

CTHSS NEWSLETTER

Connecticut Technical High School System

Dr. Mark K. McQuillan
Commissioner

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Dr. Abigail L. Hughes
Superintendent

CTHSS Honored for Helping to Save Lives

On October 11th, the American Red Cross and the Connecticut Association of Schools held their 3rd Annual High School Recognition Luncheon in Farmington. High schools from across Connecticut were honored for their successful blood drives throughout the 2006-2007 school year.

Of the nineteen schools recognized for the prestigious Dr. Robert Carroll Award of Excellence, six were from the Connecticut Technical High School System. This award is for the schools that are recognized as a member of the Top 10% Club for superior contribution as a blood drive sponsor. **Cheney Tech, Norwich Tech, Wright Tech, Goodwin Tech, Ellis Tech, and Grasso Tech** were honored for their continued success.

Cheney Technical High School received the honor of having the most blood drives for a Connecticut High School in a year with five. Cheney also received the Most Improved Award from the American Red Cross. In addition, Norwich Technical High School was one of 15 high schools honored for having at least three blood drives in a year.



Blood Drive advisors and Principals from Cheney, Goodwin, Ellis, Grasso, Wright and Norwich Tech receive prestigious awards

On average, one out of every 20 Americans will need a blood transfusion at some time in their lives. They might need a transfusion of whole blood, red blood cells for a surgical procedure, plasma for treatment of anemia, or platelets for open-heart surgery, radiation or chemotherapy treatments. In fact, a single car accident victim might need 20 to 30 units of blood. Despite the fact that giving blood is easy and safe, only 5 percent of eligible Americans donate blood.

The Red Cross must collect blood donations each and every day to meet the needs of accident victims, cancer patients and children with blood disorders. **Every two seconds, someone in America needs blood...that someone could be you or a loved one.** Thanks to all the teachers and staff who have donated. Congratulations to everyone for helping the American Red Cross.

NAACP Honors Norwich Tech Teacher

The Norwich Branch of the NAACP hosted its 44th annual Freedom Fund Dinner on October 19th to celebrate three community leaders who have made a difference in the community and state. One of the award recipients was **Norwich Tech's** Ed Hogan who is a social studies teacher and advisor of his service learning group named "Hogie's Heroes." Ed received the 2007 NAACP Community Service Award for his involvement with the local community.



Ed Hogan shares a laugh with NAACP Chairman Sheila Hayes

Hogan's group comprised of students between 9th and 12th grade have advocated, raised awareness and monies for cultural awareness, the importance of registering and voting, veteran appreciation and youth democracy. "Service Learning is about the students taking ownership of an issue

that they believe can positively impact the community. These students use the academic knowledge and skills they have learned in the classroom to great use in the community." Hogan continued, "It is an absolute inspiration to see what impact these students can make within the community. This award is as much the students as it is mine."

Wright Tech Culinary Invited to *Emeril Live!*

After 5 years of trying, a friend of Chef Hines was able to have the Food Network invite the **Wright Tech** Culinary students to a live



taping of *Emeril Live!* Ten lucky students in 10th and 11th grade were in the live studio audience at the Chelsea Market in Manhattan.

From the moment the staff and students arrived to

show, they were treated like VIP's. They were taken to the "Green Room" for snacks and beverages before the rest of the audience arrived. During the taping, the students were given a big "shout out" by Emeril. When the show was over, the students were able to walk around the entire Chelsea Market, seeing commercial food production in a real world setting. The students and staff will not forget this incredible experience for a long time.

Grasso Students Getting a Sound Education

The students came prepared: pencils and data sheets on waterproof paper; dial calipers to measure the length of each lobster from its eye socket to the top of its tail; and something that looked like a hand-held paper hole punch, but with a V-shaped notch. The 10



Grasso Tech
Bio-Science
Environmental
Technology
students came to the State of CT DEP site in Old Lyme with their matching Grasso Tech sweatshirts and

orange life vests, ready to be trained for the front lines of the state's lobster-restoration effort.

These students, along with groups from regional aquaculture high schools in New Haven and Bridgeport, will provide the skilled hands to carry out a new program intended to help rebuild the depleted lobster population in Long Island Sound without threatening the livelihood of the state's 60 or so remaining full-time lobstermen.

A bill approved by the legislature last session provides \$1 million for equipment and other expenses, including payment to the participating lobstermen for female lobsters the students will throw back. The *V-Notch Program* will put teams of two students on the boats with up to 30 lobstermen who have agreed thus far to participate, starting as soon as the end of the month and continuing through the end of the school year.

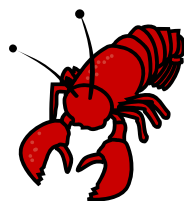
The students, all seniors who will earn school credit and be paid \$10 an hour, will record the size, shell condition and sex of each lobster trapped, and then make a V-shaped cutout in the tails of legal-sized females. Only females not laden with eggs will be notched, to ensure that the handling and notching doesn't disturb the eggs.

If the notched females are trapped again in the next two years while the notch is still visible, they cannot be kept. Any notched lobsters that find their way outside of Connecticut waters would also have to be thrown back. Since lobsters molt yearly, by the third year the shells are expected to be notch-free.

While Maine and parts of New York also have V-notch programs, Connecticut is unique in employing high school students to collect the data and do the notching through the Work Based Learning Program previously known as CWE. But getting the program going has been an arduous journey for all involved. Insurance had to be purchased to cover the students working on the lobster boats. Lobstermen had to agree to submit to background checks on themselves and their crews, purchase life rafts and have a special safety check of their boat.

Survival suits for each student had to be ordered. Once the suits arrive, the Coast Guard will train students in water safety and survival.

The V-notch program helps lobstermen avoid another size-limit increase, which lowers the number of legal lobsters that can be caught. The program not only benefits the lobsterman, but also the students.



Mighty Tigers Make Strong Showing at Windham's Relay for Life

Weekends are a valued necessity in the mind of a high school student. It is a time when a student can sleep in as long as they want, hang out with friends and relax. Fourteen students from **Windham Tech** sacrificed their treasured sleep to participate in the Relay for Life -



Rally for a Cure Event held on October 13th & 14th.

Windham Tech students braved thirty degree temperatures during the overnight hours and took turns walking around the

track. Sleep was minimal as the ground was too cold for a sleeping bag. In between walking, all members would huddle around the small grill that was brought to cook hamburgers. Anything and everything that could burn was being thrown into the fire for warmth. One student even sacrificed his homework!

For twenty-four hours there was at least one representative of the team walking the track at ESCU's Sports Complex. Several other members of the Windham Tech Tigers team were there for the daylight hours. There was a representative from every shop, and every grade. Each student spent the weeks prior to the event asking for financial sponsors.

As a team, they raised over \$2,000. Even the beloved Windham Tech Tiger mascot participated, walking more than any other team member. The Windham Tech Tiger entertained walkers of all ages.

The Relay for Life event is one more way that the CTHSS and the Windham Tech community are giving back.

Vinal Tech Science Students Use Cutting Edge Technology to Study Atomic Structure

Students in Ms. Graminski's science classes are using the latest in educational technology to study atomic structure. Utilizing Mimio software and hardware, students have the ability to use interactive technology to create their own atoms online by dragging and dropping components of an atom on a whiteboard.



Thanks to this differentiated instructional tool, students are gaining a greater understanding because of the hands-on approach to learning. Above is a photo of Ms. Graminski working with her students using this new and exciting technology.

Wolcott Wins for First Time in School History



Congratulations to the **Wolcott Tech** Football Team for securing their first win in school history on October 1st over Housatonic Valley Regional, 25-16. The team is playing a JV schedule until they receive a bid to become a Varsity program in a conference.

Bullard Havens Students Turn Shopping Bags into Fashion Statements

Sione Hardison, a fashion major at **Bullard-Havens Tech**, can probably design clothing in her sleep. However, using paper bags as the main material was a challenge that called on teamwork and a lot of creativity.

The result -- a little outfit Hardison and teammates called "hood and lace" -- (which was one of the 10 creations that ultimately finished second place in the competition) that students fashioned out of Lord & Taylor shopping bags.



The outfits were shipped to the Stamford Lord & Taylor to go on display with other competition entries from area high schools, including four other schools within the Connecticut Technical High School System.

Some of the outfits that the students from Bullard-Havens designed consisted of nothing but shopping bags that have been scored, pleated, braided, woven and cut to look like something any model would be proud to wear.

Others were embellished with bits of fabric, buttons, glitter, sequence and feathers. The only rules of the competition were to use the bags and mannequins supplied by the store to create "fashion looks."

"We know there is a prize, but we really haven't had time to concentrate on that," said Constance Pulley, a teacher at Bullard-Havens.

This was the first time Bullard-Havens has participated in such a contest. "It created such excitement," said Pulley. Students "really, really bought into this."

It also required Pulley and Rosanne Kellaher, another fashion teacher, to come up with a way to incorporate the contest into their curriculum.

"We told them how they do this for real in New York during market week create something on the spot," said Kellaher. She said it was a special challenge for sophomores who have been in the program only a month. Sophomores designed three outfits and a handbag that incorporated the bright white bags with a script logo and "sunrise" yellow/orange interiors.

The first place outfit used yellow New York taxi cabs as an inspiration. Three and a-half shopping bags went into making the outfit. It took an entire evening to weave the top, but the students' used a technique that they had just learned in class which impressed the judges enough to award the group of Ashante Davis, Sanejha Muhammad, Raven Summerville, and Shayla Jeffers first prize.

Judy Lederman, a spokeswoman for Lord & Taylor, said the idea behind the contest is to fuel imagination and foster creativity in tomorrow's designers.

Other schools participating included: **Kaynor Tech**, **Goodwin Tech**, **Wilton High School**, **Eli Whitney Tech**, and **Prince Tech**. Congratulations to all who competed and thanks to Lord & Taylor!

Chinese Delegation Visits Cheney Tech

Cheney Tech received the honor of hosting a group of Shandong Education officials from the Republic of China last month. These officials are the leaders of a delegation of principals being hosted by the Connecticut Department of Education. Chinese Deputy Commissioner Xu, who is responsible for K-12 education in the province, specifically requested a visit to a technical high school.

With Superintendent Abigail Hughes and other SDE officials in attendance, the Cheney Tech Culinary students provided breakfast for everyone in the new restaurant. Students representing the National Honor Society and SkillsUSA attended and provided a tour of Cheney. The Cheney Tech Robotics Team 809 students demonstrated one of the robots that they had built.



The idea for partnerships between Connecticut schools and schools in Shandong Province, People's Republic of China is an outgrowth of a trade and economic partnership formed between the Chinese province and our state in 1986. Twenty years ago, then Governor William O'Neill and the Governor of Shandong Province signed a pact to form a business relationship. As a result of the agreement, the Connecticut China-Shandong Province Council, an organization involving community leaders, educational institutions and businesses in Connecticut, was created to foster friendship, trade and other relationships between the two regions.

In 2002, the Connecticut State Department of Education received funding from the U.S. Department of Education to send a delegation of 17 teachers to conduct a field study in the Shandong Province and China. The Shandong Provincial Commission on Education hosted the delegation. Out of that experience the idea for establishing a relationship that would encourage collaborative programs, exchange and joint educational activities was formed. Daniel W. Gregg, Social Studies Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education, was appointed to facilitate educational exchanges. In January 2003, the Connecticut State Department of Education signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreement with the Shandong Provincial Commission on Education, and from that the Sister School Exchange Project and many related educational exchanges were launched.

Windham Tech Runs to Victory, Lady Eagles of Grasso Tech Soar to the Top



Congratulations to the **Windham Tech** Boys Cross Country Team and the **Grasso Tech** Girls Volleyball Team- Winners of the 2007 Constitution State Conference League Championships. Grasso Tech defeated the

tough Abbott Tech Lady Wolverines at St. Joseph's College in West Hartford last Saturday. Congrats to all!!

Cheney Tech Students Plead for Clean Air

The **Cheney Tech** environmental class decided that they wanted to organize a day that will cut back on the CO₂ pollution. They came up with the idea to have a carpool day. The students asked the entire student body and faculty to make whatever sacrifices necessary to carpool on Friday, November 2nd.

The students figured that if the average person with a parking pass (151) lives 17.5 miles away then all together they produce **2.567 tons of CO₂ per day**. If every person with a parking pass were to carpool with another person with a parking pass they could cut the CO₂ level for one day in half! These **actions for one day could help keep 1.2835 tons of CO₂ from entering our environment**. If people carpooled with more than one person, the CO₂ levels would be decreased by even more than half. The day turned out to be a success for the students, faculty and most importantly, the environment.

Below is a chart of how many **tons** of CO₂ are produced in a round trip depending on how far away a person lives from school.

Distance	1 Day	5 Days	1 School Year
5 Miles	.004	.02	.728
10 Miles	.01	.05	1.82
15 Miles	.014	.07	2.548
20 Miles	.02	.1	3.64
25 Miles	.024	.12	4.368
30 Miles	.03	.15	5.46

The current impacts of CO₂ are warmer water, stronger storms, melting glaciers, melting ice caps, rising temperatures and increased droughts that results in the drying up of lakes (decreasing drinking water). Help the students of Cheney Tech with their fight to decrease CO₂ pollution by adjusting your daily lives with some of the suggestions listed on www.earthshare.org.

Goodwin Tech Fashion Tech Students Work on Special Project for Cancer Patients

Fashion Tech students recently worked on a special project for the ConKerr organization. The ConKerr Organization makes fun and colorful pillow cases for pediatric oncology patients who are going through chemotherapy. Over 18,000 pillow cases have been donated thanks especially to a recent grant from St. Christopher's Foundation for Children. According to Fashion Technology Department Head, Maryellen Gilmartin, the students at **Goodwin Tech** made 48 pillowcases that will be delivered to



the patients.

ConKerr Cancer delivers pillowcases to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Lehigh Valley Hospital, St. Christopher's Children's Hospital, Shriner's Hospital, and Temple Children's Hospital in

Philadelphia, Goryeb Children's Hospital in Morristown, New Jersey, Nemours Alfred duPont Hospital for Children in Delaware, and Yale New Haven Hospital in Connecticut.

O'Brien and Platt Instructors Team Up at Connecticut Tesol Conference

Pop-up books, role plays, baseball games and a finale that took learning grammar to a new level by using multiple intelligences are a few of the ingredients Mary Parady of **O'Brien Tech** and Suzette Montanez of **Platt Tech** threw in the blender to concoct a



'A Whole Lot of Shakin' activities at the 2007 Annual ConnTesol Conference.

These two English Language Learner (ELL) instructors packed a cornucopia of activities that engaged the interest of all the teachers at this gathering. The presentation included interactive strategies and activities for teaching content literacy to teachers at the ConnTesol event.

The "Shake Up Your Content" instruction includes differentiating instruction, multiple intelligences, modifying lessons and making connections, to engage all students in the learning process.

"We presented interactive lessons that could be used in all content areas. Our students at Emmett designed a board game in the lab that they presently use to study vocabulary in the trades and subject areas. They also quiz each other on their knowledge in specific subjects. The students love it and enjoy the competition!" said Mary Parady.

The quality of the presentation reflected the wide range of experience both instructors consistently bring to the table. Ms. Parady has an M.S. in Multicultural and Bilingual education was the former program manager for ELL Adult Education Programs, a program developer and a successful grant writer. Ms. Montanez graduated from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez. She majored in English Linguistics and minored in English Education. Great job!

Plumbing and Heating Students Go Through Rigorous Safety Program

Students in the Plumbing and Heating program at **Bullard Havens Tech** recently went through an in-depth safety training. Under the supervision of instructors Mr. Ciarleglio and Mr. Eagan, each 11th grade student paired up with a 10th grader to instruct them on proper safety procedures such as:

- Ladders and scaffold
- Fall protection
- Hand and Power tool safety
- Trench safety
- Electrical safety, lockout tag out



During the evaluation phase, each student took a written test, and then a practical test. Each student was required to score a perfect 100% on these exams in order to proceed with shop projects.

Each student receiving 100% proficiency in all areas received a safety certificate.

Number 52

First Female Hits the Gridiron

It's always exciting to see new players at the start of a fall football season. Among this year's newcomers is number 52, an offensive lineman who also plays defense. This new JV player is already playing varsity and recovered a fumble during a winning game against Faith Prep.

What makes number 52 special is that she is Natalie Fabien, a junior at **Wright Tech**. Natalie has been playing "street football" since she was 11. When she asked if she could join the J.M. Wright "Lightnings", Coaches Trevor Jones, and Fred Trumpler welcomed Natalie to the football team with a resounding "Yes".



At first, Natalie said her teammates thought it was a joke that she was practicing with them. "I can't believe you're on our team!", was a phrase Natalie heard a lot. "But when they saw I was a serious player, we practiced with the same intensity. During practice, I get hit, like everyone else. Sometimes someone says, 'Yo, that's a girl'. I wish they wouldn't say that, but I can see that in the short amount of time since the

season started, everyone is cool with the whole thing. I also really like all my teammates; we laugh and have a great time together". So far, Natalie's only injuries have been being scratched by an opposing players helmet.

Natalie is no stranger to performing in front of a crowd. While attending Central High School in Bridgeport in her freshmen and sophomore years, she studied in the Regional Center for the Arts.

In her immediate future, Natalie plans to be on the winter sport season cheerleading team to stay in shape and continue her involvement in sports.

Prominent Author Visits Prince Tech



On Friday, October 26th, National Book Award Finalist Cristina Garcia visited **Prince Tech**. Ms. Garcia read excerpts from her book "Dreaming in Cuban", a novel detailing three generations of Cuban women in a family divided by politics and the Castro

revolution in Cuba, to the students of Prince Tech. She had a lively and engaging discussion with students in the Library Media Center saying that



A.I. Prince was the best high school group that she has visited.

Kaynor Tech's Program First in State to be chosen for Accreditation by the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS)

Kaynor Tech has been chosen to become the first high school in the State of Connecticut to achieve accreditation of its "Advanced Manufacturing Technology" (AMT) program by the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS). A ceremony to acknowledge this honor was held on October 16th.

Kaynor's AMT program is a unique "joint venture" formed by the technical high school and local manufacturers to increase the supply of highly skilled workers in the local area. Seen as a "Top Gun" school for machinists, the AMT program seeks to provide the top Kaynor students with an opportunity to work on state-of-the-art metalworking equipment in a collegiate setting to achieve NIMS credentials that certify their skills.

Not only does this program provide a new supply of highly skilled workers in the area, it also lets all prospective employers know exactly what level of skill the new workers have achieved relative to the new rigorous standards nationwide.

"It used to take several years before we could tell if a new apprentice was going to make the grade or not," said Tim Richards of PalmGuitar, former Project Coordinator of the AMT program. "Now, with their skills both documented and certified by NIMS, there is incredible competition among local companies to hire the best of the best from this program."



The AMT program is guided by a Governing Board made up of industry and educators. The Board is co-chaired Jack Traver, Jr., President of Traver IDC located in Waterbury and Robert Axon, Principal of W.F. Kaynor Technical High School. Mr. Axon commented that "the AMT program is the only high

school based program in the State of Connecticut that teaches to NIMS standards and W.F. Kaynor Technical High School is the first high school based program in Connecticut to be accredited. Kaynor's long standing partnership with the region's manufacturers is a key component to Kaynor's success in this area." Jack Traver, Jr. noted that "receiving the NIMS program accreditation is a prestigious honor and represents industry's mark of approval and recognition of the training program offered through Kaynor."

Kaynor Tech received its NIMS accreditation award from Stephen Mandes, Executive Director of National Institute of Metalworking Skills, which is headquartered in Fairfax, VA. The accreditation ceremony was held on Tuesday, October 16, 2007 at the Curtali Commons located on the Naugatuck Valley Community College campus inside Founders Hall. Congratulations to all involved!

**Have an article idea for the newsletter?
E-mail any future article ideas to Nick
Spera at: Nicholas.Spera@ct.gov**

