

THE YOUTH CONNECTION



MAY 2023

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE AN INSPIRING LEADER?

We all have people who inspire us, from family members to famous people. But what does it take to be an inspiring person yourself? How can you be an inspirational leader for those around you? Here are some TIPS...

- 1. Stand up for what you believe in.** Inspiring leaders are champions for doing the right thing. Their values that are important to them. They stand up for what they believe in—even when it's difficult—like being the first person to stand up for a classmate who is being teased about the way they look. Think about your values. Do your actions already represent your values?
- 2. Respect others and be fair.** Be humble and listen to the points of view of others. Lead by letting everyone participate and looking out for those whose voices aren't being heard. Believe that everyone has something valuable to offer. *Have empathy!* Imagine yourself in other people's shoes, how would you like to be treated?
- 3. Help others.** Make a difference in your school and/or community by seeking opportunities to help others. This can be as simple as reading to a younger child or helping a classmate that is struggling in a subject. It can involve working in a team, like starting or joining a club at school or serving food with other volunteers at a homeless shelter. Think about your own strengths; how can you be helpful?
- 4. Be a role model.** *Lead by example.* Set healthy goals; make healthy choices and rise above the drama to achieve your dreams. Strong leaders don't let anyone pressure them to do things that could get them off track. To be a good role model, focus on your own goals and take the steps to achieve them.
- 5. Encourage others to set and achieve goals.** Encourage others to set goals and be successful! Listen to your friends and challenge them to think about what they want out of life. Most important, let them know that you believe in them!
- 6. Follow positive role models.** Inspiring leaders usually seek inspiration from others and know how to ask for support. Who are your role models? Is there someone who inspires you to be your best self?



"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more than you are a leader." John Quincy Adams

MEET OUR Workforce Development Specialist – Youth Programming

EVAN SIMPSON

"My name is Evan Simpson. I am a graduate of Chartiers-Houston High School. While in school, I was a three-sport athlete who played Soccer, Basketball, and Track and Field. I was also a member of our school's Leo club and a member of The Dreamers Company that kick-started "Mission Washington" which took on the task of helping to bring a new renaissance to the city of Washington.

I attended California University of Pennsylvania to earn a bachelor's degree in History with a minor in Anthropology. While at California, I was a member of the Track and Field team. While on the team, I ran the 800 meter and the 400 meter.

I work for Southwest Training Services as a Workforce Development Specialist for Youth Programming. What I do is lead and facilitate career exploration, soft skills, and career-oriented workshops within Washington County and Greene County school districts.

I also facilitate group discussions in a positive manner that ensures opportunities for participation."



Evan Simpson
Workforce Development Specialist

YOUTH SERVICES: Find out more!

Eligible youth between the ages of **14 to 24** (in-school and out-of-school) can enroll with Southwest Training and work with our staff on the following:

- ⇒ Work one-on-one with a Youth Case Manager
- ⇒ Gain Skills To Get A Job
- ⇒ Achieve a Credential
- ⇒ Get help with Job Searching
- ⇒ Learn Effective Interview Techniques
- ⇒ Academic and Occupational Skills Testing
- ⇒ Supportive Services
- ⇒ Career Awareness Activities
- ⇒ Post-Secondary Training Opportunities
- ⇒ Paid Work Experiences
- ⇒ Job Shadowing Experiences
- ⇒ Post-Secondary School Visits
- ⇒ Employer/Industry Tours
- ⇒ Career, College and Job Fairs
- ⇒ On-The-Job Training
- ⇒ Mentoring

... AND MUCH MORE!

If you, or a youth that you know, resides in Greene or Washington counties and would be interested in finding out more about our programs and services, call or email our youth staff today.

SUPPORT FROM SOUTHWEST...

Lisa L. Neil, President – lneil@swtraining.org

Cynthia A. Derrico, Vice President – cderrico@swtraining.org



For more information or to get involved, contact our Youth Staff:

Ester Barnes, Youth Program Coordinator
ebarnes@swtraining.org 724-229-1350 x 241

Morgan North, Youth Case Manager (Greene County)
mnorth@swtraining.org 724-852-2900 x 246

Kelsey Smithley, Youth Case Manager (Mon Valley)
ksmithley@swtraining.org 724-379-4750 x 102

Evan Simpson, Workforce Development Specialist
esimpson@swtraining.org 724-229-1350 x 275

Joyce Leyda, Records & Retention Specialist
jleyda@swtraining.org 724-229-1350 x 231

Principal Spotlight: Mr. Mark Bonus - McGuffey High School

Mr. Mark Bonus is now in his 20th year at McGuffey School District. He had served for three years as an Assistant Principal, five years as the Middle School Principal, and twelve years as the High School Principal. Prior to coming to the McGuffey School District, he taught Social Studies at Trinity High School.

Mr. Bonus holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, in Social Sciences from the University of Pittsburgh and a Masters degree in Secondary Administration from the University of Pittsburgh. In addition, he has a Superintendents Letter of Eligibility from California University of PA.

Mr. Bonus considers it imperative to build programs within the school that give students multiple options for careers and post-secondary study upon graduation. He added, *"Besides operating a school with care and compassion for students and staff, it is essential that we focus students early on their*



Mr. Mark Bonus
Principal



plans after graduation. Through collaboration with our stakeholders, we have been able to supplement an academically rigorous high school curriculum with multiple programs that support career planning and development. The future success of our McGuffey communities depends on what we do each day at the high school, that is an awesome responsibility and we recognize our role in that endeavor."

Mr. Bonus lives in Canonsburg, PA with his wife, Dina, and daughter, Julia. He enjoys classic automobiles, playing golf, and vacationing in Florida.

HAPPY RETIREMENT JACK!

We would like to wish Jack Burt a **Very Happy Retirement!** Jack had been employed with Southwest Training as a Job Developer for Washington and Greene counties. His last day with SWTS, Inc. was February 28, 2023.

He may be retired, but Jack sure does have A LOT planned for this new phase of his life!



pictured : Jack Burt with Donna Morosco

Interested in a Career in Corrections? GET YOUR START HERE



**WASHINGTON COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR
CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS –**

****ALL POSITIONS START PART-TIME WITH THE
POTENTIAL OF MOVING TO FULL-TIME****

NEW CLASS TO START – SUMMER 2023

\$17.61 to start

\$22.02 after 6 months

Paid training

Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Must be able to work shifts:

6:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M.

OR

6:00 P.M. TO 6:00 A.M.

Must be able to work weekends and holidays

No experience needed

High School Diploma or equivalent required

An application may be found at the County website
www.co.washington.pa.us

or at

Crossroads Building
Human Resources Department
95 West Beau Street, Suite 400
Washington, PA 15301
EOE

SWTS, Inc. Out-of-School Youth — ARE BACK IN SCHOOL!



Paige Wallace

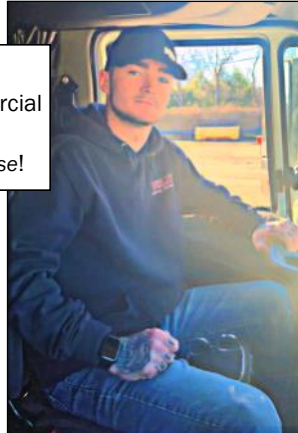
Attends: Pittsburgh Technical College
Major: Associate of Science, Nursing
 Paige is a Ringgold High School graduate.

Leo Binotto

Attends: Pittsburgh Technical College
Major: Electronics Engineering Technology
 Leo is a graduate from Seton LaSalle High School.

James Gayman

Recent Graduate: Penn Commercial
Major: CDL-A Truck Driving
 James just received his CDL-A License!



Giovanni Waters

Attends: Penn Commercial
Major: Welding
 Giovanni is a graduate of the PA Distance Learning Cyber Center.



Collin Tedrow

Recent Graduate Penn Commercial
Major: Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC-R)

Collin is a graduate of Trinity High School. He is currently working @ McKean Plumbing & Heating.



Meet Sarah Radcliffe—Digital Navigator for Computer Reach - Washington County



*"My name is **Sarah Radcliffe**, I am an alumna of Washington & Jefferson College with bachelor's degree in History and Political Science. I am also now the Digital Navigator for Computer Reach's Washington County project! We are working towards bringing digital inclusivity to rural & tribal areas throughout the country. I'm passionate about helping as many people as I can as often as I can. I've always been interested and involved with advocacy and activism and I love that I get to advocate for people in my community and help them join the digital world."*

Sarah is enrolled with Southwest Training's youth program and was active in our work experience program. She was referred to Computer Reach by Ester Barnes, Youth Program Coordinator, when they were looking to fill this new position in Washington County.

Southwest assisted by placing her on an Internship with Computer Reach. Sarah did the rest herself and was hired full-time! She is doing an amazing job! **CONGRATS SARAH** we look forward to working with you!

Believe & Inspire

"Always believe that you're capable of doing anything."

SUPERINTENDENT SPOTLIGHT: Mr. George Lammay - Washington School District

Mr. George Lammay
Superintendent

Mr. George Lammay has invested over thirty five years of his life working in public education. His career began in the Elizabeth Forward School District working with at-risk youth and teaching. He has served in the capacity of high school administrator at Beth-Center, Charleroi, Thomas Jefferson, Bentworth, and Belle Vernon School Districts. In April 2022, Mr. Lammay became the Superintendent of the Washington School District.

Mr. Lammay is a 1977 graduate of Bentworth High School. He received his bachelor's degree from California University of PA in Secondary Social Studies Education. He then went on to receive his master's degree in Secondary Administration from the University of Pittsburgh. In 2010, he received his Superintendent's Certification from Edinboro University of PA.



Mr. Lammay is a resident of Bentleyville with his wife, Sheryl, and their three children, Matthew, Nicholas, and Beth. He enjoys sports and is deeply committed to his family, his church and his school district. In addition to his education career, Mr. Lammay is an Ordained Pastor for the East Bethlehem Baptist Church! **Thank you, Mr. Lammay, for being a strong supporter of our youth programs!**



Did you know that May is Mental Health Awareness Month? This was established to increase awareness of the importance of mental health and wellness and to celebrate recovery from mental illness. Anyone can suffer! If you or someone you know is suffering from a mental health crisis, don't hesitate to seek help! ~ See the local contact information below. ~

LOCAL AND NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH HOTLINES



National Suicide and Crisis Hotline:
988



Greene County crisis hotline:
1-800-417-9460



Washington County crisis hotline:
1-877-225-3567



Washington County text hotline:
724-715-3584

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING SUCCESS

Reina Lewis, a member of our out-of-school youth program, is a 2021 graduate of the Pittsburgh Science & Technology Academy. She recently completed her On-the-Job training experience with Presbyterian Senior Care, in Washington, PA.

Reina obtained her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification on January 25, 2023. She has Wound and Dietary Certificates and a CPR certification for both adults and infants. She is now working for **Presbyterian Senior Care** on a full-time basis.

Things that she would like people to know... She is caring and compassionate, and was her grandmother's aide until she passed away.

CONGRATULATIONS REINA!

We are so happy that you have excelled in your new position and we are very confident that you are on your way to a great career!



CAMERON CERNUSKA: INTERNSHIPS LED TO FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Cameron J. Cernuska, a May 2023 graduate of Bucknell University, located in Lewisburg, PA, has earned a Bachelor



Cameron Cernuska

of Science degree in Chemical Engineering, and a minor in Political Science.

While at Bucknell, he was on the Dean's List and was awarded the Andrew Wray Mathieson Scholarship and Rollin A. "Pat" & Esther Ellen Reeder Scholarship. Cameron is a member of the American Institute of

Chemical Engineers.

Cameron began his association with Southwest Training Services, Inc., in June 2020 following his freshman year at Bucknell University. At a time when many companies were enacting a hiring freeze & suspending summer internships due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SWTS was able to secure an internship for him with Ammeraal Beltech in Jefferson, PA.

Ammeraal Beltech is a multinational company, active in process and conveyor belting, headquartered in the Netherlands, with affiliates in 25+ countries, production plants in 7 countries, 80 fabrication centers, and operates in 150 countries. Several projects Cameron was tasked with included a

Time Studies of Spiral Lace Department, Lock Out/Tag Out Project, Quality Control, and Risk Assessment Projects. At the conclusion of this eight-week internship, Ammeraal offered him a full-time summer position, which continued between his fall and spring semesters, as well as the Summer of 2021.

Following his third year at Bucknell, he secured a summer engineering internship in May 2022 with the Perryman Company. Headquartered in Houston, PA, Perryman is an integrated worldwide supplier of specialty titanium products. Perryman Company produces titanium bar, wire, fine wire, and net shapes to support the aerospace, medical/dental, additive/3D printing, consumer, industrial, infrastructure, and military markets. Several of the projects and responsibilities he had included Cooling Water Management and Heat Transfer Modeling.

Prior to the completion of the summer internship with Perryman Company, he was presented with an offer of employment for a full-time position as a Process Engineer at the Melt Operations facility.

Cameron has accepted the position and will begin full-time employment with Perryman Company in June 2023.

An alumni of Jefferson-Morgan High School, Class of 2019, Cameron enjoys hiking, golfing, & competitive shotgun shooting.



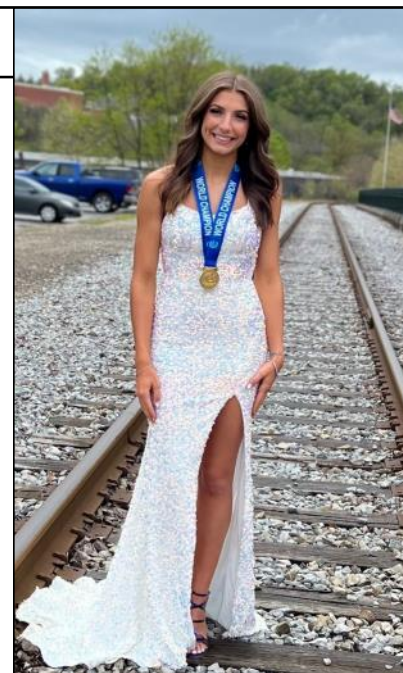
Perryman company

WORLD CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONS!



We would like to congratulate SWTS youth participant, **Izabelle Garrety**, (*senior at McGuffey High School*) and the rest of the Rain Athletics Aqua Team on becoming the **2023 Limited Small Senior World Champions** at the U.S. All Star Federation's **Cheerleading Worlds** held in Orlando, Florida. All of your hard work has paid off and you are now World Champions.

What an accomplishment!!



COUNSELOR SPOTLIGHT: Ms. Molly Thompson - Waynesburg Central High School**Ms. Molly Thompson**

"My name is Molly Thompson, and this has been my first year in Greene County serving as a school counselor at Waynesburg Central High School. I obtained a bachelor's degree in psychology with minors in Philosophy and Business from Duquesne University.

Additionally, I have a master's degree in School Counseling from California University of Pennsylvania where I had the opportunity to focus on supporting rural communities as a graduate assistant through the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training program.

Finishing my third year in the field, I believe my passion for ensuring student success and wellness has only grown having been surrounded by such an amazing team of educators. I look forward to my future with the Central Greene School District!"



**WHERE
ARE
THEY
NOW ?**

Each summer, Southwest Training Services, Inc. hires a few college students to help manage and monitor our Summer Youth Work Experience Program. They are the SWTS, Inc. summer liaisons for the worksites and worksite supervisors and the workers. They ensure that things are running smoothly at the site and also deal with any issues that may arise throughout the 6-week experience. At the end of the summer program, they go back to school or move on in their careers. Several of them even come back for a few summers to work.

We are happy to have played a small part in their career development and would like to share
 "Where They Are Now" ↓ ↓ ↓

Ashley Seman — Executive Director — Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority

Ashley Seman (Altemare) - Ashley worked with Southwest Training, for three summers while she was in college; 2 summers as a summer manager and 1 as a summer monitor. She is a 2005 graduate of Charleroi High School and attended Waynesburg College & California University of PA earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a minor in Political Science.

In 2011, Ashley was hired as the Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority's Director of Marketing & Planning. Following 8 years in that position, she was appointed as Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority (MMVTA)'s Executive Director in September 2019. Ashley is also on the Board of Directors for the Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce. She currently resides in North Belle Vernon with her husband, Bret.

MMVTA's administrative offices are located in Charleroi, PA and they also have a Bus Garage at the Donora Industrial Park which includes a Maintenance Facility

and a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Station to fuel their growing fleet of buses that operate 10 fixed-routes for the area, including all the transportation services for Penn West University—California. The MMVTA serves 21 communities throughout the Mid Mon Valley and is governed by a 21-member board who represent their municipality. We are proud



to partner with Ashley and the MMVTA on various projects including our most recent Mon Valley Job Fair. To learn more about the MMVTA visit: www.mmvta.com.

Ashley added, "My employment as a Manager and Monitor for the Southwest Training Summer Youth Program provided me with the foundation and skills to be successful in the business arena. It was an important stepping stone to help me achieve my goals. I am thankful for the opportunity they granted me."

**Ashley Seman**

MEET OUR 2023 SWTS, Inc. HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

It is hard to believe that we are, once again, approaching the end to another school year! As we start to gear up for summer programming, we wanted to highlight our 2023 SWTS Youth Program Seniors.

These students have worked hard and have set career goals for themselves, whether it be going straight to work after high school, going to college, trade school, or the military, they will soon be on their way to the next phase in their life. We are very proud of this year's senior class. Each student is amazing in their own right; each have chosen a career pathway that they are excited about. ****NOTE** (They have all chosen their own pictures, stories, and what they wanted to share in this newsletter)

Please enjoy reading about them... **Meet our Seniors!**



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT — DOMINIC SALVINI — Fort Cherry High School

Dominic V. Salvini is a Senior at Fort Cherry High School and will graduate this year with many accomplishments in academics, athletics and community involvement! Just for starters, Dominic is an honor student, a team captain, an Eagle Scout and a volunteer fireman. Each of those accomplishments have taken true commitment and dedication to achieve. **His accomplishments include:**



Breaking Fort Cherry High School's **Weightlifting Record** – 1,375 total pounds!

Football: 4 year letterman— starting Nose Tackle—Team Captain

2022 McGuffey Lineman Challenge winning Team member

2022 Observer-Reporter All District Team

2022 Black Hills Conference First Team Defensive Lineman

2022 – 43 Tackles

2021 Pennsylvania Football News All -Academic Team -Bronze Team

Fort Cherry Little Rangers Volunteer Coach – (11-12)

Track and Field: 3-year letterman

Clubs:/Activities: Future Farmers of America (FFA) (9-12)

- Strength and Conditioning Club (9-12)(Secretary-10,
Vice President-11, President-12)

- Chorus (9-12)

- He also received an OSHA CareerSafe 10-Hour
Industry Certification.



In addition to high school commitments, Dominic has been a **volunteer fireman** for the Midway Volunteer Fire Department since 2018. He has completed over 100 hours of training including certification in Basic Life Support, Exterior Fire Fighting, Traffic Safety, Chemical Hazards, Basic Medical Assistance, and Basic Knowledge Training.

In 2022, he received the **EAGLE SCOUT AWARD** which is the highest award available to members of the Boy Scouts of America. This award represents many years of dedicated effort, and the successful completion of a long process in scouting.

Dominic's **Future Plans** are to attend **Bethany College** and **Major in Sports Medicine**.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT — Lauren Paxton — Canon McMillan High School

Lauren Paxton is a Senior at Canon McMillan High School. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the German Honor Society and the International Thespian Honor Society. She attended the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Keystone Girls State this past summer and is also an American Legion Essay Winner. (*Keystone Girls State is a non-partisan Government & Civics program designed to teach the importance of responsible citizenship and to empower young women to make a change in their community.*)

Most recently, she participated in Canon McMillan High School's production of Mamma Mia! Lauren has participated in several productions at CMHS and has also performed for Washington Community Theatre (WCT) Kidz. Lauren participates in several clubs, holds leadership positions, and is a Lead CMHS Mentor.

She has always been involved in soccer and most recently played for the Pittsburgh Riverhounds Academy. Giving back to the community is important to her and she enjoys volunteer service projects with her clubs and organizations. She has enjoyed the internships that Southwest Training has provided for her.

~ Lauren's **Future Plans** are to attend **Denison University** and **Major in Communications** this fall ~

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT — ALEXIS ROCKWELL — Central Greene High School

Alexis Rockwell is a Senior at Central Greene High School. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the Future Business Leaders of America and is a member of the Teen Art Cooperative at the Mattress Factory Art Museum in Pittsburgh. She is a 4-year volunteer art teacher at the Eva K. Bowlby Public Library and she occasionally does volunteer work at the PA CareerLink® Greene County.

Her **Future Plans** are to attend **Lycoming College** with a **Double Major in Psychology and Studio Art**. Alexis' goal is to become a child and adolescent therapist with a background in art therapy.

Alexis wrote: "Throughout my life, I have always had a love for art. I inherited it from my father and continued to practice to relate to him. Over the years, I grew from using art as a pastime to really finding my passion in the subject. I began putting effort into my work when I was around age ten. Art became one of my favorite subjects in school, and something I was passionate about. When I reached high school, I began to look for more opportunities to express myself creatively. That is how I found the Teen Art Cooperative at the Mattress Factory Art Museum in Pittsburgh, PA. Through this program, I have been able to grow as a person and an artist by working alongside local artists. Since starting this program, my art career has really taken off. I was in a teen focused art exhibit at the Mattress Factory Art Museum in May of 2022. Since then, I have been in two other galleries. I have also been awarded a 2023 Silver Key, in the portrait division for my artwork, through Scholastic Art and Writing Awards and was featured in a gallery of all the regional scholastic works during the month of March 2023. My future degree will allow me to further my passion for art as well as be able to teach the subject as a coping mechanism in my therapeutic practices. I was able to find my voice through art and I am so excited and proud to see how far I've come and think of how far I will go."



← (Two of Alexa's amazing pieces of Artwork) →

The SWTs, Inc. Senior Class of 2023



Shelby Loar

Avella Area High School and
Western Area Career & Technology Center
Health Occupations Program

Future Plans: Western Area Career & Technology Center

Major: Practical Nursing Program

Shelby is the Co-President of the National Technical Honor Society and is a member of Skills USA, SADD, the Science Club, Community Service Club, Art Club, and the National Art Honor Society.



Noah Schratz

Peters Township High School

Future Plans: Post-Secondary Education

Major: Undecided

Noah is an honor roll student and is a member of his High School Wrestling & Lacrosse teams.

He is also a member of the Lacrosse Club, Lacrosse – Team 42 and Cooper Lacrosse.

He is currently employed at Caribbean Clear and is a volunteer for his church's Fish Fry.



Chris Labishak

Chartiers Houston High School

Future Plans: Rosedale Technical College

Major: Collision Repair Technology

Chris is a member of the Soccer team and Char Hou Zoo.

He is currently employed at Audi as a car detailer. For the past 2 years he has operated his own detailing business "724 Detailing".

Senior
CLASS OF 2023



Olivia Herrnberger

Trinity Area High School

Future Plans: University of Pittsburgh - main campus

Major: Pre-Physician Assistant

Olivia is a member of the Lacrosse and Tennis teams and is also a member of the High School Student Council, Students Helping Others, Friends of Rachel, the German Club, FCCLA - (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America), National Honor Society, Prom Committee, the Superintendent Student Advisory Committee and the Chick Fil A Leader Academy.



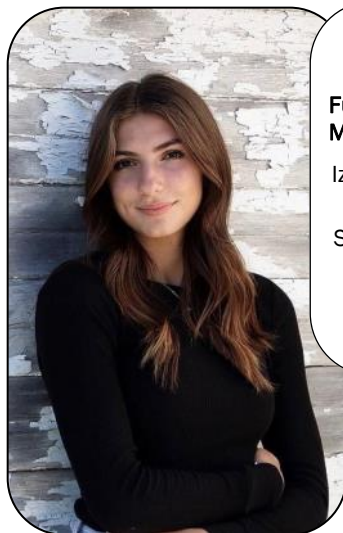
Cameron Smith

Fort Cherry High School

Future Plans: Employment

Cameron is an honor roll student and a member of the National Honor Society. He also enjoys volunteering for community service.





Izabelle Garrety
McGuffey High School

Future Plans: West Liberty University
Major: Speech Pathology and Audiology

Izabelle is a cheerleader (co-captain) and a member of Teen Action, Peer Jury and FFA at McGuffey.

She also is a member of a competitive cheer team with Rain Athletics (see page 6 for her most recent accomplishment!).

Izabelle volunteers at Food Drives, Toy Drives, Got-Ag Day and Teacher Appreciation Day



Justus Battaglia

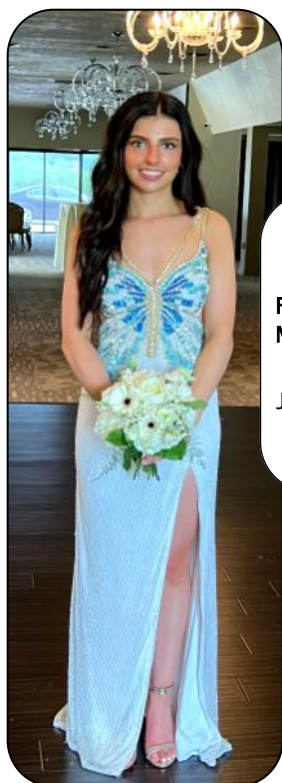
Jefferson-Morgan High School
Greene County Career & Technology Center
~ Cosmetology ~

Future Plans: Furthering her Cosmetology education and opening her own salon.

Justus has received her OSHA-10 General Industry Course and Barbicide Certification.

She attended Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week this past summer.

She is currently employed at Angelo's Restaurant



Olivia Vettorel

Trinity Area High School

Future Plans: Auburn University
Major: Chemistry on the Pre-Med track

Olivia is a member of the National Honor Society, Junior National Honor Society and Student Council and has been a competitive gymnast for 10 years and is working as a Receptionist at Salon Lenae.

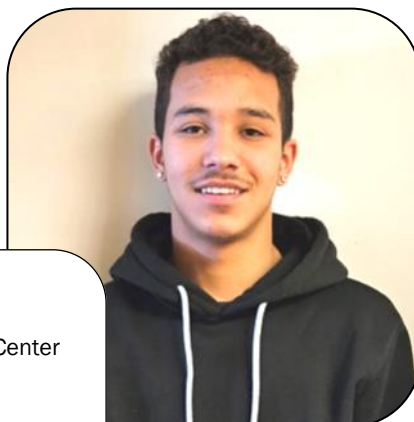


Justin Manning

Carmichaels High School
Greene County Career & Technology Center
- Computer Network Technology -

Future Plans: West Virginia Junior College
Major: Business Management and Administration (associate degree)

Justin is a Team Leader of the Bots IQ team at the Greene Co. CTC. He has received his OSHA -10 General Industry Course Certification and OSHA Fire Extinguisher Course Certification.



Logan Lett

Canon McMillan High School
Western Area Career & Technology Center
~ Auto Mechanic Program ~

Future Plans: United States Air Force
Combat Controller/Military Police

Logan aspires to be a US Marshall.
He is working on a CO-OP with Wagner's Auto Body. He also placed 3rd in Skills USA.





Khameelah Young

Washington High School

Future Plans: Pittsburgh Technical College

Major: Culinary Arts program

Khameelah is the 2022 Washington High School Homecoming Queen. She is also a majorette and a member of the Cross Country and the Track and Field teams.

Her community service involvement is with the Glenn Street Church and the Lemoyne Community Center.



Colton Petronka

Chartiers-Houston High School

Future Plans: Pittsburgh Barber School

Major: Barber

Colton is an honor student and a member of the 4H. He volunteers at the Houston Pumpkin Festival and also for food drives.

He has been employed at Chick Fil A for 2-years.

Stephen Semerod

Fort Cherry High School

Future Plans: Pittsburgh Technical College

Major: Electronic Engineer Technician

Stephen is a member of the Tech Rangers and the Hand Radio Club and the Washington Amateur Communications Club

He is also a volunteer at the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum.



Taylor Bird

Burgettstown High School

Future Plans: Post-Secondary Education — school is undecided

Major: Business & Chemistry

Taylor is a member of Fort Cherry's Track and Field team. She is currently employed at Sheetz and the Pavilion at Star Lake.



Joey Brown

Carmichaels High School and
Greene County Career & Technology Center
- Welding Fabrication -

Future Plans: Pittsburgh Technical College

Major: Associate Degree in Welding

Joey has received her OSHA-10 General Industry certification, OSHA Fire Extinguisher, and OSHA S/P2 Welding certification.

She is currently employed at Bob Evans in Waynesburg.



Aniya Satterfield

Washington High School

Future Plans: Employment for a year then will enroll into post-secondary education.

Major: Criminal Justice—focus on K-9 training

Aniya is an honor roll student and is a member of the Volleyball team and Track and Field team.

Aniya is currently employed at Kohl's & McDonalds.



Rory Branham

Mapletown High School
Greene County Career & Technology Center
~ Computer Network Technology ~

Future Plans: Penn West University – Online Courses
Major: General Studies

Rory is an honors student. She is a member of the Marching and Concert Bands.

Rory is currently working at McDonalds in Granville, WV.



WORK HARD,
BE KIND AND
AMAZING THINGS
WILL HAPPEN.

Conan O'Brien

Riley Olkowski

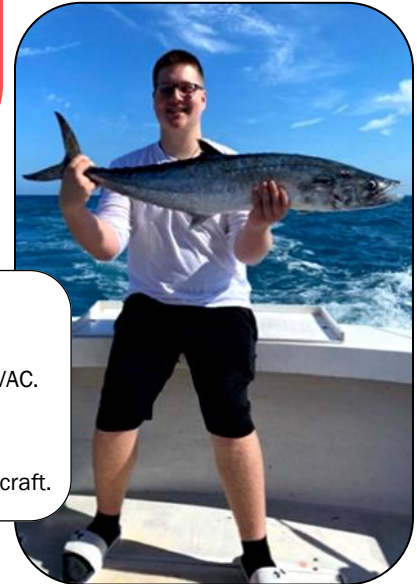
Peter's Township High School

Future Plans: Rosedale Technical College
Major: Welding

Riley is a member of the German Club and the Township Basketball team. He has conducted Community Service at Assisted Living facilities.

He is the Ultimate Pittsburgh Penguins fan!

He has been employed at Eat N' Park for 2 years.



Carter Collins

California Area High School

Future Plans: To attend a trade school for HVAC.

Carter is a member of EA Sports and Students In Action (SIA).

In his spare time, he likes to hunt, fish, and craft.



Charles Flanigan

Mapletown High School
Greene County Career & Technology Center
~ Construction ~

Future Plans: Employment in the Construction Industry

Charles has received his OSHA -10 Certification

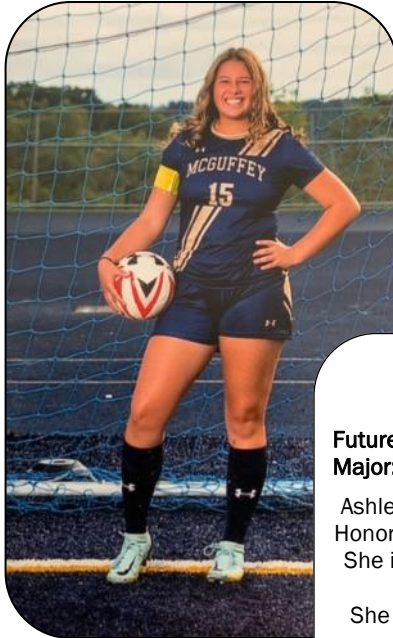


Mykell Powell

Charleroi Area High School

Future Plans: University of Pittsburgh
Major: Undecided

Mykell is interested in horticulture, art, and animals. She enjoys helping others and creating things. She also wishes to get into a trade program for welding.



Emily Devenney

Avella Area High School

Future Plans: Westminster College

Major: Elementary Education

Emily is an honors student and a 3-year member of the National Honor Society. She is a 7-year member of the Avella Marching Band and a 6-year member of the Concert Band.

She is also a member of SADD and the STEM Club. She was also a member of the Tennis and Volleyball teams.



Ashley Ealy

McGuffey High School

Future Plans: Carlow University

Major: Nursing

Ashley is an Honors student and a member of the National Honor Society. She is the Captain of the Girl's Soccer team. She is on the Track and Field team and came in 3rd place (discus) at the County Coaches Invitational.

She is a member of the Math Team & Highland Harmony

She is also employed at Kim's Korner and Jimmy's Meat Processing Plant.



Amber Habe

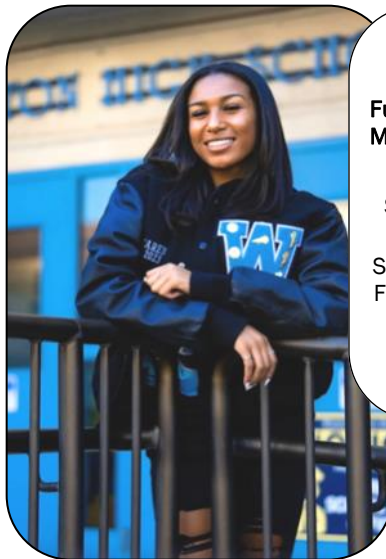
Chartiers-Houston High School

Future Plans: Rosedale Technical College

Major: Collision Repair Technology

Amber is an Honor Roll Student and for community service, Amber does 4H Volunteer Work- Garden at the Fairgrounds; Bingo with Seniors at nursing homes and volunteers at the Food Bank .

Amber is employed at Tractor Supply.



Marena Malone

Washington High School

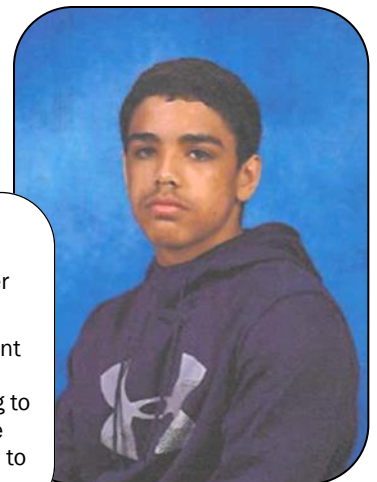
Future Plans: Duquesne University

Major: Business Communications

Marena is an Honors student and the President of her Senior Class. She is also Vice President of the Student Council and a member of Student Forum (9-12)

She is a cheerleader (9-12) and a member of the Track & Field team (9-12), and she was on the Volley Ball team in grades 9 & 11.

Marena has been a volunteer at the Washington City Mission since 2016.



Isaac Jones

Avella Area High School

Western Area Career & Technology Center
~ Networking ~

Future Plans: Employment at the Willow Event Center

Isaac enjoys playing video games and going to the gym. He is currently employed at the Willow Event Center where he will continue to work after graduation.



Abigail Mitchell

Fort Cherry High School

Future Plans: Geneva College

Major: Psychology

Volleyball Manager, National Honor Society,
Faith Fortifiers, FFA – Vice President,
4H Washington County Dairy Princess 2021.

Employed at Ohio Valley Counseling.



Ariana Shaffer

Mapletown High School

Greene County Career & Technology Center

~ Health Assistant ~

Future Plans: Waynesburg University

Major: Nursing - (awarded an Academic excellence scholarship
from Waynesburg University)

Ariana is the secretary of Health Occupations Students of America.

She has received her OSHA -10 General Industry Course, OSHA
Fire Extinguisher Course, and her CPR Certification.

She is currently working at Dairy Queen in Carmichaels.



Lydia Price

Central Greene High School

Greene County Career & Technology Center
– Auto Collision -

Future Plans: Employment

Lydia has been involved in Skills USA for 3-years,
Future Farmers of America for 4-years, and she
was a cheerleader for 1-year. She has
obtained her OSHA-10 General Industry Course
Certification, OSHA-30 Certification, and her
OSHA Fire Extinguisher Certification.



Emmanuel "Manny" Diaz

Fort Cherry High School

Future Plans: Robert Morris University

Major: Elementary Education

Manny is a member of the Golf
National Honor Society and the
4H Club.



Lexi Arbuckle

McGuffey High School

Future Plans: Community College of Allegheny County

Major: Medical Diagnostic Sonographer program

Lexi is a member of the Drama Club, Teen Action,
the Highlanders Harmony and McFriends.

She is also employed at Moe's Restaurant where she
works as a shift supervisor.



Hayli Barker

McGuffey High School

Future Plans: Duquesne University

Major: Political Science/Psychology

(Hayli has received a \$19,000.00 scholarship)

Hayli is a High Honors student and is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars. She is a Cheerleader (Captain) and a member of the Tennis and Cross Country teams.

Hayli is also involved with McFriends, Teen Action, Jr. Achievement, the Spanish Club and FFA. She is employed at the Caring Mission Home Care and Napoli's Restaurant.



Madison Haynesworth

Chartiers Houston High School

Future plans: TONI & GUY Hairdressing Academy @ Penn Commercial

Major: Cosmetology

Madison is a member of the Leo Club, Track and Volleyball teams.

She is employed at McDonalds.



Kayleen Workman

Central Greene High School

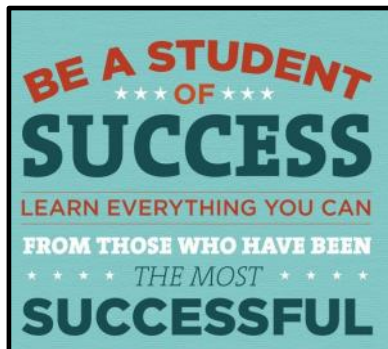
Greene County Career & Technology Center

~ Culinary Arts ~

Future Plans: Furthering education in Culinary Arts

Kayleen is involved with FCCLA and has received her ServeSafe Certification.

She is currently working at Outback Steakhouse.



Alexa Barber

Charleroi Area High School

Future Plans: Penn State University—main campus

Major: Forensic Psychology

Alexa is a member of the Class of 2023 Executive Committee and was on the Homecoming Court. She is also a member of the National Honor Society, M.I.R.R.O.R; Show Choir, Musical, Marching Band and the Track & Field team.

She was named the Charlene Club's Girl of the Month for December. Alexa also participated in the CSI Camp at Waynesburg University.



Corey Bouchelle

Fort Cherry High School

Future Plans: Waynesburg University

Major: Athletic Training / Physical Therapy

Corey is an honor roll student and is a member of the Football team, Ski Club, Basketball team and Track & Field team.

Taylor Schumacher: *Multi-Talented On and Off the Court*

Taylor Schumacher is a 15 year old sophomore at McGuffey High School. She is a student-athlete that challenges herself by taking advanced classes. Taylor plays on the high school girl's basketball team, is an avid golfer, is the hydration engineer for the high school football team and enjoys photography in her spare time.



Volunteer work is very important to Taylor as she has participated in the Mon Valley Breast Cancer Walk and the clothing drive at her local church.

We know that success will continue to follow this talented sophomore!

Enjoy some of the beautiful photos that Taylor has taken. We are so happy to be able to share the talents and interests of our youth!



A NEW CAREER FOR SCHOOL COUNSELOR— MS. KAREN RUBICAN

Karen Rubican worked as a School Counselor at **Canon McMillan High School** since 2009. To say that she was a big supporter of youth programming and the services of Southwest Training would be an understatement. Ms. Rubican was instrumental in referring many youth to our programs and supporting our workshops and activities. We were sad to hear she was leaving this position (*Her last day at Canon Mac was Friday, March 24th*) to take on a new role. We are also happy for her as she begins a new career as a **School Counselor Advisor** for the **Pennsylvania Department of Education**.



This is a new role in the Commonwealth created to advocate for the important roles counselors have in public education.



MEET THE TRINITY AREA HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Mr. Alex Nikolopoulos is in his first year at Trinity Area High School, though he is in his 8th year as a school counselor. He previously worked at Avella Area High School and Western Area Career & Technology Center. Alex has a bachelor of science degree in Marketing from Robert Morris University and a master's degree in School Counseling from Penn West University. At Penn West, he was the school counseling Grad Assistant and also the President of the School Counseling Association.

Outside of school counseling, Alex's other passion is soccer. He has coached locally for over a decade. He is the head coach of Trinity Area High School's Varsity Boys' team, as well as the Victory Soccer Club 2007 Boys' team. He also holds a United States Federation National C License. His favorite professional soccer team is Manchester City. Alex resides in Canonsburg with his wife, Erin, who is a school counselor at the Washington Park Elementary School. They are expecting their first child in May. *(It's a boy!)*

Ms. Maggie Amaismeier has been a school counselor at Trinity High School since the 2008-2009 school year. She completed her undergraduate degree at Campbellsville University. She graduated with a master's of education degree in School Counseling (K-12) from Penn West University in August 2007.

When she is not in the counseling office, Maggie enjoys reading, music, iced coffee, and spending time with her family and their energetic *(and often ornery)* dog!

Ms. Tia Burns has been a school counselor at Trinity Area High School for the past 8 years. She earned her master's of education degree from Penn West University and her bachelor's degree from Rhodes College.

Her favorite part of the school year is graduation, not because it is the last day of school, but because she is able to witness the pride in the students as they receive

their diplomas. Every challenge they faced and overcame during their four years with her is validated by that one piece of paper in that moment of time. It is an honor for her to be a part of their journeys.

When she is not at school, she enjoys hiking with her dog, Piper, spending time with her nieces and nephew, attending classes at Barre 3 and hanging out with her friends.

Mr. William Poletti is in his 4th year as a school counselor at Trinity Area High School. Prior to his time at Trinity, he spent 7 years as a school counselor in the Grove City School District at George Junior Republic. He attended Duquesne University for undergraduate & graduate school where he obtained his master's of education in school counseling. Prior to attending Duquesne University, he graduated from Chartiers Valley High School.



(left-right) Mr. Alex Nikolopoulos—Ms. Maggie Amaismeier
Ms. Tia Burns - Mr. William Poletti



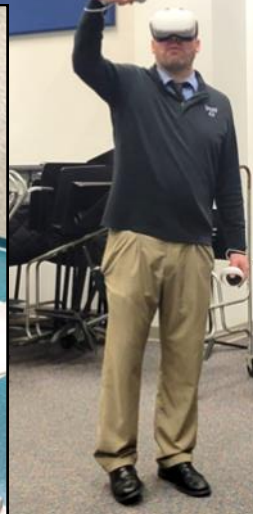
TOGETHER WE CAN
DREAM • BELIEVE • LEAD • ACHIEVE



CAREER EXPLORATION — VIRTUAL REALITY STYLE... WITH OCULUS

SWTS, Inc. has purchased 5 Virtual Reality (Oculus) Career Exploration simulation units. These units offer students a virtual environment where trainees/students can experience a variety of well-paying jobs in a safe, supportive setting, under the expert guidance of a “digital coach”.

Each unit has short simulations that walk learners through a variety of industries and actual jobs while helping them to understand daily tasks and what to expect when they start the job. Students can take virtual tours and perform the various tasks provided for the occupations. The response from students has been extremely positive and we are pleased to be able to bring these virtual career exploration simulations to our area’s students (*and in some cases — teachers*).



**Check
this out**

Career Highways is an AI Powered Career Development Platform providing students with career exploration and discovery which is easy to explore and generate career paths, student skills, and interests matching to occupations and “AI generated Career Highways”.

VISIT: www.careerhighways.com

How It Works:

- 1) **Search for occupations**—Explore occupations by your skills, career clusters/pathways, compensation & more.
- 2) **Explore Career Highways**—Explore to see required experience & education paths for your occupations.
- 3) **Find Opportunities**—Create a digital portfolio & find jobs & academic opportunities that meet your skill sets & career interests.



HIGHLIGHTING SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Ms. Jacque Jaroszynski — Wash High

*"My name is **Jacque Jaroszynski**, I am a first-year School Counselor at Washington High School. I graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2017 with my bachelor's degree in Social Sciences and then went to work in several school districts as a Student Support Specialist and a Prevention Specialist.*

I have experience working with students in grades K-12. I graduated from Cal U in the spring of 2022 with my master's degree in School Counseling and also earned a Sports Counseling and Athlete Mental Wellness certificate.

I worked briefly as a substitute counselor at Bethel Park High School before getting hired at Wash High. I love working with students of all ages, but when I'm not with students, I enjoy baking, crafting, working out and spending time with my husband, dog, family and friends!"



Ms. Jessica Branagan — Wash High



Hi! I am Jessica Branagan, a High School Counselor at Washington High School. My path to being a school counselor is a little unconventional. I graduated from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in the arts. I then became a stay-at-home mom for the next 15 years. It was during that time that I realized my calling was to be a school counselor.

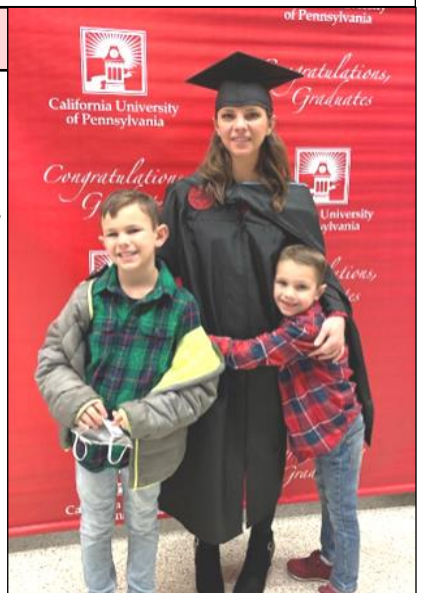
I began working towards earning my Master's Degree from Capella University and subsequently completed my internship here at Wash High.

I finished my Master of Science in School Counseling and was lucky enough to be hired on as a full-time counselor. In 2018, I also became a board certified counselor, earning my NCC, and went on to earn my LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor) in 2022. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my husband, four daughters and my two dogs!

Ms. Samantha Adams — Avella Jr./Sr. High

"I'm the counselor for Avella Jr/Sr High School. I worked as a nurse for 12 years in a school setting which led me to the path of becoming a school counselor. It was more and more that I was seeing kids come into my health office with mental health needs. I wanted to be able to help, so I returned back to school. I received a Bachelor degree in Psychology from Excelsior College in 2019. I quickly jumped into graduate school at California University of PA where I obtained my Master of Education in School Counseling and a NCC certification.

After graduation, I worked as a long term counselor at Chartiers Valley School District and was one of the counselors at Mount Lebanon School District's extended school year program. I'm currently obtaining hours for my LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor) and I'm very excited about this new journey. In my spare time, I spend time with my family, traveling, and reading."



A WELL-DESERVED HONOR—NAACP Human Rights Award



Ester Barnes
SWTS Youth Program Coordinator

Southwest Training Youth Program Coordinator, Ester Barnes, has been awarded the NAACP Washington Branch **2023 Human Rights Award**. She received the award at their 63rd Annual Human Rights Award Banquet held on May 5th. *"The recipient must elevate economic, social or educational status, and must contribute to community causes, and Ester does that,"* said Phyllis Waller, second president of the NAACP Washington Branch.

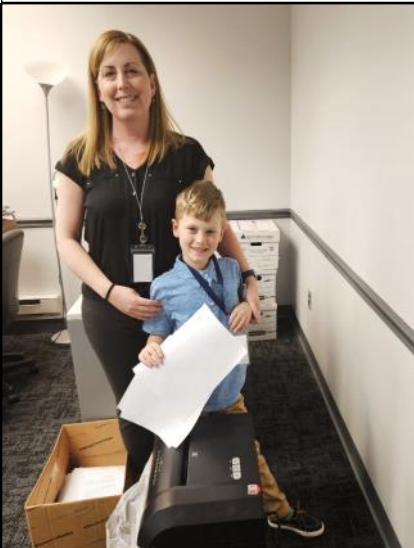
We are so proud of Ester and are so happy that the NAACP has recognized and honored her for all of the positive and great work she does in our communities and with youth.

Pennsylvania Lt. Governor Austin Davis, a Mon Valley native, delivered the keynote address.

CONGRATULATIONS ESTER!



Take Your Child To Work Day: We Welcomed Austin Trunzo

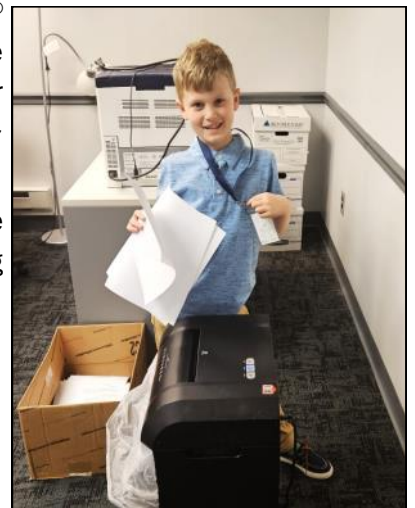


Thank you to Aimee Trunzo, PA CareerLink® Washington County Site Administrator, and the Operations Specialist for Southwest Training, for supplying us with extra help on April 27, 2023 ~ **Take Your Child To Work Day!**

Aimee's son, **Austin Trunzo**, was a big help at the office and he became a master at the shredding machine!



*Austin,
Thank you for helping
us out. Please come
back next year!*



Remembering Dr. Dennis McCarthy

Everyone at Southwest Training Services, Inc. truly valued the support, friendship, laughter and leadership of our SWTS Board of Director's Chair, Dr. Dennis J. McCarthy.

After nine years as the Executive Director of the Western Area Career and Technology Center, Dr. Dennis McCarthy decided to retire in August 2022. Unfortunately, less than 6 months later, he peacefully passed away of natural causes on January 31, 2023, surrounded by his family.

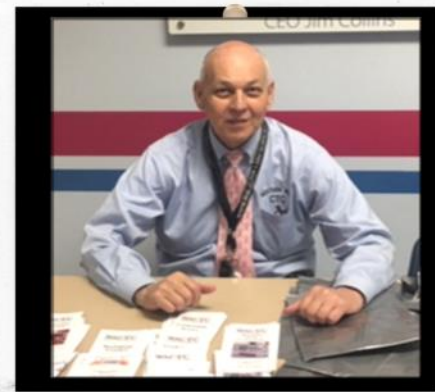
Dennis was passionate about education and service to the community. He was active in several organizations including the

Lions Club and he was also a tireless advocate for animal welfare and in helping those less fortunate.

Dennis was a live kidney donor recipient and he was so grateful to his donor for that gift that greatly improved and changed his quality of life.

YOU
MADE
A
GREAT
DIFFERENCE

IN MEMORY OF



Dr. Dennis McCarthy

January 23, 1956 - January 31, 2023

“For as long as there is a memory of them, they live on in our hearts.”

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Former Youth Participant: KNICKEYA KELLEY

Knickeya Kelley is a graduate of Washington High School and is a former in-school youth with Southwest Training. She is also a graduate of Penn Commercial's Esthetician program and is now a Licensed Esthetician, as well as an entrepreneur in the City of Washington!



Knickeya owns and operates “Black Luxury” She specializes in nails, facials, makeup and waxing.

You can make your appointment today @

Black Luxury
308 East Maiden Street
Washington, PA 15301
724-503-7567

We are so very proud of you and the successful journey you are on!

FREEDOM TRANSIT

Summer Youth Bus Passes are back for 2023!

Students ages 12-17 can purchase a Summer Youth Bus Pass for \$10 to use on all fixed route service from June 1st, 2023, through September 3rd, 2023.

The Summer Youth Pass is available for purchase at Washington Transit Center via cash or credit card payment. Students must show a valid ID or recent report card to purchase the pass.

Your Summer Youth Bus Pass gets you unlimited trips on fixed route bus service for over three months!

Use the pass to go to summer work opportunities, recreation spots such as Washington Park and pool or the Montour Trail, shopping & dining locations, or even sporting and community events such as Wild Things games, farmers markets, and the Whiskey Rebellion Festival.

For more transit-friendly summer ideas, follow Freedom Transit on Facebook.



FINANCIAL LITERACY: You Literally Need it!

National Financial Literacy month is recognized each year in April to raise public awareness of the importance of financial literacy and maintaining smart money management habits.

Amy Rozum, Branch Manager for Northwest Bank, recently spoke with seniors from **Mapletown High School** in Greene County and **Bentworth High School** in Washington County on the importance of Financial Literacy.

Amy's presentation, "*Banking Made Easy: The Basics of Personal Banking*", informed the students about checking and savings accounts, how to write a check, balance a check book, budgeting, credit basics, and loans. Following Amy's presentation, the students were quizzed with a Jeopardy game where they were split into three groups to complete against one another.



l to r: Amy Rozum , Branch Manager & Aubrey Cardinale - RVP, Business Banker - Northwest Bank



ALL ABOUT PHEAA: What you need to know & Where to find it

If you are a K-12 counselor, community partner, or post-secondary school in Pennsylvania and you have questions, contact our **Pennsylvania School Services Higher Education Access Partner** for Greene and Washington counties:

Jonathan Warner: jonathan.warner@pheaa.org
Phone: (717) 678-9695

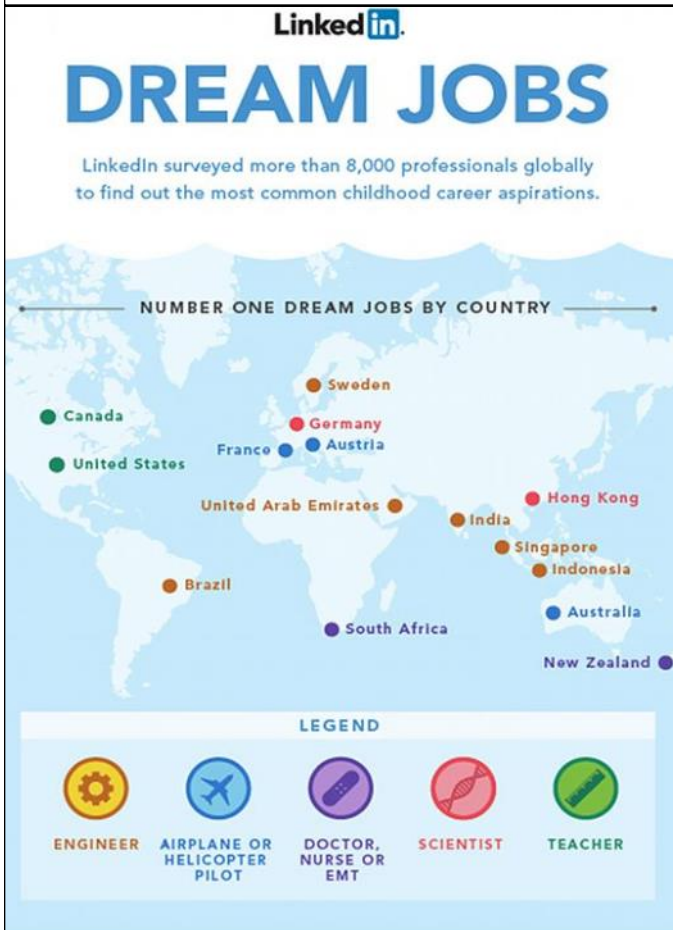
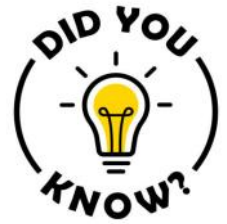


Whether you are a high school student deciding what you want to be or a parent figuring out how to pay for college, www.EducationPlanner.org is your one-stop career and college-planning site.

You can also register for webinars regarding financial aid at: <https://www.pheaa.org/virtual>

5 NOTEWORTHY FACTS ABOUT WORKDAYS

- ⇒ **A lifetime of work** — A person working 40 hours a week will work around 90,000 hours by the age of 65!
- ⇒ **The first resume** — Leonardo Da Vinci is generally considered the first resume maker.
- ⇒ **Filed and forgotten** — Once something is filed, there is a 98% chance that the item will never be used again.
- ⇒ **Lost and found** — The average office worker spends 50 minutes a day looking for lost files or other items.
- ⇒ **Tuesday** is found to be the most productive day of the week.



SUMMER YOUTH WORK EXPERIENCES



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WORKING THIS SUMMER?
DO YOU WANT TO MAKE SOME \$ MONEY \$?
\$10.35 HR. FOR UP TO 6 WEEKS OF EMPLOYMENT

CONTACT SOUTHWEST TRAINING SERVICES, INC. TODAY

CALL ESTER AT: 724-229-1350 x 241
 OR STOP IN ONE OF OUR PA CAREERLINK® OFFICES
 FOR AN APPLICATION TO WORK DURING OUR 6-WEEK WORK
 EXPERIENCE PROGRAM!

START DATE: JUNE 20, 2023

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ♦ MUST BE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 14-24
- ♦ MUST RESIDE IN WASHINGTON OR GREENE COUNTIES



Southwest Training Services, Inc.

Is an equal opportunity employer/program.
 Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to
 individuals with disabilities.

Youth Services are sponsored by the
Southwest Corner Workforce Development Board
 and the

Commissioners of
Beaver, Greene and Washington Counties

