April 2026

News Flash

CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

AT A GLANCE

- HOSA State Leadership Conference
- DECA Diamond Competition
- Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management Program Donates to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank
- Media Arts and Fire & EMS Academy Collaborate to Produce Public Safety Video
- Programming & Software Development Learn About Inclusive Design
- Warren Roofing Visits Construction Trades Students
- Power Equipment Technology Truck Delivered by Alumni
- Hospitality & Food Preparation Students Gain Hands-On Learning at The Capital Grille
- Dental Assisting Students Gain Industry Insight from Glacial Dental Visit and Community Care Initiative
- CVCC EMT Instructor Presents at OACTE PACE/OTDN Conference
- CVCC Adult Education Receives Above and Beyond Award
- CVCC School of Nursing Open House
- NR Students Participate in Work-Based Learning Experience
- NR Cleveland Builds Field Trip
- Eighth-Grade Career Exploration at NR
- NRMS New Lunch and Learn Program

HOSA State Leadership Conference

CVCC is so proud of our students enrolled in health-related programs who represented our school at the HOSA State Leadership Conference in Toledo on April 16 and 17! The following students placed in their events:

Health Careers

- Melinda Geringer (Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School): 1st Place, Nursing Assistant
- Tevin Cullison (Independence High School): 2nd Place, Home Health Aide
- Tania Carter (Twinsburg High School): 3rd Place, Prepared Speaking

Sports Medicine & Exercise Science

- Eleri (Ash) Watkins (Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School): 1st Place, Human Growth & Development
- Alessandra Gurnak (Twinsburg High School): 2nd Place, Sports Medicine
- Ella Wilson (North Royalton High School): 3rd Place, Sports Medicine

Special Recognition

- Vanessa Smith (North Royalton High School): Top 10, Health Career Display
- Molly Wolfe (Revere High School): Top 10, Health Career Display

Dental Assisting

- Madelynn Zemko (Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School): Elected 2026–27 Ohio HOSA State Officer

Congratulations to all of our competitors—and best of luck to those advancing to the HOSA International Leadership Conference this June in Indianapolis, IN!

DECA Diamond Competition

On Thursday, March 19, CVCC held the annual DECA Competition. DECA is the youth organization for students enrolled in the Sales & Service Fundamentals. The organization prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. DECA's Challenges provide DECA members opportunities to demonstrate the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom through innovative challenges in partnership with several corporate partners. It was a fun and exciting day for all!

Congratulations to the following Transition-to-Work students on their outstanding achievements:

Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School

- Logan Welkley
  - Interview 1: 1st Place
  - Restaurant Bussing: 2nd Place
  - Laundry: 3rd Place
- Nolan Liem
  - Housekeeping: 1st Place
  - Interview 2: 2nd Place
- Yolanda Xiang
  - Interview 4: 3rd Place
- Ellie Batcheller
  - Employability Skills: 1st Place
  - Grocery Stocking: 1st Place

Cuyahoga Heights High School

- Hans Luenger
  - Grocery Bagging: 2nd Place

Garfield Heights High School

- Jayden Franklin
  - Special Student Achievement Award
- Kevon Halbert
  - Grocery Stocking: 2nd Place

Independence High School

- Katherine Brody
  - Interview 1: 2nd Place
  - Housekeeping: 3rd Place

DECA Diamond Competition (continued)

Nordonia High School

- Kately Rink
  - Special Student Achievement Award
  - Interview 2: 1st Place
  - Grocery Stocking: 3rd Place
- Tirth Patel
  - Interview 3: 3rd Place

Revere High School

- Devon O'Rourke
  - Retail Clothing: 1st Place
  - Interview 1: 3rd Place
- Samuel Rich
  - Interview 4: 2nd Place
- Sophia Massouh
  - Grocery Bagging: 1st Place
  - PowerPoint: 1st Place

Twinsburg High School

- Aurora Huey
  - Employability Skills: 2nd Place
  - Grocery Bagging: 3rd Place

Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management Program Donates to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank

A big shoutout to our Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management II students for their outstanding work and generosity! Through gratuities earned at the Valley Inn Restaurant Holiday Buffet and proceeds from their Thanksgiving Pie Fundraiser, they raised an impressive $1,000. The full amount was donated to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, helping provide meals for approximately 3,500 individuals in our community. We are incredibly proud of their dedication, talent, and commitment to giving back!

Media Arts and Fire & EMS Academy Collaborate to Produce Public Safety Video

CVCC is proud of our Media Arts seniors and Fire & EMS Academy students for collaborating to produce a video this month featuring a simulated rehab scenario for the Northern Ohio Public Safety Support nonprofit. Great work to both our students and instructors!

Programming & Software Development Learn About Inclusive Design

A big thank you to Marc Majers from Progressive and Hannah Potts from EOX Vantage for speaking to our Programming & Software Development seniors about the importance of inclusive design. Through a hands-on Better World Day activity, students designed a user interface for an app using an analog, low-tech approach to bring their ideas to life. By testing their designs with stakeholders before implementation, students discovered how thoughtful design leads to stronger outcomes and significant cost savings—skills they'll carry with them into their future careers.

Warren Roofing Visits Construction Trades Students

Our Construction Trades juniors learned straight from the pros at Warren Roofing during a hands-on demo of a torch-down roofing system! We're so grateful for our partnership with Warren Roofing and Local 44—opportunities like this make all the difference!

Power Equipment Technology Truck Delivered by Alumni

Our Power Equipment Technology program had an exciting day getting their truck back—now with some major upgrades! Fresh graphics, new mudflaps, and upgraded tech. Best part—it was delivered by CVCC alum Evan Grove, Class of 2025, now a technician at Peterbilt! Huge thank you to Ohio Peterbilt for the generous graphics donation and continued support. The truck is looking just as sharp as the skills being built in the lab!

Hospitality & Food Preparation Students Gain Hands-On Learning at The Capital Grille

CVCC is proud to share highlights from our Hospitality & Food Preparation students' recent visit to The Capital Grille. Throughout the experience, our students represented CVCC with professionalism, poise, and exceptional manners. They arrived appropriately dressed, demonstrated strong table etiquette, and made both their program and school community proud. Students also embraced the opportunity to step outside their comfort zones by trying new menu items. During the visit, they participated in a presentation on hospitality practices and toured the kitchen, gaining valuable insight into restaurant operations and service standards. These experiences help bridge classroom learning with industry expectations. The program was honored to have Superintendent Mr. Mangas and Assistant Principal/Program Supervisor Mr. Taylor join the visit. Their presence and support highlighted the importance of community and district engagement in celebrating student success.

CVCC Dental Assisting Students Gain Industry Insight from Glacial Dental Visit and Community Care Initiative

CVCC's junior Dental Assisting students recently welcomed Dr. Alsouss, along with Mari and Amari from Glacial Dental, for an engaging presentation highlighting their practice and its commitment to high-quality, patient-centered care.

During the visit, the team shared valuable insight into what sets their office apart, emphasizing the essential role dental assistants play in supporting patient comfort, maintaining clinical efficiency, and contributing to the overall success of a dental practice. Students gained a deeper understanding of how their classroom learning connects to real-world clinical environments.

Dr. Alsouss also spoke personally about his professional journey, reflecting on the challenges he has overcome and the perseverance, determination, and faith that have guided his success in dentistry. His message encouraged students to stay committed as they pursue their own career goals.

In addition to his career insights, Dr. Alsouss highlighted the importance of community service through Glacial Dental's ongoing outreach efforts, including their upcoming annual event that provides free dental care to those in need.

The 11th Annual Community Dental Event will be held on Friday, May 29, 2026, from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM at Glacial Dental in Parma. The event will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis, with the first 50 patients guaranteed to be seen. Free services will include fillings, extractions, and cleanings, with no appointment required.

Guided by the mission "Enhancing the lives of others, one smile at a time," this annual event continues to make a meaningful impact throughout the community.

To show appreciation for CVCC students, Dr. Alsouss and his team provided breakfast and Starbucks gift cards to all students in attendance. CVCC extends sincere thanks for the visit and is proud to partner with an employer who actively hires and mentors students, helping them build essential clinical skills in real-world settings.

CVCC looks forward to continuing its partnership with Glacial Dental and supporting opportunities that inspire future dental professionals while serving the broader community.

**Flyer for event on next page.*

Glacial Dental

Every Smile Matters.

SMILES FROM THE HEART

"Enhancing the lives of others, one smile at a time"

Free

FRIDAY, MAY 29th 2026

8:30 AM- 2:00 PM

Free

FIRST 50 PATIENTS ARE GUARANTEED TO BE SEEN!

11th ANNUAL EVENT

5500 BROADVIEW RD, PARMA, OH, 44134 (216)351-5500

NO APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

FREE!!!!! FILLINGS, EXTRACTIONS, AND CLEANINGS!

CVCC EMT Instructor Presents at OACTE PACE/OTDN Conference

Dan Zezena, CVCC's Adult Education Emergency Medical Technician–Basic Instructor, was selected to present at the OACTE PACE/OTDN Spring Conference on the topic, "What CTE Means to Me," addressing representatives from the Ohio Technical Centers, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, the Ohio Department of Higher Education, and other state leaders. He was chosen for this opportunity because his career success began with Career Technical Education.

Dan's message centered on hope, gratitude, and empathy. His journey started at CVCC in the Emergency Medical Technician–Basic program, where he discovered his passion for caring for others. Today, as Regional Manager of the Cleveland Clinic Digestive Disease & Surgical Institute (Western Region), Dan credits CVCC for instilling five key attributes that have guided his success:

- Show up on time — punctuality demonstrates respect and reliability
- Dress professionally — a clean, professional appearance builds credibility
- Be consistent — steady effort leads to strong results
- Master your subject — skill and knowledge are essential
- Lead with empathy — care first and treat others like family

Dan expressed his gratitude to those in attendance for their role in shaping his success, as well as the success of many others who begin their journeys in Career Technical Education. He concluded by encouraging continued empathy and dedication, recognizing the lasting, positive impact this work has on the lives of Ohioans. CVCC is proud to celebrate Dan Zezena as both a graduate and instructor.

CVCC Adult Education Receives Above and Beyond Award

Congratulations to CVCC Adult Education for receiving the Above and Beyond Award at the OACTE PACE/OTDN Spring Conference! Pictured is Diane Duryea, CVCC's Business Liaison, who has significantly expanded our Customized Training programs. In Fiscal Year 2025, offerings increased by 500% compared to FY24, serving 270 employees. Already this year, training has grown by more than 90%, reaching over 385 individuals. Since joining CVCC three years ago, Diane has grown the machining apprenticeship program and expanded training opportunities at the local union hall. What began as HVAC training has evolved into a wide range of offerings, including electrical, survival skills, cheese making, cooking, and more. Diane has also broadened CVCC's client base to include state and federal organizations. She has partnered with the local Educational Service Center to provide TechCred training for educators and secured unique contracts, including training for the elves at Cuyahoga Valley National Park's North Pole Adventure. Additionally, CVCC now offers customer service training for National Park employees. Through her strong relationships and outreach, Diane has secured numerous scholarships for adults enrolled in training programs. She is currently working to expand CVCC's adult education offerings to local Catholic high schools in areas such as Nurse Aide and HVAC. CVCC is grateful for Diane's contributions and the lasting impact she continues to make on our students, business partners, and community.

CVCC School of Nursing Open House

CVCC's School of Nursing welcomed prospective and newly accepted Practical Nursing students to an Open House on Tuesday, April 14. Guests had the chance to meet our dedicated faculty, explore the classrooms and lab spaces, ask questions, and observe a live demonstration in our nursing skills lab. It was a joy to connect with future nurses and share a glimpse into the hands-on learning that defines our program.

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

ENROLLING NOW!

North Royalton Students Participate in Work-Based Learning Experience

Several North Royalton students recently participated in a valuable Work-Based Learning experience at Laszeray Technology in North Royalton, where they received a guided tour of the company's advanced manufacturing facility. The visit offered an inside look at modern manufacturing processes and the wide range of career opportunities available in the industry. Career Specialist Jill Larson and the participating students expressed their appreciation for the opportunity, noting that Laszeray was an outstanding host throughout the experience. As an added highlight, one student was even extended a job offer.

North Royalton Cleveland Builds Field Trip

North Royalton students with an interest in skilled trades recently had a valuable opportunity to explore career pathways firsthand during the Cleveland Builds Work-Based Learning (WBL) field trip in Cleveland. During the visit, students were introduced to Cleveland Builds, a workforce development initiative focused on preparing individuals for careers in construction. Through hands-on demonstrations and interactive sessions, they gained insight into a variety of skilled trades, including carpentry, electrical work, plumbing, and general construction. Jill Larson, Career Specialist for North Royalton, shared that the experience allowed students to explore career options, ask questions, and begin building connections within the industry—an important step in helping them make informed decisions about their future career paths.

Eighth-Grade Career Exploration at North Royalton

North Royalton eighth-grade students recently participated in an engaging career exploration session featuring current CVCC students. Jill Larson, Career Specialist for North Royalton, invited CVCC students to share their experiences, discuss their chosen career-technical programs, and reflect on their transition from North Royalton City Schools to CVCC. Hearing directly from peers had a strong impact on the eighth-graders. The CVCC students demonstrated leadership, professionalism, and authenticity as they shared their personal journeys. Their insights helped inspire students to begin thinking about their own future pathways with greater excitement and confidence. What a great opportunity for all!

North Royalton Middle School New Lunch and Learn Program

North Royalton Middle School has launched an engaging new opportunity for students to explore future career pathways through its Lunch & Learn Career Exploration Program, led by Jill Larson, Career Specialist for the North Royalton School District. Designed for students in grades six through eight, the program connects students with professionals from a variety of industries during informal lunchtime sessions. Students recently completed the SchoolLinks interest assessment to help identify their strengths and career interests. Using these results, the Lunch & Learn series will feature guest speakers representing a wide range of career clusters, giving students meaningful exposure to different professions. The goal of the program is to spark curiosity, expand students' awareness of career possibilities, and help them connect their personal interests to real-world opportunities.

Important Dates

CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

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

Upcoming Events:

- **Monday, May 4** - Signing Day
- **Tuesday, May 5** - Staff In-Service (No School for High School Students)
- **Thursday, May 7 and Friday, May 8** - Outstanding Student Reception (11:30 am – 12:30 pm) and Senior Recognition Ceremony (1:00 pm – 2:00 pm) at CVCC
- **Friday, May 8** - Last Day for Seniors
- **Thursday, May 21** - Board of Education Meeting - 6:00 pm