



JAGUAR NATION

APRIL 2014 • VOLUME 3, No. 4

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

NJ Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno Visits Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

Spring has finally sprung! Here at school students have been preparing throughout the winter for SkillsUSA. All of their hard work will be on display during competitions which conclude on April 5 when all State winners are announced.

In addition, students have enjoyed several extended learning opportunities with recent field trips to NJ Ironworkers Local, Northern NJ Carpenters Union, Somerset County Forensics Lab, Hudson County Community College Culinary Program, and the National Museum of the American Indian to name a few.

Special Shout-Outs:

Fundraising efforts by our National Honor Society recently raised \$1,000 for two separate charities. Way to go NHS!

Congratulations to Johanna Scholl – 2014 Teacher of the Year; and to Seniors Ariel Connor and Soham Shah – our 2014 Scholar Athletes!

On the Field:

Baseball and Softball seasons have begun so remember to 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



Diane M. Ziegler

Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno recently set out to tour many of New Jersey's Career and Technical Education schools. During her visits around the state Lt. Governor Guadagno included a stop at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School (SCVTHS) to see the Academy for Health & Medical Sciences.

The Academy for Health & Medical Sciences is unlike any other program in the state. The Academy began in 2006, developed around a partnership with Raritan Valley Community College through which the students obtain dual credit throughout their high school careers. Upon graduation, students in the Academy for Health & Medical Sciences receive both a high school diploma, as well as an Associate's Degree in General Science from Raritan Valley Community College.

Prior to acceptance into the Academy for Health & Medical Sciences Program, students must proceed through an extensive admissions process, which includes a test and interview to ensure that they are qualified and prepared. In addition, students must maintain a 3.0 GPA during their tenure in the rigorous program.

Other dignitaries taking part in the tour with the Lt. Governor on her visit to SCVTHS were New Jersey Commissioner of Labor Harold J. Wirths and Marie Barry, director of the state Department of Education's Office of Career and Technical Education. Administrators joining the Lt. Governor from SCVTHS were Superintendent Dr. Chrys Harttraft, Principal Diane Ziegler, and Supervisor of Academics Teresa Morelli. In addition, Raritan Valley Community College's Joanne Travaglini, Coordinator of Early College and Outreach, and Nancy Jordan, Dean of Academic Programs and Partnerships, also joined the tour.

Dr. Harttraft spoke of the visit stating, "We were honored to be visited by such high-profile public servants who demonstrated their support for vocational and technical education. They shared details of their efforts to increase business opportunities in our State and indicated that their success is



(left to right): SCVTHS Superintendent Chrys Harttraft, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno and members of her staff walk through the halls of SCVTHS during visit.

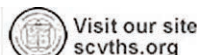
reliant on New Jersey providing a skilled and well educated work force.

The visit culminated with Lt. Governor Guadagno, Commissioner Wirths, and Business advocate Bill Giegerich connecting personally with our students and encouraging them with local and statewide business data and assured them of employment opportunities directly related to their studies. New Jersey DOE's Director of Career and Technical Education Marie Barry, among the visitors, was able to highlight the school's commitment to the SkillsUSA Program as a valuable career readiness component supported by local, state and national businesses.*

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



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





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APRIL 2014

Johanna Scholl Selected as Teacher of the Year at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School

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Johanna Scholl, a science instructor at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School, has been selected as the 2013-2014 Teacher of the Year. Ms. Scholl is known for being a hard-working, respected and dedicated instructor, who is committed to improving the entire school community.

When Principal Ziegler broke the news over the loudspeaker Ms. Scholl was in the middle of teaching a class which broke out into cheers. "It was pretty cool," Ms. Scholl explained. She went on to add how she was speechless, surprised, and honored when the announcement was made, adding "I am extremely grateful."

After graduating from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Sciences with a degree in Toxicology, Ms. Scholl worked for a short period of time in the consumer products and environmental engineering industries. Her time in the corporate world did not last long, as she found herself in a position which was lacking the personal interaction she needed.

When asked why she decided to pursue a teaching job, Ms. Scholl explained that she wanted to have a "long term impact on people." She loved the idea of interacting with the students and ultimately chose to pursue teaching high school as it enabled her to teach a higher and more in-depth level of science. One of the more challenging parts of Ms. Scholl's job is that not all students understand the science she teaches on their first attempt. She continually urges students to not give up, and works with each student so that they may achieve understanding in the subject.

Ms. Scholl began her career at SCVTHS as a part-time science instructor in the TOPS (Technical Occupational Preparation for Success) alternative program. After 16 years Ms. Scholl claims that patience and a sense of humor are the two most important factors that have contributed to her longevity in the classroom. She commends the students and staff (especially the TOPS faculty) for playing a large role in her continued success.

At SCVTHS, Ms. Scholl serves as the TOPS Memory Book Advisor, is a member of the Whole School Reform Committee, as well as helping to develop the next generation of state-wide core science standards in vocational and technical schools.

Johanna Scholl is a resident of Somerville, where she resides with her husband, Steven. They are the proud parents of three sons. In her spare time, Ms. Scholl enjoys reading, Broadway shows, dining out, shopping, and taking the family dog for walks. In addition, Ms. Scholl is very involved at her church where she sits on committees and is active in the Sunday school program.✱

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



Johanna Scholl

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Jonathan Garaffa

Jonathan Garaffa, a sophomore in the Academy for Health and Medical Sciences, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Student of the Month for March 2014. Jonathan is the son of Frederick and Tamara Garaffa of Skillman.

Academy for Health and Medical Sciences Social Studies Instructor Dr. Tokarsky-Unda nominated Jonathan for Student of the Month because, "Jonathan is studious and perceptive; he writes intellectually savvy essay responses, can be seen studying between class and during lunch, pays close attention in class, and asks the type of questions indicative of someone who thinks critically." Dr. Tokarsky-Unda added that Jonathan, "collaborates well during in-class group work and his classmates love and respect him because he cares about them."

At SCVTHS and Montgomery High School, Jonathan is very active athletically and academically. Jonathan is a member of Montgomery Track and Field, Cross Country, Cougar Robotics Programming Team, SCVTHS SkillsUSA and Red Cross Club. During his freshman year, Jonathan served

on the student council at SCVTHS.

Last year as a member of SkillsUSA, Jonathan was part of a team which won a bronze medal at the 2013 SkillsUSA Career Pathways showcase in the category of Arts & Communications. This year, Jonathan and his Medical Math Team won their recent local competition and plan to compete next month at the state level.

Outside of school, Jonathan is a Life Scout in Boy Scout Troop 850 and is in the early stages of his Eagle Scout project. Jonathan also participates in charity and volunteer work, as well as playing bass in a five piece jazz band and in his youth group and worship band. When asked what he likes to do in his spare time, Jonathan said, "I enjoy gaming with my friends and I'm learning the drums. I also like skateboarding, playing the ukulele and producing, scripting, editing and directing film."

Jonathan's future plans include becoming an Eagle Scout and furthering his education. Jonathan has not yet determined what career he would like to pursue, but has interests in the medical, engineering, computer science, fitness, and psychology fields.✱



Student of the Month

Jonathan Garaffa, the March 2014 Student of the Month at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School