March 2026

News Flash

CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

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CVCC's Annual Job Fair

CVCC hosted its annual Job Fair on Thursday, March 5, welcoming more than 100 employers and a strong turnout from the community. The event was open to job seekers ages 14 and up and featured a variety of full-time, part-time, and seasonal opportunities. Thank you to Assistant Principal Josh Hayes and Administrative Assistant Lori DeCapua for their time and effort in organizing the event. CVCC also appreciates the student volunteers and participating organizations whose involvement helped make the event a success.

HOSA Regionals

Congratulations to the following students who placed at the HOSA (Future Health Professionals) Regional competition on February 21 at Medina County Career Center. They've earned a spot at the HOSA State Conference in Toledo, taking place April 16–17!

Biomedical Debate
3rd Place – Alexa Ashcraft, Lauren Dailey, Emma Iacianci, Lucie Noeth (Team; Health Careers)

Clinical Laboratory Science
2nd Place – Cara Miller (Health Careers)

Community Awareness
3rd Place – Peyton Crosby, Ire'ana Lee, Avery Miller, Lauryn Perry, Arianna Thompson (Team; Dental Assisting)

Dental Science
2nd Place – Marina Mysiuk (Dental Assisting)
4th Place – Payton Fuller (Dental Assisting)

Dental Terminology
1st Place – Luke Masek (Dental Assisting)
2nd Place – Yuliia Kleban (Dental Assisting)
4th Place – Madelynn Zemko (Dental Assisting)

Health Career Display
4th Place – Vanessa Smith, Molly Wolfe (Team; Sports Medicine Exercise Science)

Home Health Aide
1st Place – Tevin Cullison (Health Careers)
2nd Place – Olivia McCaster (Health Careers)

HOSA Bowl
3rd Place – Samantha Gerbasich, Addison Huffman, Isabela Melendez, Mia Ricotta (Team; Health Careers)

HOSA Regionals (continued)

Human Growth & Development
1st Place – Eleri Watkins (Sports Medicine Exercise Science)

Job Seeking Skills
1st Place – Holly Gayner (Dental Assisting)

Nursing Assisting
1st Place – Melinda Geringer (Health Careers)
3rd Place – Samantha Simonitis (Health Careers)

Physical Therapy
2nd Place – Kaylee Bene (Sports Medicine Exercise Science)

Prepared Speaking
1st Place – Halley Sekerak (Sports Medicine Exercise Science)
4th Place – Tania Carter (Health Careers)

Public Service Announcement
2nd Place – Olivia Albrecht, Taylor Bartholomew, Simar Laly, Ryleigh Ressler, Lilly Sobieski, Sophia Stencel (Team; Dental Assisting)
3rd Place – Lia Howard, Johniya Webb (Team; Dental Assisting)

Researched Persuasive Writing and Speaking
1st Place – Skylar Stewart (Dental Assisting)

Sports Medicine
1st Place – Alessandra Gurnak (Sports Medicine Exercise Science)
3rd Place – Ella Wilson (Sports Medicine Exercise Science)
4th Place – Addison Glaser (Sports Medicine Exercise Science)

We are incredibly proud of all of our students who competed and represented CVCC with excellence. Best of luck at State!

BPA State Competition

Congratulations to all of our students who competed at the BPA State Competition in Columbus February 23-24! We are incredibly proud to announce that the following students have qualified to advance to the BPA National Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, May 6–10!

Advancing to Nationals:

Santino (Sonny) Taylor, Programming & Software Development (Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School)
• Computer Programming Concepts – 1st place
**Also earned 7th place in Python Programming and 9th place in IT Concepts*

Liam Schad, Networking & Cybersecurity (Nordonia High School)
• Computer Network Technology – 3rd place

Sabrina Nanne, Digital Design (Nordonia High School)
• Fundamental Desktop Publishing – 7th place

Madison Stutin, Medical Administrative Specialist (Twinsburg High School)
• Medical Coding – 7th place

Lizzie Walker, Medical Administrative Specialist (Nordonia High School)
• Health Insurance and Medical Billing – 7th place

Jacob Gruszewski, Programming & Software Development (Nordonia High School)
• Web Site Design Team – 3rd place

Mackenzie Horton, Programming & Software Development (Twinsburg High School)
• Web Site Design Team – 3rd place

Denny Rushing, Programming & Software Development (Nordonia High School)
• Web Site Design Team – 3rd place
*Also earned 9th place in Computer Programming Concepts

Evan Schaus, Programming & Software Development (Twinsburg High School)
• Web Site Design Team – 3rd place
**Also earned 4th place in Computer Programming Concepts*

Jackson Phillips, Programming & Software Development (Twinsburg High School)
• C# Programming – 4th place

BPA State Competition (continued)

Kelvin Wallace, Programming & Software Development (Revere High School)
• Database Applications – 7th place

Nicole Nisenbaum, Digital Design (Twinsburg High School)
• Advanced Desktop Publishing – 4th place

Congratulations to all of our competitors on their hard work and success—we can't wait to cheer you on at Nationals!

Programming & Software Development Students' BPA Success

Congratulations to Programming & Software Development students Evan Schaus (Twinsburg High School), Jackson Philips (Twinsburg High School), and Denny Rushing (Nordonia High School) for qualifying for the 2026 BPA National Leadership Conference as Top 10 finalists in the V03 Software Engineering Team event with their original video game project!

This accomplishment represents hundreds of hours of hard work, creativity, and technical skill. Unlike many competitions, this contest does not include regional or state rounds. Instead, teams first submit their projects for a technical review. The top 20 teams advance to a virtual presentation round, and from there, only the top 10 teams earn an invitation to compete at Nationals.

At the National Leadership Conference, these students will present their project during the National Showcase, compete for Best-in-Show awards, connect with industry professionals and judges, and participate in national competitions and leadership programming. Top finalists are also recognized on stage during the Grand Awards Session. Even more impressive — these seniors have already qualified for Nationals in other contests this year, making this achievement especially exciting. We're so proud of their dedication and can't wait to see them represent CVCC on the national stage!

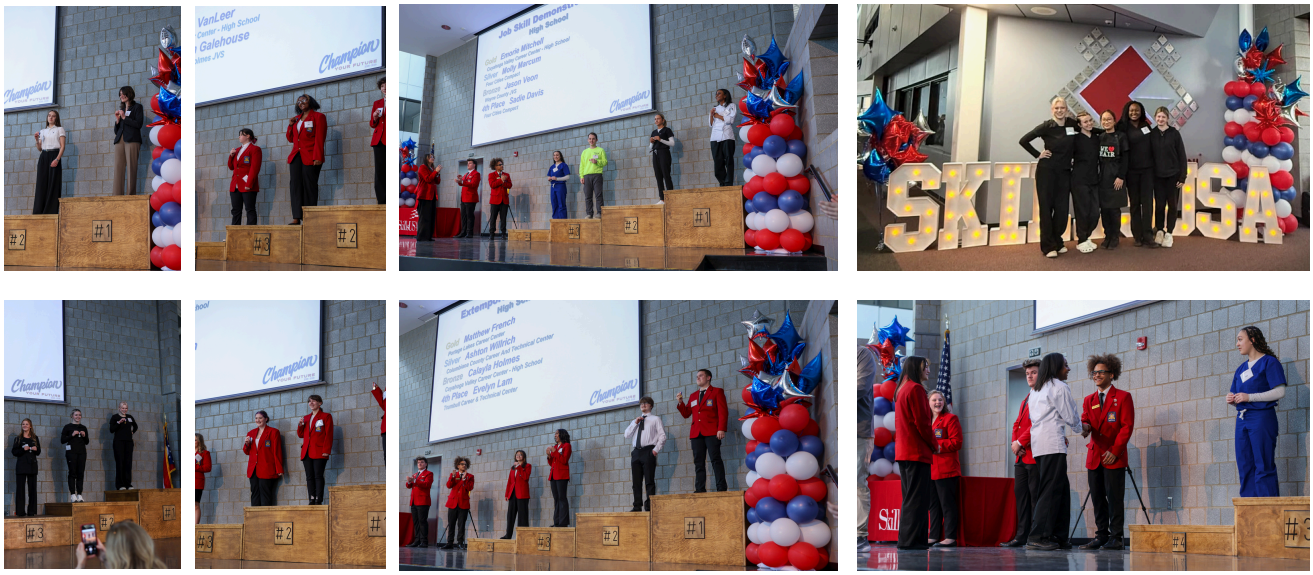
Pictured left to right: Evan Schaus, Jackson Philips, Denny Rushing

SkillsUSA Regionals at CVCC

Congratulations to all of our students who represented CVCC at the SkillsUSA Regionals on February 27, hosted right here at CVCC! We are incredibly proud of every student who competed and grateful to the staff members who helped make the day a success.

A special congratulations to the following students who placed in their competitions. These students will advance to the SkillsUSA State Conference in Columbus, May 5-6!

- Alisha Kazimir, Digital Design (North Royalton High School) — 1st Place, Advertising Design
- Emorie Mitchell, Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management (Twinsburg High School) — 1st Place, Job Demo A
- Magdelyn Toner, Cosmetology (Homeschooled) — 1st Place, Nail Care
- Isabella Faini, Construction Trades (Twinsburg High School) — 2nd Place, Prepared Speech
- Kayleis VanLeer, Automotive Technology (Twinsburg High School) — 3rd Place, Customer Service
- Calayla Holmes, Digital Design (Homeschooled) — 3rd Place, Extemporaneous Speech
- Dontae Wilkerson, Construction Trades (Garfield Heights High School) — 4th Place, Job Interview



SkillsUSA Regionals (continued; off-site)

Congratulations to our Automotive Technology seniors who showcased their skills at the SkillsUSA Automotive Maintenance & Light Repair Regional Contest at Ohio Technical College on February 20!

- Nate Mandich (Cuyahoga Heights High School) – 3rd Place
- Cody Lindstrom (Twinsburg High School) – 1st Place

Nate (pictured left) and Cody (pictured right) are moving on to the state competition in May—we can't wait to cheer them on!

Congratulations to Electrical Systems junior, John Walsh (Independence High school; pictured far left), for placing 4th at the Youngstown JATC SkillsUSA Regionals on February 27—he'll also be advancing to the state competition in May!

Educators Rising State Conference

Congratulations to our Education Professions' students who represented CVCC at the Educators Rising State Conference in Columbus March 3-4!

We are proud to celebrate the following students who qualified for the HOSA National Conference this June in Portland, OR:

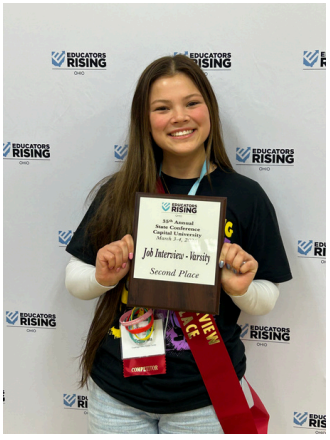
Juniors

- Isabella Schultz (Nordonia High School) – Top 10 Qualifier, Lesson Planning & Delivery (Arts)
- Madelyn Osborne (Cuyahoga Heights High School) – Top 10 Qualifier, Exploring Education Administration Careers

Seniors

- Keira Connell (Cuyahoga Heights High School) – Top 10 Qualifier, Lesson Planning & Delivery (Humanities)
- Emily Ma (Twinsburg High School) – 2nd Place, Job Interview
- Ella Chase (Nordonia High School), Zaria Jackson (Nordonia High School), Nadia Lindemeyer (Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School), Penelope Marsh (Twinsburg High School) – 4th Place, Researching Learning Challenges

Way to go, future educators!



NTHS Induction Ceremony

On Wednesday, March 18, CVCC welcomed new inductees into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS). NTHS recognizes career-technical students who go above and beyond in academics, leadership, service, and character. These students are selected through a thoughtful process that considers their achievements, attendance, involvement, and teacher recommendations. As members, they'll continue to lead by example. Special congratulations to Ash (Eleri) Watkins, Sports Medicine Exercise Science student and senior at Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School, for receiving the NTHS Scholarship!

2026 Inductees

Independence High School:

- Chen, Carmen
- Crooks, David
- Dailey, Claire
- Iacianci, Emma
- Jurkiewicz, Julia
- Masek, Luke
- Melbar, Riley
- Meyer, Mitchell
- Polcar, Alexandra
- Walsh, John

CVCC Becomes First Career-Technical Education School Invited to Safe Smiles

The Safe Smiles program in Cleveland, organized by the Greater Cleveland Dental Society, is a community initiative dedicated to promoting oral health and preventing sports-related dental injuries. The program provides free, custom-fitted mouth guards to local high school football players in a supportive, educational environment. This year marked a special milestone, as Cuyahoga Valley Career Center (CVCC) was the first career and technical school invited to participate in Safe Smiles. Our senior Dental Assisting students had the incredible opportunity to work alongside dental students under the supervision of Greater Cleveland Dental Society members and residents from area programs.

The event, held at Willoughby South High School on Saturday, February 28, began with an orientation. During this session, Dr. Tom Coreno and Dr. Sam Taylor reviewed proper impression techniques, what constitutes an accurate impression, and the various types of mouth guards available to athletes. This discussion reinforced the important role dental assistants play in patient education, especially when helping patients understand their options for protecting their teeth during sports activities. Over 70 student-athletes from Charles F. Brush High School, Kirtland High School, and Willoughby South High School arrived, with 8–10 stations set up for efficient workflow. Representing CVCC were seniors Olivia Albrecht (Twinsburg High School), Holly Gayner (Revere High School), Isaiah Kirkpatrick (Twinsburg High School), Simar Laly (Twinsburg High School), Lily Sobieski (Nordonia High School), Elizabeth Werner (North Royalton High School), and Diana Zgurska (North Royalton High School), along with Ms. Theodore. Throughout the day, students evaluated mouth sizes for trays, mixed alginate, maintained organized workspaces, and successfully took impressions for athletes participating in local flag football teams.

The program, led by Dr. Tom Coreno and Dr. Sam Taylor, also provided an opportunity to collaborate with area employers who support the CVCC Dental Assisting program. Our seniors had a fun-filled, hands-on learning experience and demonstrated exceptional professionalism. Feedback from organizers and participants was overwhelmingly positive—many commented on how professional and impressive the students were and expressed enthusiasm about having CVCC return to participate again next year. Thank you to the Safe Smiles program for providing CVCC with this incredible opportunity!

Health Careers and Dental Assisting Collaborate to Build Skills

CVCC Health Careers and Dental Assisting juniors recently partnered to strengthen their clinical skills and gain hands-on healthcare experience. During the session, Health Careers students demonstrated proper techniques for measuring blood pressure, including correct placement of the cuff, adjusting the valve, inflating the cuff, and accurately reading results using a stethoscope. Following the demonstration, students practiced these skills with one another, building confidence, reinforcing teamwork, and preparing for future careers in the healthcare field. This collaborative experience highlighted the value of peer learning and real-world application in career-technical education.

Culinary Students Welcome Preschoolers for a Sweet Experience

On March 10, CVCC's Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management students welcomed some very special guests from Independence Co-Op Preschool for a Chef for a Day experience. After a kitchen tour, the little chefs teamed up with our seniors to bake and decorate their own cupcakes. Hands-on learning (and lots of sprinkles) for everyone involved!

Hospitality & Food Preparation Support World Down Syndrome Day

CVCC came together in a colorful and meaningful way to recognize World Down Syndrome Day on March 20, with students and staff wearing mismatched socks as a symbol of inclusion, support, and celebration of differences. Led by the Hospitality & Food Preparation program, the initiative included a special Dress Down Day and a sock sale, giving the school community an opportunity to get involved while supporting an important cause. Through their efforts, students raised $150 in donations and an additional $107 in sock sales, all benefiting The Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Ohio. This initiative highlights the compassion and leadership within the CVCC community, as students and staff work together to create an environment where everyone feels seen, valued, and celebrated. Way to go, Hospitality & Food Preparation!

Construction Cluster Students Gifted DeWalt Tool Sets

Congratulations to our recent DeWalt Grow the Trades grant recipients! Students in Construction Trades, Electrical Systems, and Heating & Air Conditioning earned a DeWalt 4-piece tool set through the DeWalt Grow the Trades grant by completing over 250 pathway hours during their first two years in their program. Way to go, Construction Cluster students!

Pictured (bottom row, left to right): Isabella Faini and Avery Dines (Construction Trades), Bryce Rusch and Alex Pontikos (Electrical Systems).
Top row (left to right): Dom Samartano (Construction Trades), Nick Sidor, Tommy Toth, Lincoln Dershak (Heating & Air Conditioning), Lucas Esbenshade (Construction Trades), and Nathan Wilson and Andrew Pacak (Electrical Systems).
Not pictured: Derek Shorts (Heating & Air Conditioning).

ADP Student Success

Karen, a recent graduate of CVCC's Adult Diploma Program and Nurse Aide program, has turned dedication and compassion into a remarkable career achievement. While working at a long-term care facility, her exceptional patient care skills were quickly recognized by her supervisors, who encouraged her to pursue her high school diploma through CVCC. After successfully completing the program and passing her state boards, Karen not only earned her diploma but also advanced in her career—earning a promotion to trainer within the memory care unit at her facility. Congratulations, Karen! We are incredibly proud of your hard work, growth, and commitment to making a difference.

CVCC Adult Education Attends NATE UNITE Conference

During the week of February 23, CVCC was represented at the NATE UNITE Conference in Las Vegas, a premier event that brought together professionals from across the communications infrastructure and tower industry for several days of learning, networking, and hands-on experiences. Representing CVCC was Adult Education Coordinator Joe Lupia. CVCC's Telecommunications Tower Technician (TTT) instructor, Jake Giesy, was also in attendance with his primary role as Safety Director/Project Manager at Tri County Tower, LLC. The event featured a variety of training sessions, live demonstrations, and an expansive expo showcasing the latest tools and technologies in the field. A strong emphasis was placed on safety, workforce development, and staying current with industry advancements. Throughout the event, attendees had valuable opportunities to connect with industry professionals, exchange ideas, and gain practical knowledge to bring back to their programs and workplaces. NATE UNITE 2026 provided an engaging and informative experience, highlighting the future of the industry and reinforcing CVCC's commitment to staying at the forefront of workforce training.

Upcoming Practical Nursing Open House at CVCC

Ready to start your nursing journey? Come see what CVCC's Practical Nursing program is all about at our Open House on Tuesday, April 14!

Choose a session that works for you:
• 12 PM – 2 PM
• 4 PM – 6 PM

Learn more about CVCC's Practical Nursing program here:
https://cvccworks.edu/.../adult-education-programs/nursing/

Class of 2026 – Important Information

CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

SENIOR RECOGNITION CEREMONY INFORMATION

CLASS OF 2026

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

The **Senior Recognition Ceremony** will take place at CVCC on Thursday, May 7, and Friday, May 8, from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM in the Commons. Students will receive an invitation closer to the event date.

During the ceremony, each student will be presented with a CVCC Portfolio. The Outstanding Student from each program will be recognized with a plaque. Program completer certificates will be mailed to students' homes in June and should be placed in the portfolios.

Rehearsal will be on Monday, May 4th following Signing Day at 1:15 PM.

Thursday, May 7th

Business & Administrative Services/Information Technology
Medical Administrative Specialist
Networking & Cybersecurity
Programming & Software Development

Construction
Building & Property Maintenance
Construction Trades
Electrical Systems
Heating & Air Conditioning

Arts & Communication
Digital Design
Media Arts
Print Production

Hospitality/Human Services/Education & Training
Cosmetology
Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management
Education Professions
Hospitality & Food Preparation

Friday, May 8th

Transportation
Auto Body Repair & Refinishing
Automotive Technology
Power Equipment Technology
Transportation Systems

Health Science/Law & Public Safety
Dental Assisting
Fire & EMS Academy
Health Careers
Sports Medicine Exercise Science

Manufacturing
Architectural & Mechanical Design
Engineering Technology
Machine Technology

Special Services
Job Training
Transition to Work A & B

The **Outstanding Senior Reception** will be held prior to the Senior Recognition Ceremony from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM in The Valley Inn. *This event is by invitation only.*

Important Dates

CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

For questions, feedback, or news ideas, email mrobertson@cvccworks.edu.

Upcoming Events:

- **Monday, March 30 – Monday, April 6:** Spring Break (High School: No School)
- **Friday, April 3:** Good Friday (No School/Building Closed)
- **Wednesday, April 15:** New Student Orientation (High School: No Afternoon Classes)
- **Thursday, April 16 – Friday, April 17:** HOSA State Conference
- **Thursday, April 30:** Board of Education Meeting – 6:00 p.m. (Grand Opening Event: Constructing Futures)