CTHSS to launch “Ingenuity Challenge”

Teams of students, teachers and industry advisors will have the opportunity to invent, produce and market a new product as part of a project developed by CTHSS and supported by grants from foundations.

The “Yankee Ingenuity Challenge” will offer teams a chance to design and produce a new product for the home, the office or the vehicle. The winning product will be produced, packaged and sold in Connecticut. Assistance will be provided for copyrighting or seeking a patent, if appropriate.

How the program works:

With foundation support, CTHSS will provide $100 per team to help cover the costs of product development to the first 25 teams who submit proposals for participation in The Challenge. Teams will be comprised of students, teachers and private industry advisors who will design and develop a prototype product for the competition. Each team must have at least one teacher from the Technical High School System listed as team leader. They may raise up to $500 in additional funds as needed for their project.

The prototype product should be consumer oriented, designed for use in the home, office or automobile and be priced to sell competitively. Entries will be judged by leaders from business and industry, educators and other state leaders for marketability, creativity of design, quality of product and uniqueness.

Three finalist teams will be selected. Finalists will be provided with funds to develop a budget, production schedule and actually produce at least two dozen copies of the product.

Teams will present their packaged products to the panel of judges with a presentation on how the item was developed and then put into production. The panel of judges will select the winning product from among the three finalists. Finalist teams will receive scholarship funds to share among student members.

The winning product will be placed on sale at the Connecticut Creative Store. The Challenge is underwritten with grants from CBIA Foundation, CTHSS Foundation and others.

Timeline for The Challenge:

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SkillsUSA reaches record participation

More students than ever took part in SkillsUSA this year—a sign that increasing numbers of students are engaged in their studies and are confident in their ability to demonstrate their skills. More than 750 students registered for the conference.

In recent years, CTHSS has broadened the number of competitions with more opportunities for students to compete. The statewide SkillsUSA Conference is a leadership and skills event where students compete in contests ranging from residential wiring to robotics and automation to prepared speech. State champions will be going to Kansas City, Mo. to compete in the 43rd annual National Leadership and Skills Competition on June 25.

Wilcox Tech hosts area math competition

Wilcox Tech hosted the Capital Area Mathematics Competition on March 7th. The event which is sponsored by the American Regional Math League (ARML) brought together over 300 students from 23 high schools in the central Connecticut area. The Competition has the goal of raising awareness of the importance of mathematics study and increasing student achievement in math. The competition is a part of a series of events to select a state team to the ARML competition at Penn State University the first weekend in June.

Participating students were challenged to demonstrate their skills in problem solving. This invaluable learning consortium shares the CTHSS vision of a challenging academic experience in an ever-changing technological society. Contact Greg Forte for more information.
**Platt Tech is named Vanguard School**

Platt Tech has joined a small group of Connecticut Schools to be named “Vanguard Schools” by the Connecticut Department of Education.

The mission of the Connecticut Vanguard Schools Initiative is to identify and recognize schools where student performance is high, and/or significantly improving, and to share their best practices with other schools.

As part of Connecticut’s ongoing school improvement efforts, the Connecticut Vanguard Schools Initiative was designed to build a statewide network of schools highlighting evidence-based practices and strategies. This is a collaborative project among the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), the State Education Resource Center (SERC), and Connecticut’s Business and Industry Association (CBIA), as well as business partners.

Successful schools are identified that serve as model school improvement sites. The focus is on specific effective school improvement strategies, the steps and choices that result in success, and practical, useful tools and services for school and district leadership teams.

**Benefits: Vanguard Schools will receive:**
- $15,000 award for discretionary use to continue implementing best practices,
- $5,000 to share best practices with schools in need of improvement,
- Public recognition via state, regional and local media, and
- Formal recognition at a State Board of Education meeting.

**Goodwin Tech electromech student steps back in time to restore vintage record player**

Senior Electromechanical Tech student Keith Szabiowski took on a special assignment recently. His teacher Steve Orie asked him to repair a vintage RCA Victrola for a customer. Keith had to work on the arm of the antique record player which was made in 1920. He said that he really enjoyed working on the unique assignment demonstrating how the player works by cranking the arm on the side. Keith also said that he was impressed that after 90 years the player was still working like brand new. “I wonder if any electronic components made today will work 90 years from now,” he said.

**High tech label company recruits at Whitney Tech**

Have you ever wondered: Who prints the labels used on plastic bottles for famous personal care products like Ponds, Dove, AXE, and Olay?

There is a multinational company in Connecticut – CCL Label — that leads the label printing industry and offers a wide variety of services to product manufacturers around the globe.

After a visit to Whitney Tech, company officers invited senior Eskarlin Cabrera of the Graphics Shop to participate in a job shadowing activity at their plant in Shelton. They were very impressed with her enthusiasm and professional demeanor. The visit went extremely well and Eskarlin was recruited as a printing apprentice. The company will provide full training (with pay) to ensure she is ready to work full time as soon as she graduates. The Company intends to recruit other Whitney Tech students this year for jobs in this specialized field.

**Central Office staffers show artistic skills**

CTHSS Central Office staffers Cheryl Genualdo and Kathy Mason display quilts they created over the past two years.

Says Mason, “The quilt pattern, called Enchanted Autumn, came from a ‘block of the month’ project we worked on from November, 2005 through January, 2007. Cheryl ‘hand-appliqued’ her quilt while Kathy chose to ‘machine-applique.’ Both look terrific and will provide warmth for many winters to come.

In this year’s Chocolate Expo (Easter Seals fundraiser) Cheney Tech’s chocolate masterpiece cake won Best in Show and sold for $80. Last year Cheney’s entry won the People’s Choice award. Rachel Peasley and Chelsea Dixon were the two major contributors of the finished product.
Vinal Tech’s Culinary Arts seniors display their best creations at iron chef competition

As part of their final year in the Culinary Arts program at Vinal Tech, seniors participated in an Iron Chef Competition on Thursday, March 15th.

Culinary Arts Department Head Lou Marinelli said that he was very proud of the work done by his students in the competition.

“They planned their projects completely on their own doing a lot of research in preparation of the meal.”

Judges for the competition were Chef Walter Schlosser, Chef Nick Follacchio, and Vinal Tech Principal Sheila Fredson. The students' work was judged not only on taste but also visual presentation. The first place prize went to the team of Monica Nichols and Aaron Pratt.

Cheney and Goodwin team up for Robotics

Students from Cheney Tech and Goodwin Tech worked together on a Robotics Club this year.

The TechnoWizards won the Judges’ Awards at the UTC New England Regional Competition at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford on March 15th through March 17th, 2007. The team finished in 21st place in a field of 49 teams. The Team also competed with 61 other teams in the Greater Toronto Regional Competition in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada March 29th through March 31st.

Find out more about the Robotics Competitions at http://www.usfirst.org/

CAPT breakfasts have positive messages

For the past ten years, Wolcott Tech Social Studies instructor Matt Keen has organized a special program during CAPT breakfasts for the students taking the annual test. The idea is to promote, inspire, educate, and celebrate those sophomore students who are about to begin the long days of testing.

“The kids are all volunteers, mostly from my honors classes, but not exclusively,” explained Mr. Keen. “In preparing kids for CAPT, we came up with the idea to create our own sandwich boards as a way of attracting attention to CAPT strategies. The students work on their own boards and they must devise ways to promote several, positive test-taking procedures to their peers at the CAPT breakfasts. The kids have fun and learn things that definitely help them with the test.”

At the kickoff breakfast, the positive impact of the program was evident. Throughout the cafeteria, the sandwich boards were in prominent display. The messages written on them were clear and concise. The advice ranged from things like “get a good night’s rest” to “proofread your answers” to “take a position and cite examples to back it up.” The wearers circulated among the other students, socialized, smiled, exchanged comments and ideas, and simply relaxed. The staff who took part in the breakfast agreed that the students left the cafeteria in a good frame of mind in preparation for the task ahead.

Bullard-Havens wins 2007 basketball crown

The 2007 Bullard-Havens Boys Basketball team won its second straight conference crown by defeating Grasso Tech 103-62 on Thursday, March 1st at Classical Magnet High School in Hartford.

In the first quarter, Grasso Tech kept it close and in fact led at one point. In the second quarter, the Tigers started to take over. Akeem Gathers, Richard Jones, and Coderol Williams made a series of fast break baskets to put Bullard-Havens solidly in the lead at the half 43-31. In the second half, the Tigers kept roaring, outscoring Grasso Tech 31-19. In the final quarter, it was all Bullard-Havens led by a three point show by Gathers pouring in four threes from the corner. Gathers led all scorers with 37 points. Richard Jones totaled 24 points and starters Danny Rodriquez (10 points), C.J. Williams (9 points), and Corderol Williams (8 points) each contributed to the Tigers' victory. Congratulations to players and coaches from both teams for an exciting final!
Ellis seniors integrate their academic and shop skills in roller coaster physics projects

Students in Ms. Goyette’s Physics classes at Ellis Tech engineered some amazing mini-roller coasters in a project that integrates academic and technology skills. Using the principles of physics such as gravity, friction, potential and kinetic energy students had to figure out the parameters of a roller coaster that could accelerate a marble through at least four meters of track and that also incorporated at least two hills and a loop. Students were allowed to work as groups or as individuals. Within those groups, students used their shop skills in the planning and construction of their projects.

Students had to include scaled drawings of their design, write a lab report after experimentation with their model roller coaster, conduct research on the history and physics of roller coasters, reach out beyond the community of Ellis to real engineers through email or a letter, and give presentations of their roller coasters to their class. The results of the project were well-constructed roller coasters which far exceeded expectations, including an open-track, metal roller coaster which required that students to develop their welding skills.

The effort put forth by the students was tremendous and it was clearly reflected in the outcome and the various types of designs that students were able to dream up. It was a creative project that was intellectually challenging and hands-on. It fostered a strong link between the technology shops and academic classrooms and allowed the imaginations of the students to flourish.

Auto Collision Repair sophomores take on challenging assignment

Mr. Oliva and Grasso Tech’s 10th Grade Automotive Collision Repair and Refinishing class took on the challenge of chopping the top on a Ranger Pick Up even though this procedure is one of the most complicated in the Auto Body field. Only one percent of the Auto Collision Technicians in the world have done this successfully.

Wolcott Tech grads working for ESPN

Wolcott Tech graduates Robert Barbieri (Class of 2003) and Mike Whittaker (Class of 2000) both work for the major sports network ESPN based in Bristol, Connecticut. Robert recently visited his alma mater to talk to students in the Electronics Technology program, the area he had studied at Wolcott Tech. He had just finished filming and editing the Xtreme Winter Games in Aspen and the Super Bowl in Miami. Mike Whittaker works in the Control Rooms at ESPN and does the Morning Show with Mike and Mike among one of his many projects.

Al Valletta, the Electronics Technology Department Head at Wolcott Tech, said he is very proud of the graduates of his program that have gone on to a variety of successful careers including working for ESPN. In addition to teaching Electronics, Valletta also produces several video programs during the year for the school using his students as his crew, so Robert’s and Mike’s interest in the field probably got their start at Wolcott Tech.

Whitney Tech celebrates the wonders of math with annual ‘Pi Day’ celebrations

On Wednesday, March 14th the Whitney Tech’s Math department celebrated Pi Day by posting its numeric value including over two hundred digits after the decimal point in the school’s windows.

Special thanks go to Mrs. Williams and the students who posted all 271 numbers. In particular Timothea Hanna (Quality Control Supervisor), Thomas Parker (Adhesive Coordinator), Vanessa Lugo (Vertical Adjuster), Tatiana Sanchez, and Wilvin Cabrera (Hard Copy Assistants).

Pi Day and Pi Approximation Day are two unofficial holidays held to celebrate the mathematical constant \(\pi\). Pi Day is observed on March 14 (3/14 in American date format), due to \(\pi\) being equal to roughly 3.14. Sometimes it is celebrated on March 14 at 1:59 p.m. (commonly known as “Pi Minute”). If \(\pi\) is rounded out to seven decimal places, it becomes 3.1415926, making March 14 at 1:59:26 p.m., “Pi Second”. Pi Approximation Day may be observed on any of several dates, most often July 22 (22/7—in European date format—is a popular approximation of \(\pi\)).

Pi Day celebrations nearly always include the eating of pie. March 14 also happens to be Albert Einstein’s birthday.
Physics fun flying high at Wilcox Tech

Juniors at Wilcox Tech recently worked on a fun, but challenging project in Ms. Czerwinski's Physics classes. Working in groups, students were asked to design mini-catapults. The goal of the project was to have students use ordinary materials to construct a mechanical egg launcher that would allow one raw egg (encased in some container of the student’s choosing) to be launched and to land on the ground at least 5 meters away without breaking. One of the launchers landed an egg 31.5 meters away and it survived intact.

Educators team teach innovative elective

Mary Parady, an English Language Learner Instructor at O'Brien Tech works in a Language Arts Lab and is always looking for creative projects. She has arranged to work with Art instructor Julie Criscoulo to co-teach an elective course in multicultural literature. Julie has a BS in Fine Arts and is a certified K-12 in Art Education. She is pursuing an MS in Library Science. Julie was formerly a Graphic Designer at Bayer Corporation. Their goal is for the students to create "Books of Hope" for orphaned children in India and Uganda. They are both looking forward to collaborating on this exciting new project! Both teachers were featured in “Teachers Network” for their project.

Tech Scholarship Golf Tournament set for June 29

Yes, there will actually be spring-like weather sometime soon – and certainly for the 22nd Annual Ed Malinowski/Fred Haddad Memorial Golf Tournament which will be held at the Tradition Golf Club in Wallingford, CT on Friday, June 29, 2007.

The format will be a Scramble, so anyone can play, no matter what your golfing skills may be, and everyone has a chance to win. Last year, the Tournament nearly sold out and the goal this year is to have every school represented.

The cost is $95.00 per player, which includes a continental breakfast at registration, use of the driving range, green fees, mandatory cart, prizes, lunch, (beverages included) and a donation to the CTHSS Student Scholarship Fund. There will be a beverage cart available for purchase during the time on the course.

This year as a new feature, the Tournament is seeking sponsors for each of the 18 tees; each sponsor is given advertising space on the ground at each tee where every player will see their message. Contact David Grzych for further information.

The money generated will be proportionally divided among all CTHS Schools based on the number of foursomes represented at the golf tournament. Award monies are to be used for CTHSS Student Scholarship Programs.

Wright Tech's Auto Collision Repair and Refinishing students worked on a special project for the Stamford Police Department this year. The gained a valuable learning experience and helped save taxpayer dollars. They were asked to refurbish one of the Department’s vans in order to keep it on the road and avoid the cost of replacing it. The students repainted and refinished the entire vehicle and replaced the doors. Only the official decals needed to be added by the police department. Auto Collision Repair and Refinishing Department Head Dan Vater said that the project was a team effort. "All of the classes worked on this assignment including our new freshmen students."

Vinal Tech SkillsUSA students take the “Plunge” for CT Special Olympics

In early March, 13 SkillsUSA students from Vinal Tech took the plunge for CT Special Olympics in the annual Penguin Plunge which took place at the Falcons Pavilion on Crystal Lake in Middletown. The day was sunny and bright however; 8 inches thick of ice had to be cut from the lake in order for the “plungers” to plunge! The students worked very hard to raise close to $1,000 for the event. Each year Vinal captures the Rockin’ Schoolhouse Award for a school team raising the most money, but this year they were outpaced by a mere $15.00 raised by the Wesleyan University participants. All we can say is… Wait until next year!!!! They will win it back!!
Wilcox student has a go at makin’ snow

**Wilcox Tech** Freshmen Andy Novak loves to snowboard. So when faced with a Connecticut winter with no snow, Andy was determined to do something about it. "I got the idea when I was on the computer one night. I said to myself, “How can I make my own snow?”

He did some research and found a Web site which showed how to make a snow making device. He then went to Home Depot with his friend and classmate Evan Merola and bought all the necessary parts. After putting the device together, they hooked up a water hose and air hose and started making it snow. "It has to be the right combination of air and water, and of course it has to be cold enough," said Andy, demonstrating his device. With a snowboarding run in his backyard, Andy's house has been a very busy place - his friends come over regularly with their snowboards. The April temperature is cooperating, too.

Wilcox Tech Principal Richard Cavallaro said he was very amazed and proud of Andy. "It's incredible. He is exactly the kind of student we want here at Wilcox - independent learners who know how to get things done." Andy's story has gained a lot of interest. He not only appeared on the front page of the local newspaper but also was featured on WSFB (Channel 3) and CNN. "Earlier this winter I had to go to Vermont to do some snowboarding, but now I only have to go to my backyard" said Andy with a smile.

SkillsUSA Hosts Bowl-A-Thon to help Cromwell Children’s Home

A total of 97 SkillsUSA students from Vinal Tech participated in a Bowl-A-Thon fundraiser to support much needed projects at the Cromwell Children’s Home.

The students raised $1,115 from the event. The students bowled from 9:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and enjoyed a few hours outside of school and being with friends.

Got Lobster?

Culinary Arts students at Goodwin Tech had the opportunity to make stuffed lobster dinners as part of the offerings on the menu of the school restaurant. Chefs Rheiner and Baeder oversaw the work done by the students. This is definitely a skill for a lifetime!

Senior basketball player scores 1,000th point

Senior Ashley Taylor became the second person in Platt Tech history to score over a thousand points in her sports career at the school. Congratulations Ashley on this great accomplishment!

Wilcox Carpentry students working to complete Police Academy project ‘Hotel’

As part of the final phase of work on the training center at the Connecticut Police Academy, Wilcox Tech Carpentry students have been constructing a two story hotel. Under the direction of Department Head Scott Behling and instructor Greg Landry, the juniors and seniors have within weeks put up the major part of the 20 foot by 40 foot structure.
Wolcott Tech students take history trip

In late March, Wolcott Tech students from Amanda Kiszka’s American History class went to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania to get a first hand lesson in the Civil War. For three days, 39 students and four chaperones walked the battlefield, toured museums and learned about the historic event that happened in this small town in Pennsylvania during the first days of July in 1863.

'Survive the Drive' is topic of sessions

On March 21st, several groups of students at Wilcox Tech participated in a Safe Driving program presented by Bob Greene, a driving safety instructor representing the Survive the Drive organization.

Greene talked about the importance of driving safely and the consequences of being careless behind the wheel. Members of the Wilcox Tech chapter of Students against Drunk Driving (SADD) also participated in the program. Green will also be speaking at Kaynor Tech in Waterbury.

Beautiful Truth

Art Show and Reception: Friday, April 20 • 6:30 to 8:00 pm
The Kohn-Joseloff Gallery• Cheshire Academy
10 Main Street • Cheshire, Connecticut

Art work by Hyun Joo (Hannah) Jung, new Art teacher at Whitney Tech is featured in an art show at Cheshire Academy on April 20. Jung originally came from Korea, in 2000, and currently resides in Meriden, CT.

She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting at Seoul National University in Korea, 1997, and Master of Science in Art Education at Southern Connecticut State University, 2002. Currently, she is a Juried Artist member from Silvermine Guild Arts Center and Connecticut Women Artists, and her work has been exhibited at Silvermine Guild Arts Center, New Canaan, CT; General Electric World Headquarters, Fairfield, CT; Gallery Korea, Korean Embassy, Washington D.C.; Promenade Gallery at the Bushnell, Hartford, CT. “I would like to invite all to my show’s opening reception on April 20. If you can, please come,” says Hannah.

Plumbing and Heating students help keep historic U.S. Navy vessel ship shape

Plumbing and Heating students from Abbott Tech visited Battleship Cove in Fall River, Massachusetts to do some maintenance work on USS Massachusetts, a battleship which saw action in World War II.

The students were supervised by Plumbing and Heating Department Head Tony Resendez and Science instructor Andy Ipkovich. Abbott Tech Plumbing and Heating students have been visiting the site for several years now to help keep the historic vessel in good working order.

Juniors at Norwich Tech have started their CNA clinical at Groton Regency. By the end of May, they will be eligible to sit for their state CNA certification exam. While at Groton, the students are performing personal care and helping with physical therapy modalities. This is the school’s first Health Tech group to complete this training.
Construction Career Days offer perspective

Connecticut's Technical High Schools are invited to take part in the Connecticut Construction Career Day program on October 2 and 3, 2007 at Mountainridge in Wallingford. The program offers 'hands-on' activities for juniors and seniors to become familiar with the many career opportunities in the construction fields. For further information, go to:  http://www.ctconstructioncareerday.com/

Prince Tech art

Art courses continue to bring out the great talents of CTHSS students. This drawing is by a Prince Tech student artist created under the direction of Mr. Epperson and Mr. Keoppen.

Secretary of State stresses voter registration

On April 5th, Connecticut Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz visited Cheney Tech to talk to students about the importance of registering to vote. She stressed many important issues that are being considered by the state legislature and Congress and how they can affect today's young adults. She emphasized that voting in local, state, and federal elections is the best way to make your voice heard. At the end of her talk, many Cheney Tech Seniors who have reached the age of eighteen filled out voter registration forms making them eligible to participate in the next elections.

Prince Tech wins in Girls Basketball

The  Prince Tech Girls Basketball team defeated Grasso Tech to win their second straight Conference crown in the Constitution State Conference championship game at St. Joseph's College, February 23rd. Prince Tech took the early lead with some key baskets by Rebecca VanGuilder but Grasso Tech fought back and took the lead in third quarter. Final score was Prince Tech 45 Grasso Tech 40.

The girl's basketball team's successful play made it the most historic year in Prince Tech's history. A number of records were broken this year. The team accumulated the most wins in a basketball season: 22-3. The team was also Class M State Tournament Quarterfinalists.

The girl's basketball team had never won a state tournament game in the program's history, but won two games this year. This marks the 3rd year in a row the team has made it to the championship game. The team also won the CSC Central Division Title by going undefeated with an 8-0 record. Congratulations Coach Polly Innerarity and team.

Ellis PFO begins annual Relay for Life

The Ellis Tech PFO has started its first annual Relay for Life team! The American Cancer Society has created this event to help raise money for the ongoing research of cancer and to celebrate those who have been afflicted by it.

The Relay for Life is a 24-hour event that will be held Saturday May 19th at 11:00 am until Sunday May 20th at 11:00am at the Woodstock Fairgrounds.

This year, the team is dedicated to three very special people: Linda Edmonds, Carole Myers, and Annice Rockwell.