State of New Jersey opens Office of Apprenticeship

Trenton, NJ— Governor Phil Murphy announced in 2019 a $20 million dollar investment across New Jersey to support and sustain the apprentice model of employment through the Office of Apprenticeship. Director James Manning has worked closely with Bergen County Technical Schools to promote such training in plumbing, electrical and HVACR. The program focuses on earmarking potential employers who are not currently sponsoring apprentices, and to provide them with assistance and information to participate. This initiative is both for union and non-union trade associations to join “Intermediaries”. Such participation allows small to mid sized employers the ability to join a trade association, a chamber of commerce or association of similar businesses to sponsor and promote the apprentice model training by reduced paperwork, greater access to potential workers, and common skills training. Schools such as Adult Education can assist with curriculum development, Related Technical Instruction (RTI) hours, and promoting articulation agreements. Workers gain by the additional skills learned in theory-based RTI classes, businesses gain by having more qualified workers, and the State of New Jersey benefits by adding high-wage jobs to the local and regional economy. The training for many of our students here in the Full-Time Day Program also benefit by completing pre-apprenticeship training, readying themselves for employer-sponsored apprenticeship jobs.

Perkins Grant support Adult Education programs

Washington, DC— Since 1984, the federal government has supported Career and Technical Education (CTE) training across the USA through the Carl Perkins Act. Bergen County Technical Schools has benefited from these grants. Since 2016, the Full-Time Day Program has been able to upgrade their courses of studies in business, plumbing, HVACR and electrical through new tools and equipment such as hands on modular components, new hydronic systems, inventory control machines, computer software, ergonomic work stations, and most recently, a sound system that allow students to hear and correspond with their instructor by as many as 50 yards apart without shouting or raising their voices by either party. Each school year, the instructors collaborate with Mr. Lynch, Building Administrator to decide what is best to improve their classrooms. Perkins funding works!
From the Principal’s Desk—Mr. Vic Lynch

Hackensack, NJ—CTE Month in the United States is a great opportunity for our school to celebrate and acknowledge the great work students, faculty and staff complete on a daily basis. Our students come to us with hopes and aspirations, and graduate with skills and abilities to secure and sustain gainful employment. Our highly qualified faculty, both Day and Evening school, are accomplished artisans in their own right, and are motivated to train their students in a competitive workforce. Our staff is dedicated to customer service, support behind the scenes, and enriching the educational experience of all students. The tradition of CTE Month also allows our school a time to reflect on the awesome responsibility and opportunity set forth to improve and sustain innovative programs in a student-centered teaching and learning environment, with a total commitment to the residents and businesses of Bergen County and beyond.

Career Placement adds “Expert Series”

Hackensack, NJ—The EXPERT SERIES initiative at BCTS Adult Ed is gaining momentum in that we had several employers come and speak to students about such topics as; What to expect in the field according to the “EXPERTS”. Some local businesses that have participated include Van Natta Mechanical, Dellon Sales, Wales Darby, Amptek Electric and NMP Water Systems. This program promote discourse between skilled tradesmen and students and faculty. Career Placement Specialist Ms. Lisa Joy Alessandrino has organized these visitations by local employers to make these presentations to students and staff in a classroom setting. Some of the reoccurring themes from the employers has been a better focus on soft skills such as communication (both written & verbal), customer service, on-time performance, and a willingness to learn and work in a team-oriented environment. Any potential employers may contact Lisa at 201-343-6000 x5503 or lisale@bergen.org for more information and the next scheduled event in the EXPERT SERIES!

New orientation format helps with transition to learning

Hackensack, NJ—Last year, Adult Ed school officials, spearheaded by Admissions Director Anthony Mongilia and through a brilliant idea by Financial Aid Officer Ms. Shakeena Grice, new student orientation was changed for Full-Time Day Program students. Leading up to their first day of class, new students now come to the school for a two-hour session the Thursday before their start date. They are served a light continental breakfast. books are issued, parking passes given out, ID photos are taken, the instructor meets and greets, and department heads from career services, financial aid, bursar, academics, medical, and attendance provide support and inspiration. Three days later, students begin their program of study with their classmates. This new process allows students to get comfortable with their surroundings, and familiarize themselves with the staff, dedicated to the journey of gainful employment for all. For admissions information, call Mr. Mongilia at: 201-343-6000 x2047.
Hackensack, NJ—Beginning in November 2018, the leadership team of Adult & Continuing Education formed a School Climate Team to provide a voice to current students enrolled in full-time day programming. Plumbing students Chris Ciccolella and Marl Lowrie along with Electrician student Andrew Concepcion (who recently graduated in January 2019) have been meeting with the Principal Mr. Lynch, Lead Teacher & Academic Advisor Dr. Karpowich, and Administrative Assistant Ms. Broadnax to discuss such agenda items as safety, security, instructional material covered, and classroom infrastructure improvements. As the team continues to meet, students from MIS and HVAC/R will also be included. Two initiatives the student had were the issuing of identification cards and a buzzer system to enter the building. The insight and articulate manner in which the students participate in the Climate Team has greatly improved the culture of building, increased cooperation and teamwork in the CTE trades, and better overall security on campus has transpired.

**HVAC/R gets new equipment & infrastructure plan**

11 Carol Ct., Hackensack, NJ—With a successful application and approval from the federal government program called the Carl Perkins Act, the HVAC/R program of study has received a multitude of new trainers and equipment this year. The Perkins Grant, as it is often called, is a program started in 1984 to provide grants to such CTE schools as Adult & Continuing Education to support technological advancement and hands-on student engagement practices. Mr. Dave Becker, BCTS Technology expert, assisted AM instructors Mr. Uma and Evening School instructor Mr. Spellman in choosing the tools and equipment that are needed at the 11 Carol Court building.

**Upgrades on Tap**
The BCTS school district administration has also developed plans and funding in the near future for infrastructure improvements to the existing HVAC/R facility. Suggested renovations include new classrooms, technology upgrades, additional storage units, specific workdays, LED lighting, and student workstations.

**Plumbing & Heating, Electrical Technology students have job options**

Hackensack, NJ—The booming economy has had one situation not anticipated by institutions such as Adult & Continuing Education and potential employers—a skilled labor shortage. The phone is ringing off the hook to place students in positions desperately needed for employers from “mom and pop” operations to large corporations such as Suez, PSEF&G, and the Port Authority of NY/NJ. Program completers in these two CTE areas are negotiating highly competitive wages, excellent benefit packages, and additional educational opportunities. The US Department of Labor and Bergen County Workforce Development Board (WDB) are reporting continued growth in these industries as older workers retire and new ones are needed.

“Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn.” — Harriet Beecher Stowe

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” — Eleanor Roosevelt
Did you know?
The Bergen County Technical Schools Adult & Continuing Education division services more than 2,000 students annually in various programs in the trades, re-licensing, certifications, business, computers, HSE/ESL, and lifetime enrichment across multiple campuses in the County.

On the web at:  
www.adulted.bergen.org

Visit us on Facebook at  
www.facebook.com/pg/BCTSAEd/

- Full-Time Day Programs
- Electrician 1200 Hours
- Plumbing Technology 819 Hours
- HVAC/R 1053 Hours
- Management Information Systems 600 Hours

Contact  
Admissions Counselor  
Anthony Mongilia  
201-343-6000  
X2047  
Antmon@bergen.org

Wednesday Information Sessions  
Begin at 1pm  
No Appointment Necessary

Financial Aid Options Available

HSE/ESL Classes Offered, Call Today

MIS-Business Professional course offers college credit option

Rutherford, NJ—In December 2018, the Adult & Continuing Education began a partnership with Felician University to offer program completers as many as nine college credits toward various business related tracks at their Rutherford (NJ) main campus. This opportunity already coincides with the launching of the new modular concept in the Management Information Systems (MIS) program that provides small class sizes, flexible start-up dates, a paid internship experience, and two major career tracks. The new teacher, Ms. Christine Coppola, has provided instructional leadership and advanced technological expertise to the students enrolled in the program. Students who complete their course of study may apply to a multitude of business career tracks at Felician that can also lead to an Associates Degree or even further business-related certifications. Felician University officials have agreed to visit the school to make their presentations directly to the students, with one of those sessions already occurring in January 2019.

Staff Profile: Meet Silvia Labombarda...  
More than a volunteer, she is part of the BCTS Family since 2011

Paramus, NJ—Since 2011, the Adult Education division has been graced by a volunteer Silvia Labombarda. Silvia graduated from a BCTS Special Services program called Careers Through Technology (CTT), where students receive workplace training and offer their skills to willing partners in the community. During the Fall of 2012, Silvia was regularly scheduled every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in the main office here at Adult Ed. Silvia enters the office with a smile, often wearing her New York Jets jersey or hat while providing supportive services to the administrative assistant staff of the school. Silvia has her own workstation, shares lunch with the staff, socializes during staff celebrations such as birthdays or other special occasions. Mr. Lynch, Principal recently stated. “Silvia’s friendly way and work ethic makes our school a better place to work and help others.” It is clear to one and all, whether an employee, student, or visitor that Silvia is not just a volunteer worker, she is considered part of the BCTS FAMILY.