TWO-YEAR DEGREE PROGRAMS AT CPI

SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER FEATURES INCLUDE:

NEWS WORTHY | STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS | PROGRAM HAPPENINGS | CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS
After years of hard work, I am proud to announce that you can now earn a degree at CPI. This issue of the newsletter features our Associate in Specialized Technology (AST) degree programs.

These programs are approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, fully accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges, and students enrolled in the programs may be eligible for financial aid. I also want to point out the affordability of AST degree programs at CPI! Please take a few minutes to read the article on CPI degree programs written by Todd Taylor, Vice-President of Post-Secondary Education.

Since our last newsletter, there have been several noteworthy events at CPI. These include a joint announcement of a $4,000,000 Redevelopment Assistance Capital Project (RACP) grant by Governor Tom Wolf and Senator Jake Corman, the dedication of the Hawbaker Transportation Training Center, and the selection of CPI as a Top 100 Organization by Pennsylvania Business Central. Regarding the RACP grant for the Health Sciences Building project, we are greatly appreciative of Senator Corman’s efforts to include the CPI grant in the state budget.

The designation of CPI as a Top 100 Organization is directly attributable to our faculty, staff, and administration. The “greatness” of any organization depends on the people in the organization. The faculty, staff, and administration at CPI are committed to the success of our students. They work hard to make CPI a special experience for our students and being named a Top 100 Organization is a fitting tribute to them. I congratulate them and am privileged to be part of their efforts.

As we approach the end of the school year, please be reminded that Senior Certificate and Awards Night will be held Thursday, May 31 at 6:30 PM. Each of our graduates will receive four tickets for family and friends to attend the program.

I will close by sharing that, during all of my years as an educator, I have never seen so many opportunities for graduates of our programs. I strongly encourage you to consider at career-technical education pathway for your student or yourself and invite you to visit CPI to learn more about us.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter. As always, I thank you for the opportunity to work with your students. If you have any questions or something to share to help us do even better, please email me at rmakin@cpi.edu.

- Dr. Richard C. Makin, President

CPI News

Give Kids a Smile Day at CPI

CPI hosted Give Kids a Smile Day, coordinated by Dental Assisting Instructor Mindi Tobias and Assistant Instructor Heidi Wagner with assistance from the Institute’s Dental Assisting program and community volunteers. The event was open to local families and was part of a larger national initiative through the American Dental Association Foundation which offered free dental exams, cleanings, X-rays, fluoride treatments and sealants. Pictured are several volunteers who assisted in the day’s work, including morning Dental Assisting students.

Leaving a Lasting Impression

After 13 years serving as CPI’s Practical Nursing Coordinator, Jane Irwin entered retirement. Seen here with CPI President Richard Makin, (left) and Vice-President of Post-Secondary Education Todd Taylor, Irwin stated, “I have had a wonderful nursing career and worked in varied locations and specialty areas, but none where I experienced such warmth and acceptance as I have found at CPI.” Students and staff, past and present would like to wish Jane a very happy and healthy retirement.
CPI RECEIVES COUNTY PROCLAMATION

CPI staff and students attended the Centre County Board of Commissioners meeting and received a proclamation declaring February as Career and Technical Education month in Centre County. After receiving an update from Vice-President of Secondary-Education, MaryAnn Volders, the commissioners spoke to the students, inquired about their backgrounds and decisions for attending CPI, and then applauded the Institute for many years of excellent service to the county and region. Pictured from left to right are: Commissioners Mark Higgins and Michael Pipe, adult education student, Benjamin Musser, secondary students Alexis Hassinger and Dalton Derugen, MaryAnn Volders, CCPSTC Coordinator Mark Keller and Commissioner Steve Dershem.

FAMILIES VISIT CPI STUDENTS

Approximately 100 family members attended this year’s CPI Family Day when family members visited the campus and program areas to experience what it’s like to be a CPI student. During visits, students guided family members through a program lesson, explained progress on lab area projects, and discussed tool and equipment use. Pictured are Bald Eagle Area junior and Horticulture and Landscape student Makaylinn Wilson (L) with her grandfather and uncle after the two visitors received a lesson on floral arrangements.

PARTNERING WITH LOCAL LEADERS

Bi-annually, CPI holds Occupational Advisory Committee (OAC) meetings comprised of educational, business, industry, and community leaders who participate in discussions to strengthen career and technical education. Program area instructors consult with OAC members to assure the most up-to-date curriculum content and appropriate applications of technology are being utilized while discussing any program recommendations. Pictured at a recent OAC dinner meeting are (L to R) Tim Schreffler from Logan Fire Co., Centre County Public Training Center Coordinator Mark Keller, CPI Emergency Services Instructor Cheniene Leiter, Scott Rhoate from Bellefonte EMS, and Centre County Emergency Management Agency Director Jeff Wharran.

LCC EDUCATION DAY

Recently, members of Leadership Centre County participated in Education Day, visiting various local schools to get a snapshot of their daily activities. Members visiting CPI were from left to right: Dennis Walter, Cory Stocker, Zack Davis, Doreen Ferretti, Nicohl Geszvain, Tara Shaffer, Sharon Schafer, and Kate Tosto (not pictured) who toured the campus and program areas, interacted with students and instructors, and met with administrators to increase awareness of issues and challenges facing all sectors of public education and to identify citizens’ roles in public education.
CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

PRECISION MACHINE HOSTS PROGRAM REUNION
Motivated by an idea from Bald Eagle senior Zach Chambers, the Precision Machine Technology program hosted a reunion inviting students and instructors dating back to the program’s inception. Over thirty guests attended throughout the evening as former classmates and instructors shared memories while reminiscing in the lab area. Pictured here are those who attended, including former instructors, Dwayne Yarger Sr., Jack Bell, Dan Potutschnig, and John Mandell Sr.

STUDENTS PUTTING TOOLS TO GOOD USE
Bellefonte junior David Skripnikov displays tools he fabricated and will use as part of the curriculum in CPI’s Precision Machine Technology program, including a lathe tool, ball peen hammer, tool bit gauge, and a drill drift. Instructor Ben Detwiler believes the best method for his students to understand precision tool use is to have them fabricate their own and test them on the equipment used in their lab.

BACKPACK PROGRAM
CPI’s National Technical Honor Society, under advisor Erin Gearhart, has teamed up with the Bellefonte YMCA to assist local families through a backpack program. Weekly, students in NTHS fill backpacks with donated food items for 26 children to take home for the weekend. Pictured right to left preparing packs for the weekend are: Cirstynn Comly-Bald Eagle Area, Ashley Conaway-Bald Eagle Area, Taylor Homan-Penns Valley, and Justine Bressler-Penns Valley.

PROGRAM HAPPENINGS

LEARNING TO BREATHE AGAIN
Students in CPI’s Emergency Services program learn all aspects of becoming a first responder, including firefighting. Dalton Derugen of Penns Valley, shown here in his turnout gear, is preparing for an exercise to become acclimated to a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, a device worn by rescue workers to provide breathable air in dangerous situations.
THE FINISHING TOUCH

There are a multitude of steps necessary while completing body work, especially when considering the skills required to reach a gleaming finished product. Many hours are spent filling, sanding, grinding, welding, cleaning and repeating processes in order to get a smooth surface to paint. Having an eye for perfection is also a necessity. After putting all of the hard work behind him, Jacob Flory (pictured) of Bald Eagle Area says the reward is applying the finish coat, as he is with this S-10 Chevrolet pickup. Flory estimates the project took him 60-70 hours to complete.

TIME TO MAKE THE COOKIES

They are well-known within the confines of CPI as heavenly and if you’ve had one, you’ll never forget. The chocolate chip cookies made by CPI’s Culinary Arts program under Chef Instructor Tim Beckenbaugh are a staple of most charitable events and meals hosted on campus. Before the year is complete, the program will have prepared for nearly 75 events in which they plan menus, order products, arrange event spaces and table settings, and coordinate serving areas. Pictured, Bellefonte sophomore and Culinary Arts student Ethan Mikesic displays a fresh batch of cookies prepared for a recent event.

COOPERATION IS KEY

Cooperation is one of the primary “soft” skills employers seek when hiring candidates and is a key factor in determining job satisfaction. A large part of every program’s curriculum at CPI is the ability to collaborate while working on projects and tasks. Diesel Technology Instructor John Fike stated, “Ideally, I want students with different skill sets to work together to troubleshoot issues. When that happens, it’s rewarding for everyone, including me.” Pictured are his students putting their heads together during an engine rebuild of a 3406 engine in a Peterbilt 379 dump truck (L to R): Kalen Shvenke-Bellefonte, Jared Byler-Penns Valley, and Josh Ishler-Bald Eagle Area.

COSMETOLOGY STUDENT DEMONSTRATES FOR FUTURE

Adult education student Holly Lupton demonstrates how to add dimension to her client’s hair by foiling and highlighting only certain sections called the T-zone. Lupton, who is pursuing a teaching certification in Cosmetology, is nearing the mid-way point of her required hours under Instructor June Murray. She used this demonstration to lead classroom instruction on the hair coloring and design modules.
February is National Children’s Dental Health Month, a national health campaign bringing together dental professionals, healthcare providers, and educators to promote the benefits of good dental hygiene for children. CPI’s Dental Assisting and Early Childhood Education programs teamed up to deliver lessons to Head Start students using several learning stations, including when and how to brush properly, successful flossing techniques, and good versus bad foods. Pictured are students from both CPI programs with Head Start students.

Putting their knowledge to good practice, HVAC adult education students were tasked with installing a compressed air system in their lab area. The system will be put to good use as a tool to clean air conditioners, duct work, filters, and many other parts used in their program. Pictured are Seth Shade and Maclean Smith on top of the scaffolding installing steel-pipe lines, while Clayton Giedroc and James Lose serve as ground safety from below while assisting with tools and parts for the installation.

CPI’s path towards post-secondary expansion started around the year 2000 when its governing board (JOC) had the vision to expand its short evening continuing education courses into full-time career training programs leading to a specialized technical degree.

The JOC envisioned a plan to offer workforce diploma career training programs that helped land nearly all its graduating students in jobs within 80 miles of the North Harrison Road, Pleasant Gap campus. The goal then and now is to help fill a void for individuals looking for a high-wage, family-sustaining local career and for employers looking to fill their workforce gap with highly skilled and available technicians.

“The space between a high school diploma and a four-year degree is where the bulk of all job creation exists in America,” said Todd Taylor, CPI’s Vice President of Post-Secondary education. He added that about 70 percent of jobs fall in the post high school, but not up to baccalaureate education range.

But there is an additional need area employers have that CPI is now starting to fill – the need for a workforce with specialized technical degrees.

In August, CPI began offering Associate in Specialized Technology (AST) degree programs that provide students the chance to land in-demand jobs and climb their way up the corporate ladder.

It differs from diploma programs in that it requires students to take both core and general education classes, with core being about 75% of the two-year programs.

But it doesn't stop there. CPI has a three-phase master plan to enhance and improve career and technical education programs that includes the construction of a three-level health sciences building to house an array of programs in the health and medical technician fields.
Since about 2000, CPI has offered numerous diploma programs and other technical training courses in at least 14 disciplines.

The Institute gained momentum with adult programming from 2003 to 2006 when areas in central Pennsylvania lost several companies and businesses through mass plant closures. CPI shifted its post-secondary focus to re-training individuals who had lost their jobs; thereby offering those affected by the closures a path towards family-sustaining employment in the area.

“We experienced significant growth when our region lost a lot of manufacturing jobs in a short period of time. CPI shifted to playing a much larger role in workforce development; we went from reasonably small school to being significantly bigger in a short period of time,” Taylor said. “There were a lot of plant closures within 50 to 70 miles of CPI so we shifted to become a hub for re-training and re-employment.”

IN 2007, CPI FORMED A TASK FORCE OF INDUSTRY LEADERS WITH A FOCUS ON IDENTIFYING THE SCHOOL’S POTENTIAL FOR MEETING THE LONG-TERM NEEDS OF KEY EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYMENT SECTORS.

The task force members stressed a need for short-term training (one year) currently offered and a need for two-year technical degrees. The specialized degrees would prepare CPI students for “technician level” jobs in transportation, construction, healthcare, and other areas.

Through input and regional data, administrators identified four specialized areas that could be a part of CPI’s initial AST degree programs – advanced manufacturing technology; healthcare management; heavy diesel construction with a Case Construction Equipment emphasis; and natural gas compression.

“Our circle around the school has gotten bigger, but our base student typically does not want to move out of the area, or from outside a 60-mile circle,” Taylor said. “That’s why when we looked at our training and degree offerings, we take ‘the circle’ around central Pennsylvania really seriously.”
PRESENT

Heavy Diesel Construction, with a Case Construction Equipment emphasis was the first of the AST programs to be offered in August. The program entered into a partnership with Groff Tractor and Equipment, and externships begin in the summer.

Natural Gas Compression with a Cat/Ariel emphasis AST program also started in November with nine students. The program will have 16 students by August, and recruitment efforts span across the Marcellus Shale area.

ONE OF THE BIGGEST REGIONAL GROWTH INDUSTRIES IS THE HEALTH AND MEDICAL SCIENCE FIELDS.

The state Department of Labor and Industry projects a 25 percent growth rate for the employment of licensed practical nurses through 2022. The employment of health and medical service managers are also projected to increase 20 percent though 2026, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

To address this shortage, CPI began offering an AST degree in Healthcare Management, which has been approved by the state. Though not fully launched, students are currently enrolled in the program, and the plan is to move it, as well as many other health science offerings, to CPI’s proposed Health Sciences Building (HSB). The HSB is expected to open by the winter/spring of 2020/2021.

Students have also been accepted into the Advanced Manufacturing AST degree program rolling out in August. Graduates with a specialized degree in Advanced Manufacturing will fill the highly-skilled, high pay occupations in robotics, motion control, mechatronics, control systems, and other areas. Numerous companies throughout central PA specialize in the use of modern manufacturing means, techniques and technology such as automation, computer control and robotics and face a workforce shortage in filling their open positions.

According to instructor Guy Woodard, the two-year program will provide students with hands-on and in-class training that could help graduates get jobs as control system technicians, maintenance technicians, wastewater operators and more.

FUTURE

CPI is in the middle of its three-phase plan that started with the dedication in November of 2013 of its Transportation Training Center, now named in honor of Glenn O. and Thelma M. Hawbaker and family. It houses the CDL, Diesel Technology and Heavy Equipment Operations Programs.

The second phase is the construction of the HSB planned to begin later this year.

TO HELP CPI’S GROWTH AND TRANSITION, THE COMMONWEALTH — WITH SUPPORT FROM SENATOR CORMAN’S OFFICE -- AWARDED A $4 MILLION DOLLAR GRANT TO CPI THROUGH THE STATE’S REDEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE CAPITAL PROGRAM (RACP).

The RACP grant will help support the cost needed to build the estimated 46,000-square-foot Health Sciences facility. When completed, the building will provide space for classrooms and labs, and an area on the ground floor for a local health care provider that Taylor said should be “mutually beneficial” to the provider partner and CPI.

In describing Phase II and the planned Health Sciences Building, Taylor stated, “Our plan is to have CPI’s Health Sciences Building, housing AST programs and providing dedicated space for a partner to deliver on-site medical services. Taylor continued with, “We envision a partnership that strengthens the healthcare-education continuum, heightens brand awareness, and allows convenient community access for patient care. Working with our partner, the HSB expands the bridge between health and academics to provide the most qualified clinical workforce in the region. In addition to addressing the regional healthcare workforce shortage and meeting the needs of our clinical partner, CPI’s Health Sciences Building will further advance a culture of
Pictured is Culinary Arts and Bald Eagle Area student Sophia Dimitratos preparing green eggs and ham for preschool students in celebration of Dr. Seuss’s birthday, which is also the same day as the National Education Association’s Read Across America Day. The celebration takes place annually as a source of motivation for every child in every community to read or be read to. After a helping of breakfast, students in the Early Childhood program read to preschoolers. The book, of course, was Green Eggs and Ham.

Academic Support Specialist Bill Luther serves many roles on the campus of CPI. In doing so, he will do just about anything, including being a patient for students learning phlebotomy skills. Justine Bressler, a Penns Valley senior, is preparing Mr. Luther for a vein puncture in order to meet requirements for a course offered through the adult Medical Assisting program. Bressler is one of the top five high school students in the Medical Science program, which qualified her to take the course.
According to PBC, a long list of organizations were selected by an editorial committee, which were nominated by readers for their positive impacts in the central Pennsylvania business community. Nominations were based on organizations that are an asset to the community by showing consistent and significant contributions to Pennsylvania’s economic development, commitment to honest business practices, and involvement in charitable community activities.

CPI President Richard Makin stated, “The heart of any organization is people. The selection of CPI as a Top 100 organization is a tribute to our faculty, staff, and administration. They are a wonderful group of individuals to work with and I am proud of them! Congratulations to all CPI employees!”

They are examples of not only survival in difficult times, but also of excelling through adversity. Additionally, honorees not only exemplify the hard work and dedication necessary to move forward and thrive in their specific fields, but also the compassion to make a difference within their communities through volunteer work, outreach and public services. It also stated, “Our honorees come from a wide range of practices, but each is an example of how to generate success in business without forgetting the people and community who helped them reach it.”

Pennsylvania Business Central (PBC), a business-to-business publication covering 23 counties, has recognized CPI as one of the Top 100 Organizations for 2017!

For the fourth year in a row, CPI’s Horticulture and Landscape program placed first at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in the Large Landscape Exhibit competition. The top finish earned them another trip to the Eastern States Exhibition in Springfield, MA where they will compete against teams from 20 states along the east coast with over 900 other FFA students. The CPI team includes Charlee Marshall, Robert Ficarro, Landon Wagner, Jarrod Williams, and Alexis Witherite.

Advertising Arts students Cassidie Cain, Kayla Malloy, and Abbey Martin took first place in the Pennsylvania High School Computer Fair Regional Competition on March 8 for their logo and page layout design. They will compete on May 22 in the state competition at Dickinson College. The regional competition required them to create a series of designs that depicted the theme “recycling.”
AMY JOHNSON  
**PRACTICAL NURSING COORDINATOR**

It is an honor to work at CPI as the Coordinator of the Practical Nursing Program. Everyone I work with, students and staff, have been so welcoming and supportive. It is wonderful to be part of such a positive environment helping students achieve their goals.

---

LUANN BRUNO  
**ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST, POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION**

CPI is a great place to work and I am very happy to have become part of the CPI family. I look forward to assisting prospective students with any information to help them enroll in one or more of our many great programs.

---

TIM SWAN  
**HEAD OF MAINTENANCE**

Things happen for a reason. Previously, I worked for Girl Scouts - Camp Golden Pond in Petersburg. When the site closed I visited CPI to enroll in the CAT/Ariel program. Instead, I met my current supervisor who urged me to interview and ended up getting hired! I am thankful for the opportunity and enjoy working with nice people on a great campus.

---

FRED WAGNER  
**HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATIONS INSTRUCTOR**

Before coming to CPI, I worked for 15 years in the field as an owner/operator and supervisor. Moving from the field to teaching was a big decision, but I am happy I took the opportunity to become part of the staff here. Everyone at CPI has been very helpful and welcoming. I enjoy instructing the students and hope to equip them with the skills for a successful future.

---

RENEE OWENS  
**RECEPTIONIST, MAIN OFFICE**

After spending 13 years as a long-term substitute and Assistant Instructor in the Culinary Arts program at CPI, I am excited to have the opportunity to serve as the Main Office Receptionist. I love CPI and I look forward to coming here daily. It is one of the few places I’ve worked that makes my day more enjoyable. I hope to be part of CPI for many years to come.

---

The Central PA Institute of Science and Technology does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries may be directed to the Section 504 Coordinator at the Central PA Institute of Science and Technology, 540 N. Harrison Rd. Pleasant Gap, PA 16823 or 814-359-2793.

---

**SERVICE WITH A SMILE**

Each February, educators across the nation celebrate CTE month by highlighting achievements and accomplishments of Career and Technical Education programs. Among many things, CPI selected student Stars of the Day nominated by their peers, invited industry leaders to speak in program areas, held a door decorating contest, hosted a community open house, and gave out pizza to all students. Pictured are several staff members preparing to serve the afternoon students free pizza with a smile.

---

**JOINT OPERATING COMMITTEE (JOC) MEMBERS**

- Mary Ann Hamilton - Chairperson
  Bald Eagle Area School District
- Kimberly Hearn - Vice-Chairperson
  Bellefonte Area School District
- Chris Houser
  Penns Valley Area School District
- Darren Narber
  Penns Valley Area School District
- Rob Pacella
  Bellefonte Area School District

**PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) MEMBERS**

- Jeffrey Miles
  Superintendent of Record
  Superintendent, Bald Eagle Area School District
- Brian Griffith
  Superintendent, Penns Valley Area School District
- Michelle Saylor
  Superintendent, Bellefonte Area School District

**CPI FOUNDATION MEMBERS**

- Thomas F. Songer, II
  President
- Matt Nussbaum
- Bill MacMath
  Vice President
- Erin Wedlake
  Treasurer
- Cindy Zimmerman

The Central PA Institute of Science and Technology does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries may be directed to the Section 504 Coordinator at the Central PA Institute of Science and Technology, 540 N. Harrison Rd. Pleasant Gap, PA 16823 or 814-359-2793.
HATS OFF!
OUR ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS ARE AMAZING!

They keep things running smoothly, somehow know the answers to all our questions, and are always willing to go the extra mile. Their hard work and dedication to our students, faculty, and administration are greatly appreciated. With highest regards, JOB WELL DONE!!!

JAN PEPPERDAY, HEATHER MOORE, DENISE SHULTZ, LUANN BRUNO, SHARON COOK, TERRY RILEY, THERESA BRICKLEY, RENEE OWENS