

## HCST Kicks Off 1st Annual Film Festival



Gregg Ascolese, Michele Sorvino, Executive Director of the Golden Door Film Festival, Rob Meyer and Chris DePierro attend HCST's inaugural Film Festival



The County Prep High School and High Tech High School Audio Visual Departments collaboratively kicked off the first annual HCST Film Festival with award-winning feature filmmakers, Q & A sessions with Hollywood supporting actors and screenings of student films.

*Jack of the Red Hearts*, directed by Janet Grillo, inaugurated the film festival shining light on the issues of orphanage, family and autism. Grillo joined a panel of young student filmmakers onstage for a Q & A session, discussing the themes of her film and offering advice to young actors.



Also on hand for the festival was actor John Capodice, who entertained attendees with stories about working in Hollywood for over fifty years with the likes of Oliver Stone, Sir Laurence Olivier and Jim Carrey. Capodice's motivational style of speaking and message about opportunities for hungry creators resonated with all of those in attendance.



Additionally, the department screened over 40 films from over 400 submissions from various genres, including cinematography, podcast, commercial, talk show and more. The event, sponsored by the HCST Foundation, the Golden Door Film Festival, the Kauffmann Family, JMR Video Equipment Rentals, Epson, and GoPro, was attended by executives from HBO, ABC, NBC, GoPro and HCST families.

Other highlights included Katerina Vail and Camila Garcia receiving GoPro Creator's Bundles. JMR Video Rental also donated an \$1,100 cinema camera package that the judges awarded to Joselyn Bravo. David Mansour and Noelle White won Best of the Fest for their film *Tongue Tied*.

### A Message from the Superintendent

Dear HCST Community:

I hope you all have been enjoying a nice summer. The 18/19 School Year was a celebration of new beginnings - from our middle school rebranding after a successful 20 years to welcoming the Hudson County Community College to operate within our new campus in Secaucus. I thank you all for collectively helping our district in achieving these milestones.

*Amy Lin-Rodriguez*

Acting Superintendent

# Musical Theater Students Finish High School Career with Performance of *Paradise Hotel*

County Prep Musical Theater students put on a dazzling and moving performance of *Paradise Hotel* to close out the school year. The show was the final production for seniors in the program, all of whom plan to continue their studies at colleges throughout New Jersey.



**Faith Riscoe** first became interested in acting in middle school, drawn to the thrill and excitement of theater. Acting has given her the opportunity to see situations through the perspective of others and has shaped her to be an open-minded person. County Prep helped her discover her true passion while building incredible friendships. Faith will attend Montclair State University in the fall to study Theater and Chemistry.

**Sirena C. Morales** first took the stage in a fifth grade performance of *Guys and Dolls* with her elementary school's brand new drama club. She immediately fell in love with performing and has never given up the chance to participate in any theater production. County Prep made her feel part of a big, extended family where she has met some of her closest friends. She will be attending Rutgers, New Brunswick in the fall.



**Habiba Atta** has enjoyed acting since she was a little girl because she found playing the role of many different characters to be fascinating. She grew to admire and appreciate the skills it took to put together a performance. Habiba made countless memories at County Prep High School and loved meeting people from all different backgrounds. She will be attending Rutgers, New Brunswick in the fall.

**Brianna Bush** always had a passion for singing, but it wasn't until she attended County Prep that she became interested in acting. Over the past four years, she has flourished both academically and socially. Brianna met some of her best friends at County Prep and every teacher she had left a lasting impression on her life. She will study Forensic Science at Brookdale Community College next school year.



**Robert Del Monte** remembers day dreaming in elementary school as an 8-year-old boy of one day becoming a professional actor. He performed in his first show in seventh grade and to this day his passion for theater continues to grow. County Prep High School gave him a place to feel comfortable and he will take the lessons he learned with him to NJCU in August.

**Bertha Solis** spent her childhood writing small scenes and performing comedic skits with her cousin for her entire family to enjoy. Attending County Prep gave her the opportunity to really jump into acting. The loving school community helped shape her into an intelligent and mature young woman. She will be studying Communications at Saint Peter's University in the next school year.



# HCST Students Participate in Student Art Expo

Students from High Tech High School and County Prep High School received awards at this year's Hudson County Alliance of Teen Artists Student Art Expo, including the top recognition.

Giselle Echeverria and Alyssa Hong, both took home the Top Honors Award.

Judges Awards were presented to High Tech High School students: Stella Bajor-Gil and Mari Gabrielle Feliciano of Bayonne, Xavier Aniello, Casey Kauffman, and Alexandra Lee of Hoboken, Antoinette Critelli of Jersey City, London Monzon and Diana Ordonez, of Kearny, Danny Arroyave, Paulo Salazar, and Stephanie Schwartz of North Bergen and Maya Borten and Sade Rodriguez, of Union City.

Students from County Prep who received awards are: Ariana Young, Brianna Rivera, Michael Wilczkoski, Miles Savulich, Christian Alda, Kayla Rosario, Emur Abdelghany, Ashley Smith, Abigail Wright and Katelyn Turcios.



## High Tech eSports Team Has Successful Year at Local Competitions

High Tech High School's new eSports team is off to a successful start, bringing home multiple awards during recent competitions against teams across the tri-state area. Under the advisement of Interactive Media Instructor Jared Krinsky, students won honors at events this past May and June.

During the team's first official tournament in partnership with Helix eSports in North Bergen, students Kevin Osorio and Joseph Munoz-Breto won the top prize in the Super Smash Bros. tournament. Amin Rhriyeb, Kyle De Los Santos, Allison Chang, Jakub Nikscin and Andy Chae placed second in the League of Legends event.

At the same competition -- attended by teams from Weehawken, North Bergen and Memorial High Schools -- the team won the second place victory for the Overwatch event.

At a June competition, Melvin Rivera finished in second place in the *Super Smash Bros.* heat, while Alan Villalobos and Ryan Piedrahita placed third in the same category. Ezekiel Bernheim,



Omar Tall, Alexander Calle, Nima Fallah, Wilson Wong and Matthew Loaces took home a third place team award.

# Hudson County Partners with Eastern Millworks for College Apprenticeship Program

Hudson County Schools of Technology and Hudson County Community College have entered into a unique partnership with Eastern Millworks Inc. that will allow students to work paid field jobs while they complete their studies in college.

Through the Holz Technik Apprenticeship Program, students will work at Eastern Millworks Inc. three days a week, learning the trade of architectural wood making and attend classes at HCCC two days during the week. The first class of five students began the program in July, with Eastern Millworks Inc. covering many of their educational costs while paying them a healthy salary.

"Ours is a very specialized industry, one that has been struggling to find qualified, skilled talent," said Eastern Millwork President/Owner Andrew Campbell. "This partnership with Hudson County Community College embraces both talent and technology. It will help us to fill the void that has existed, it will open the doors for the young people of our community to have well-paying careers with many options and it will enable EMI and our industry to provide value that importers cannot provide."

A program like this was long envisioned by former Superintendent Frank Gargiulo, who is now assisting Eastern Millwork Inc. with the program to ensure the next generation of architectural woodworkers have all the resources they need to succeed.

"Today's workforce has vastly expanded over the past several years, making it critical that students have the opportunity to explore a wide range of careers that require different skill sets," said **Acting Superintendent Amy Lin-Rodriguez**. "Eastern Millwork Inc. and Andrew Campbell have been incredible partners for the Hudson County Schools of Technology, providing our high school and technical students with hands on learning experiences and onsite job training. Too many young adults are being crippled by student loan debt that follows them through their adult lives. This is an innovative program that helps break down the barriers, which often prevents students from pursuing their dreams through higher education."

## County Prep's Culinary Arts Students Compete at FCCLA Event

County Prep's Culinary Arts Department at the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America culinary arts event at Middlesex County College earlier this year. Chef John Palsi's students Antonios Azmy, Zevastian Vega, and Nisha Purino competed against other vocational high schools from New Jersey.

Culinary Arts, a team event, recognizes participants enrolled in occupational culinary arts and food service training programs for their ability to work as

members of a team to produce a quality meal using professional techniques and equipment. Teams were required to develop a plan to prepare menu items given to them at the time of the event and present their prepared items to evaluators. Students were judged on knife skills, team organization, food production taste and presentation.





## Congratulations Class of 2019!

Hudson County Schools of Technology held commencement ceremonies for students of High Tech High School, County Prep High School, Explore Middle School, Adult High School and KAS Prep.

For the high school graduates, the ceremonies represented their completion of a high quality, technical education.

Omar Ghenand represented County Prep as the class valedictorian while Harpreet Dutta was salutatorian. At High Tech, Sahil Patel and Andrew Tran were recognized as the top two graduating seniors.



## High Tech Junior Mihir Shah Places in Top 10% for Physics

Mihir Shah, a High Tech High School junior and resident of North Bergen, has placed in the Top 10% in New Jersey for Physics I. Shah received a plaque to commemorate his achievement after competing in all four exams in the Science League, which included participants from over 70 schools.

The Science League was started in 1962 by Dr. Mal Sturchio. The organization holds annual competitions in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science and Environmental Science and AP level competitions in Chemistry, Biology and Physics. Students are ranked based on their top scores of four exams.



## Career Development Expands Outreach to Better Serve Hudson County

The Hudson County Schools of Technology's Career Development Center celebrated a year of growth and success with the opening of two satellite offices in Harrison and Bayonne. The new satellite offices have allowed residents living in every corner of Hudson County to take advantage of free job training, career counseling services and English as a Second Language courses.

Working in partnership with Hudson County's One Stop Career Center, both job seekers and employers have had the opportunity to take advantage of these critical services.

Harrison's Career Development Center is located on the lower level of 326 Harrison Ave. and is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9AM to 4PM. The Bayonne location is located in Room 6 of City Hall, 630 Avenue C, and is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9AM to 4PM.

## High Tech Science Academy Instructor Receives Princeton Prize



Dr. Arun Srivastava, a veteran High Tech Science Academy instructor received the Princeton Prize for Distinguished Secondary School Teaching, among three other winners.

Srivastava's prize was part of Princeton University's Commencement exercise. It included a personal award of \$5,000 and an additional \$3,000 awarded to High Tech's library. This honor is shared with Kimberly Dickstein of Haddonfield Memorial High School, Kevin Killian of Pascack Hills High School and Petrina Plunkett of Lawrence Middle School.

"Although the four prize winners teach across a range of subject areas, grade levels and types of schools, they all demonstrate a remarkable ability to influence the lives of their students," said Dr. Todd Kent, director of Princeton's Program in Teacher Preparation. "Each of these individuals is a masterful teacher, but influence extends well beyond the walls of their classrooms."

The four winners were selected by the committee chaired by Elizabeth Colagiuri, a deputy dean of the university, Jennifer Jennings, professor of sociology and public affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School and Steven Cochrane, Superintendent of the Princeton Public Schools.

# Explore Middle School Celebrates at Festivus Maximus

Festivus Maximus, Explore Middle School's end of year celebration was held on June 8 with a Family Reunion, Picnic Style. The community was invited to bring their family and friends to enjoy food, fun and entertainment with good company.

The celebration included barbeque food by Chef Mario, a dunk tank, raffles, ping pong, air hockey basketball, relay races, giant jenga, giant twister, corn hole and board games. The picnic-style event was held partially in the school's backyard and the school's gym. Visitors brought blankets and played games like frisbee, football and volleyball.

*Granton Ave*, a band of four High Tech High School students, treated attendees to a performance to cap off the day.



## Administration

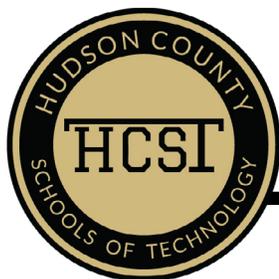
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