

# CTHSS NEWSLETTER

Connecticut Technical High School System

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Superintendent

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Happy New Year CTHSS - Have a Great Year

## Good News for CTHSS Students: Job Opportunities Growing in Your Field

The most recent Connecticut Labor Market Data report shows that the state's most dynamic job growth is in four areas closely connected with CTHSS programs:

- **Construction jobs** were up 800 in third quarter 2004
- **Manufacturing jobs** were up 900 in third quarter 2004
- **Leisure and hospitality jobs** increased by 1,500 in third quarter 2004

These increases accounted for most of Connecticut's job growth in this quarter. These trends are expected to continue.

In addition, Connecticut's **health sector** has shown the most significant growth, adding 3,800 jobs in 2002 and 1,600 jobs in 2003 with more job growth expected over the next decade. The health industry accounts for about 14% of all jobs and wages in the state.

## CTHSS Leadership and Education Commissioner Meet with Depts. of Consumer Protection and Labor to Create New Apprenticeship Opportunities

Officials of the Departments of Education, Labor and Consumer Protection are putting their heads together to try to solve the problem of too few apprenticeship slots and CWE opportunities due to the "ratio issue." State regulations require strict ratios of licensed trades people overseeing apprentices, but this can sometimes restrict opportunities for CTHSS students.

Current discussions are focusing on improving the waiver process to allow smaller companies an opportunity to hire both CWE students and apprentices in larger numbers. The waiver process must provide both flexibility to assure opportunities and safeguards to assure quality, fairness and safety.



**CTHSS – A TRADITION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE:** The above Thanksgiving Food Drive at **Ellis Tech** is one of the dozens of charitable activities that CTHSS students conduct in their communities each year around the state. Among other things: **Platt Tech** students collected 8,559 non-perishable food items & 12 turkeys for distribution to needy families. In December, students at **Abbott Tech** collected a roomful of food and gifts for the Hanahoe Free Children's Clinic, **Cheney Tech's** NHS collected more than 50 winter coats for the Child Guidance Clinic, **Eli Whitney** conducts a holiday luncheon for the needy, toys for tots and a food drive for New Haven/Hamden, **Grasso Tech**, conducts a "mittens, hats and scarves drive" and also sponsored a collection of items which were shipped to Iraq. **Norwich Tech** employs a "gift tree" to donate toys to needy children, **Bullard-Havens** students donate their hairdressing services to many social service groups and **Wright Tech** art students visit the pediatrics ward of Stamford Hospital to decorate trees and displays for the holidays.

## Publication Studies Conn. High School Leaders

The Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) has published the results of a survey of Connecticut's high school principals. The survey reports that about half of the surveyed principals expect to retire in the next 5 years; most are concerned with the over-emphasis on standardized testing in NCLB; and most believe that more teacher professional development and smaller class sizes are the best strategies for improving student achievement.

[http://www.casciac.org/pdfs/high\\_school\\_monograph\\_2004.pdf](http://www.casciac.org/pdfs/high_school_monograph_2004.pdf)

## Health Info Web Site Helps Combat Flu Season

The State Office of Emergency Management and the State Department of Public Health have joined forces to provide information to teachers and parents about preventing and treating the Flu this year. To access this information, go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/qa.htm>

or

<http://www.ct.gov/oem/cwp/view.asp?a=1208&Q=287082>



All of our Technical High Schools are focusing on ways to improve student performance on standardized tests. Here are some of the unique ways CTHSS teachers are helping students prepare for NOCTI testing:

#### Some examples at A.I. Prince:

- (1). **CAPT and NOCTI are always mentioned together...it's like the "horse & carriage."**
- (2). The school has increased **Guest Speakers**, particularly Hartford-area successful men & women of color.
- (3). **H/BC developed a "Color Wheel" out of Play-Dough** to illustrate the mixing of primary and secondary colors.
- (4). **Drafting students painted a mural** of different Trade instruments on the Theory Room wall.
- (5). **Carpentry** built two NOCTI practice game boards: a **Wheel of Fortune** and a **Dart Board** (Bull's Eye gets the easier NOCTI question☺);
- (6). **Culinary had a Pumpkin Carving Contest** to practice the NOCTI "proper use of Knife skills and students also gave up a Saturday to serve 250 Seniors, which gave them additional practice with required "table settings" and practical demonstrations of "food handling."
- (7). **Masonry gives daily "time on task" exercises** (laying of bricks + other NOCTI knowledge-based skills) in a game format similar to **"Family Feud."**
- (8). **Machine Tech** has students involved in **CNC production work for a local company** and students convert mathematic-cal designs on paper to computerized design and follow through to create actual products/tools.



#### At Kaynor:

The principal's office prepares a **booklet** for every trade area giving student performance data including performance on **each skill area** of each NOCTI test. The booklet also contains information on test-taking skills, sample or model NOCTI preparation strategies and resources available such as [www.nocti.org](http://www.nocti.org). Each trade shop then **uses the test data** to develop its own strategies for improving student performance on NOCTI and follows through. For a sample of the booklet, contact Gil Traverso.

#### At Oliver Wolcott:

Trade teachers are using many strategies to help students prepare for success on the NOCTI. Some are using **practice questions** during theory classes as daily quizzes or warm ups, others have broken down tasks to **review over the fall and winter cycles** so students will have an opportunity to revisit some things they haven't practiced since 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

Here are five shops' ideas of how they prepare for this assessment:

**Health Technologies:** Students are **using role play** with scripts, actors and critics to review possible performance tasks and written test content. (DH Donna Alfano)

**Graphics:** This is the first year for Graphics participation in NOCTI. Each day students work on related tasks. Today students created practice business cards for the Jack Rabbit Printing Company, owned by Rick O'Shay. They also took some digital pictures of class members in front of the chroma key green screen. Students then downloaded **vacation destination photographs** and superimposed their images into the downloads, creating a composite. (DH, Mark Eucalitto)

**HVAC:** Seniors are divided into two teams and they compete using the NOCTI questions following the **rules of Jeopardy**. Students also practice doing the individual timed testing. (DH, Bill Tierney)

**Electronics:** This is the first time Electronics students will take the NOCTI so their teacher, Al Valetta, is working on helping students remain **stress-free, using lots of humor**, theory and fun kit building practice, along with a **sense of pride** that the shop will do NOCTI as a **TEAM!**

**Hairdressing/Cosmetology/Barbering:** Senior students will demonstrate proficiency in the scientific concepts in hairdressing/barbering techniques **by performing and explaining a pre-selected procedure** covering NOCTI and State Board licensing topics. All topics were chosen during Cycle 5 and will be presented (2 per day) during Cycle 7. (DH, Doreen Florio)

#### **High Honors for Emmett O'Brien Graduate...**

Dana Potak will be heading for flight school after he graduates from the U.S. Naval Academy in May. Dana remembers his years at Emmett O'Brien as a "terrific experience that prepared me for the future. I am lucky enough to be where I am today only because of the experiences I gained as a student at E.O.B." Congratulations Dana and Emmett O'Brien HS.



#### **Lesson Starters Set the Tone for Learning**

Central office staff are gathering best practices on some of the ways fellow CTHSS teachers are initiating classroom instruction with **schema activators**. Schema activators are designed to capture students' attention and engage them in the lesson through a unique and sometimes entertaining approach. Next month's issue will include an overview of lesson initiation strategies. To submit a schema activator that has worked for your class, send it by email to [anne.druzolowski@po.state.ct.us](mailto:anne.druzolowski@po.state.ct.us)

For CTHSS Culinary Arts' **Recipe of the Month**, go to: <http://www.cttech.org/PRINCE/Technologies/culinary/yule-log/index.htm>

## Wolcott Students Take Part in Regional WWII History Project through State Grant

From December through June 2005, students from Oliver Wolcott will take part in a new interdisciplinary project facilitated by The Education Connection. Funded by the Connecticut State Department of Education interdistrict grants program, 11<sup>th</sup> graders will work with students from seven other high schools in the northwest corner of Connecticut to preserve the region's Oral History of WWII.

They will have the opportunity to meet and learn from veterans, historians, survivors, and others who lived through this historic period. Using multimedia such as audio, video, still photographs and text student teams will tell the stories of local members of the "Greatest Generation". Students will post their Oral Histories on a website for others to learn from.

## Prince Tech Students Get Start-up Ideas

A group of students from A.I. Prince had the opportunity to participate for ten weeks in the "Road to Riches" **Entrepreneurial Seminar** presented by Financial Program Strategies. The students, primarily from the Culinary, Fashion and Graphics shops, and mentored by first-year plumbing instructor John Maida, traveled to New Britain High School every Tuesday afternoon from 3 - 5 to attend the course.

The eight students who completed the course developed a formidable team. They utilized the skills and creativity gained through their experience to start a business called "Baskets Express". The attractive business card they designed promised baskets for all occasions. They developed the "Baskets Express" display for the culminating event of the program at CCSU. The students offered approximately fifteen different types of baskets which were the hit of the evening. Sales were brisk.

## Help from Fellow Teachers is Available on CTHSS Staff Message Board System

Teachers can communicate with their colleagues statewide on a wide variety of subjects on the teachers' message boards on the CTHSS internal web site.

This message board appears only on the CTHSS intranet site and is not accessible by the general public. **CTHSS trade and academic consultants** will review postings on the message boards at least once per week to make sure your questions are answered.

But teachers are encouraged to communicate with each other to get answers to questions and share perspectives on teaching and learning among themselves.

The message boards give teachers **an opportunity to share successful programs and effective solutions to common problems and to stay in touch with others** in the same discipline.

To use the message boards, CTHSS staff should go to: <http://vt6600i/forum/default.asp>.

Send newsletter entries to: [thomas.murphy@po.state.ct.us](mailto:thomas.murphy@po.state.ct.us)



*E.C. Goodwin's plan for a state-of-the-art campus will add over 54,000 sq. ft. of new classrooms and facilities, renovate 127,000 sq. ft. of existing space and rebuild athletic facilities and parking areas.*

**Many CTHSS construction projects** have been approved by the legislature and are awaiting contract award by the State DPW. Below is a status report on each project.\*

School	Project	Cost \$Millions	Status
Prince	Major Renovation & Addition + Athletic Fac.	\$60.45	Bids opened 12/15/04
Abbott	Major Renovation & 94,000 sq. ft. Addition, Rebuild Athletic Fac.	\$44.25	Bid opening 01/12/05
Cheney	Major Renovation & Addition + Athletic Fac.	\$43.3	Const. Starts 01/05
Kaynor	Major Renovation & Addition + Athletic Fac.	\$54.52	Bid Opening 03/05
Goodwin	Major Renovation & Addition + Athletic Fac.	\$54.54	Bid Opening 04/05
Eli Whitney	118,000 sq. ft Addition & Renovate 111,000 sq. ft.	\$59.15	In Design
Norwich	70,000 sq. ft Addition & Renovate 96,000 sq. ft.	\$58.14	In Design
Ellis	Major Renovation & Addition + Athletic Fac	\$39.75	In Design
Wright	Renovation of 200,000 sq. ft. of classroom, trade fac.	\$31.19	In Design
Wilcox	New Classrooms, Trade Shops Athletic Facilities, & Major Renovations	\$47.56	Selecting Architect
E. O'Brien	New academic wing, Kitchen, Expand trade wing, Athletic Fac., Site Improve	\$41.02	Selecting Architect
Platt	New trade area, multi purpose room, fitness center, renovate shops & classrooms	\$45.36	Selecting Architect
Grasso	New trade area, multi purpose room, language labs, renovate shops & classrooms	\$48.17	Selecting Architect
Bullard-Havens	Renovations to "A" Bldg, New Field House, Athletic Fields, Vehicle storage	\$27.33	Seeking Legislative Approval
Windham	Renovations to Existing Bldg, New greenhouse, classrooms, site improve	\$42.05	Seeking Legislative Approval

\* Capitol project applications for Vinal and Oliver Wolcott go to the State Board of Education for review and approval in March/April 2005. Roof replacement projects at Emmett O'Brien and the Bristol Tech Ed Center began construction in December.



# CTHSS ATHLETICS

The Connecticut Technical Conference

The Connecticut Technical Conference with a membership of 14 technical schools currently fields athletic teams in many interscholastic sports spanning the school year including: **Fall:** Boys' soccer, Girls' volleyball, Boys' and girls' cross-country. **Winter:** Boys' and girls' basketball, Cheerleading, Rifle team. **Spring:** Baseball, Softball, Tennis, Track, and Golf.



Two schools have full football programs. Additionally, many of our students compete on **co-op football teams** with local schools as partners and a number of schools have **wrestling** and **Lacrosse** programs. The majority of coaches are CTHSS teachers which helps teachers to connect with students outside of the classroom.

The importance of teamwork and good sportsmanship is emphasized and academic eligibility is closely monitored. The league participates in the CIAC Scholar Athlete Program and outstanding players are recognized.



Recent team and individual award recipients are: 2003/2004 team awards: soccer – **Wright Tech**; boys' cross-country – **Abbott Tech**; girls' cross-country – **Kaynor Tech**; volleyball – **Grasso**; boys' and girls' basketball – **Bullard Havens**; rifle – **Wilcox Tech**; softball – **Platt Tech**; baseball – **Norwich Tech**; track – **Prince Tech** and tennis – **Abbott Tech**. The fall sports champions for 2004 are: soccer and boys' cross-country – **Abbott Tech**, girls' cross-country – Kaynor Tech and volleyball – **Wright Tech**. Individual awards for 2004 are Soccer MVPs: East – Jesse Burns, Norwich Tech; West – Wilfredo Ramirez, Platt Tech; Volleyball – East – Maegan Gee, Grasso Tech; Cross-country MVPs – Boys' – Justin MacGregor, Platt Tech and Girls' – Eunice Pabon, Kaynor Tech.

Note: For further information, contact Jack Mullin (Grasso), commissioner of the Tech conference. Other conference officers are Dan Nemergut (Wilcox), Secretary and Marty Sparano (Kaynor), Treasurer.



## Help Desk for Teachers

### New Staff Person to Help with Certification Issues

**Julie Gottlieb** has joined the Connecticut Technical High School System to **help with teacher and administrator certification issues**. Julie's expertise stems from her 18 years in the SDE Certification Bureau. She will be visiting schools over the next several months to meet with teachers to answer questions and help solve issues with individual staff licenses. Teachers can get answers to their questions at <http://vt6600i/forum/default.asp>.

### Windham Culinary Team Shows Skills to Area Supts.

A brunch honoring EASTCONN director David Calchera gave Windham culinary students a chance to show their best to the superintendents of the Northeast and University regions.

## Chess is the "right move" for Techies

Chess Playing is alive and well in the Connecticut Technical High Schools. Eight technical schools now have active **Chess Teams** and the list is growing.



Bryant Keith [bryant.keith@po.state.ct.us](mailto:bryant.keith@po.state.ct.us) at **Wilcox** is offering advice and guidance with start-up and coordination of your school's chess club. Contact him if you are interested in starting up or expanding a club. He has asked all schools to **e-mail him with the following information:**

Have you (or do you plan to have) a school chess tournament this year?

- Have you identified students (or do you have a mechanism to ID students) for your chess team?
- Do you plan to have chess scrimmages and would you like me to arrange scrimmages for you?!
- Would you like assistance in keeping records of your players/team?

The system wide chess competition—**The Players Cup**—will be held in **June 2005**.

Every student and Coach will receive a chess lapel pin.

Every member of **winning team** will receive a trophy. The winner of individual competition will receive the trophy as **#1 player in system**.

## Vinal Students Score Big In Stock Market Game

**Vinal Tech's** IST Juniors have made solid gains in a Stock Market Simulation sponsored by The CT Council on Economic Education, The Center for Economic Education at UCONN, The Center of Economic Analysis at UCONN and D & J Strategic Communications of Hartford.

The team ranked **Number One** in the Region (Business and Finance) and **Number Two** in the (Coordinators Section)

## Advanced Manufacturing at Kaynor on Way to Becoming State's First NIMS Certified Program

Congratulations to Frank Zello, and Joe Mazzamauro — Manufacturing Technology stars. This December, both instructors became fully NIMS certified, earning all 6 Machining Level 1 credentials, plus the 7<sup>th</sup> credential of Special Merit for successfully completing all of the modules.

It also clears the pathway to begin the process of getting the Advanced Manufacturing Technology site accredited to NIMS. With the financial support of the Smaller Manufacturers Association (SMA) we will be starting the process of becoming a Level 1 NIMS certified site.

## Abbott Tech Enrolls Top Math Students at WestConn

Abbott Tech has forged an agreement with Western Connecticut State University to allow its advanced math students to take college-level Calculus on campus at no tuition cost to students.

Visit the CTHSS web site at: [www.cttech.org](http://www.cttech.org)