a healthy sense of competition, our entire school works together to make the holiday season special for SCVTHS families.

A SkillsUSA fundraiser is set for Saturday, December 7. Come out and have Breakfast with Santa and help support our students.

Sincerely,  
Diane M. Ziegler



Diane M. Ziegler

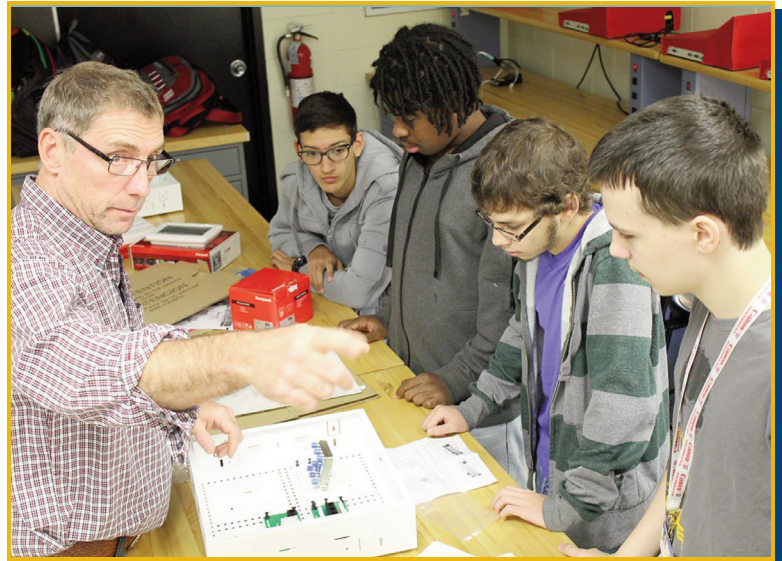
## SCVTHS Cisco Program Transforms Into Integrated Technology Systems

In an effort to offer students a wide range of educational choices, increase employability, and adjust to the ever-changing technology landscape, the Cisco Program at SCVTHS has been expanded into Integrated Technology Systems. Students in this program will still receive a basic education and instruction in Cisco with a Cisco Certified Entry Networking Technician (CENT) emphasis. However the new Integrated Technology Systems Program will now go further into electronics, computer systems and networks.

The Integrated Technology Systems Program puts a larger focus on structured cabling, Honeywell burglar and fire alarms, security cameras and home automation. By studying these additional components, students will have a greater range of knowledge, which in turn will help them to be more qualified for the jobs they desire. Integrated Technology Systems Instructor Paul Brinkmann believes that the changes to the Program will no doubt benefit the students by diversifying their skills and knowledge.

Because of the adjustments made in the curriculum of the new Program, SCVTHS will graduate students who are a step ahead of most other candidates entering the field. By having the knowledge base of electronic systems and networking, students graduating from the SCVTHS Integrated Technology Systems Program will ultimately require less initial training for a variety of jobs.

Graduates from the new Program may choose to continue their education or pursue industry certifications



(left to right): Integrated Technology Systems Instructor Paul Brinkman discusses new material with his students: Ian Hernandez of Hillsborough, Kamalludin Colaie of Somerville, Alejandro Cristaldo of South Bound Brook, and Jake Mollo of Bridgewater.

such as Comp TIA Strata, Net+, ESPA, and ETA Systems Integrator. Career areas include Help Desk Technician, PC and Network Technician, Residential Electronics Systems Integrator, and Security System Installer.❖

For more information contact James Strickhart at (908) 526-8900, ext. 7169 or [jstrickhart@scvts.net](mailto:jstrickhart@scvts.net).



**SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS**

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 1 – 21  
Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive
- November 21 – 23  
Theater Arts Dept. presents:  
Avenue Q - School Edition



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NOVEMBER 2013

## SCVTHS Students Participate in Events During Annual Week of Respect

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

During the school's annual Week of Respect, and in accordance with the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (P.L.2010, c.122), in early October the Linkages Department at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School implemented daily events for students. With the help of Pupil Services Department interns Jason Cohen, Leah Behar, Lisa Noe, and Christine Cocchia, SCVTHS students were encouraged to recognize the importance of character education through preventing harassment, intimidation and bullying in their school community.

Over the course of the week, SCVTHS students were able to sign a respect pledge, fill out "Compliment Grams," create a Respect Chain of Hope, and create new designs for the ever-expanding Wall of Peace.

Students in Ms. Gichan's Photography classes also participated

in the week's event by creating black and white anti-HIB (harassment, intimidation, and bullying) posters. Once the posters were approved they were put on display throughout the school's buildings, hallways and cafeteria for the school community to view.

In addition to the daily events throughout the week at SCVTHS, on October 8th, the school welcomed Dr. Paul Stuart Wichansky for an assembly on avoiding negative peer pressure, being unique and overcoming challenges. Dr. Wichansky, who has faced many obstacles in his life, gave a very motivational presentation to the SCVTHS community



Dr. Paul Stuart Wichansky gives an inspirational presentation during the annual Week of Respect at SCVTHS.

on overcoming disabilities and adversity to accept challenges.✱

For more information contact:

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Shanaya Shah, the October 2013 Student of the Month at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School.

## STUDENT OF THE MONTH Shanaya Shah

Shanaya Shah, a sophomore in the Academy for Health and Medical Sciences (AHMS), has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Student of the Month for October 2013. Shanaya is the daughter of Kaushal and Ami Shah of Hillsborough.

AHMS Social Studies Instructor Dr. Tokarsky-Unda nominated Shanaya for Student of the Month because during class discussions Shanaya "asks profound questions" and "always wants to know more!" In addition, Dr. Tokarsky-Unda added that Shanaya is, "studious and diligent, and likes to relate class material to her own experiences."

At SCVTHS, Shanaya is an active member of

SkillsUSA and is on the cheerleading squad. In addition, last year Shanaya served as the Freshmen Class Secretary.

As a member of the SCVTHS SkillsUSA Career Pathways Showcase for Business Management and Administration, Shanaya was part of a Gold medal-winning team at last year's New Jersey SkillsUSA Competitions. After winning Gold, Shanaya and her team went on to compete at the National Competitions in Kansas City, Missouri.

Outside of school, Shanaya enjoys spending her free time dancing on a competitive level. After graduating from SCVTHS, Shanaya wishes to further her education and achieve her goal of becoming a successful neurologist. Because she loves to help people, becoming a doctor specializing in neurology has been her dream since first grade.✱

For more information contact James Strickhart: (908) 526-8900, ext. 7169 or email: [jstrickhart@scvths.net](mailto:jstrickhart@scvths.net)

for more information

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