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BCT, Est. 1941

February is CTE Month across the USA

Full-Time Day Program to launch student internships

Union, NJ—The Bergen County Adult & Continuing Education Full-Time Day Program is launching a student internship experience starting in early March, 2018. Chute Master Indoor Environment Services, an HVAC/R business specializing in duct work and installation is partnering with BCTS to place eligible students in “real world” employment opportunities called Work-Based Activities (WBAs). Students in the HVAC/R program, under the tutelage of instructor Mr. Awa Uma, who complete 75% of their program hours, meet all academic and attendance benchmarks, and have the option to participate as many as three days a week in an internship. Students will receive credit for hours in school, and gain valuable experience from certified technicians and hone their customer service skills in residential, commercial, and industrial settings.

Chute Master is the first of many small and mid-sized businesses in the North Jersey area committed to making this program opportunity work for our students, Mr. Alan Brundage, Executive Manager of the company, has worked closely with school officials and his company leadership to make this initiative a reality.

In a recent visit to the HVAC/R program of study, Mr. Bundage stated, “...this is a win-win situation for the students here at Bergen Tech and for recruiting purposes of Chute Master. We are an expanding company with many opportunities to grow.”

The WBA program has three components to support students as outlined by the Commission on Occupational Education (COE). Each student has a written plan, each employer agrees to a written contract, and each instructor completes a student recommendation form. The plan is designed with student input, their interests, and current abilities. The WBA contract covers employer protocols, student responsibilities, and procedures for school supervision and commitment to support the program. The recommendation form is a vetting process for placement, and provides a reference resource.

Electrician students have apprenticeship options

As the US economy and wages improve, skilled and dedicated workers “need apply”

Hackensack, NJ—The Electrician CTE course of study has been offered by Adult & Continuing Education to the residents of Bergen County in multiple formats since the 1980s. One thing that has not changed is the opportunity for program completers to enter into the Apprenticeship Program sponsored here in the Evening School. The program is rigorous, rewarding, and leads to the opportunity to sit for the New Jersey electrician’s licensing exam. Students have the choice to work for an employer who will sponsor them, or apply through a local trade union of their choice.

Either way, upon admission to the apprenticeship program, successful students/employee/union members gain on-the-job (OTJ) work experience and theory and practice in night school for as long as five years depending on previous schooling or exposure to the trade. Gaining one’s NJ license in the field of electrical provides journeyman the flexibility to start their own business, work for a company or contractor, or join one of many area IBEW trade unions.

Whatever pathway students pursue under the direction of Mr. Dan DeSena, veteran instructor, licensed electrician, and graduate of this program, they will have a solid future, a highly respectable career, a foundation in the trade, and the support of this institution.

Students interested in apprenticeships may contact Gerry Carroll at 201-343-6000 x4603 or email: apprentice@bergen.org.

Above: Electrician students Kristi Gijni, Kyle Laube and Joe Garcia work on a circuit relay training module.
Hackensack, NJ—Major Dick Winters, a member of the famed 101st Airborne division during World War II, reflected on the importance of teamwork when his grandson asked, “Grandpa, were you a hero?” Major Winters replied, “I wasn’t a hero, but I served in a company of heroes.” The faculty and staff at Bergen County Technical Schools Adult & Continuing Education embrace the model of teamwork to constantly bring our programs to the next level. During the 2017-2018 school year, the implementation of technological advances, coupled with the creation of a new internship program are bringing opportunities for our students to an unprecedented level. We’d like to invite all members of the community to come and see the exciting possibilities, which are the results of teamwork by a world class faculty and staff.

New career training provided to ESL students

Bergen County (NJ)—The ever-expanding English as a Second Language (ESL) programs are now including career and technical education (CTE) protocols in their daily instructional routines. Spearheaded by Program Manager Ghazala Nomani and her talented group of teachers, all students who come through these vital educational services now receive career enhancing skills for everyday job-readiness. The scope and sequence of instruction is called integrated education and training (IET) that infuses student-centered activities in the realm of technology, employment soft skills, communication strategies, and workplace safety. The access to these life long lessons are grant-funded and supported through the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) and sponsored by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL). As the program continues to evolve, Ms. Nomani and her team, assisted by Dr. Carol Cochi, hopes more of this career-type services become available for the students of ESL. Perspective Bergen County residents and beyond may contact the ESL/HSE office at 201-343-6000 x4639 for further information and details on these vital programs.

 Plumbers complete HILTI power tool certification

Hackensack, NJ—Plumbing students this past December completed tool and equipment certification through the HILTI Corporation, better known for manufacturing high power concrete guns used on construction sites. Under veteran Plumbing Technology instructor Mr. Robert Aleman, twelve students participated in a four hour seminar on “Power Activities Tools.” Mr. Brian Tell, certified HILTI Trainor, provided theory and practice with an assortment of power tools used in the plumbing field, including extensive worksite safety protocols.
Revised grading policy a collaborative effort

Atlanta, GA—During the Summer of 2017, the Full-Time Day Program completed a successful reaccreditation process under the supervision from the Commission on Occupational Education (COE), this institution’s accrediting agency stationed out of Atlanta, GA. One program compliance suggestion for approximately 80 students it serves, is to implement a revised grading policy on both a monthly and cumulative basis. After a series of collaborative meetings with instructors, school administration, the district Technology Department, and feedback from students, advisory boards (employers) and support staff, an online grading system called Open Student Information Systems or Open SIS was launched in January 2018. Over the next few months and student cycles, the antiquated point system and descriptors will be replaced with a numerical grading system along with a narrative, rubric-type evaluation of student skills, and achievements. Students will continue to receive monthly evaluations, and upon program completion, an official student transcript on the back of their diploma will be included. Here is an overview of the new system:

Distinguished: 100—93; Highly Proficient: 92-85; Proficient: 84-77; Basic/Novice: 76-70; Substandard for Industry: Below 70

IT Department plays critical role in new system & staff training

The Open SIS program was a monumental task taken on by IT Support Technician Mr. Jacob Hidalgo and his Supervisor Mr. Ed Hayward. Their insight, professional development, and administrative support got this initiative off the ground.

Student policies amended

Hackensack, NJ—The Admissions Department, ably facilitated by Mr. Anthony “Coach” Mongilia has had a busy 2017-2018. Through the self study and reaccreditation process, the admissions policy and student attendance have been revised, and clarified. While each program of study has a different hourly requirement and mandatory attendance benchmarks. In addition, Admissions now allows for students who can produce a high school diploma or its equivalent, will be able to register for their choice of study without further testing requirements.


CTE Day Programs earn reaccreditation with Self-Study, COE visit

Hackensack, NJ—Last summer, the Adult & Continuing Education Full-Time Day Program under went program monitoring to earn reaccreditation from the Commission on Occupation Education (COE) stationed out of Atlanta, GA. The process and culminating activities required the staff and faculty of this institution to create a self-study and host a visiting team over three days. Previous Principal Mr. Paul Castiglia and current Principal Mr. Vic Lynch showed tremendous leadership of people, building management, and policy insights to ready the students, staff, and physical infrastructure evaluation.

Results of the study and vision provided a template for two new initiatives: (a) an updated grading policy (see above article on this page), and (b) the introduction of a Work-Based Activity (WBA) program often referred to as a student internship experience. Additionally, the career services department was commended for their “lifetime” placement assistance. The accreditation is valid for two years and as long as six years, and provided a template for future visits.

Management Information Systems (MIS) plans upgrades for Fall ’18

Paramus, NJ—District administrators and Adult Education staff and faculty met recently to discuss a revised course of study design and instructional methodology for the MIS program. The focus is to provide student access to a 21st Century business training curriculum. The program is designed for students who seek immediate employment opportunities in management or the human resource field. Some compon-
Physical upgrades, technology a goal for HVAC/R

Hackensack, NJ—Located on the Dr. John Grieco Campus is 11 Carol Court, where the HVAC/R program is housed for both day and evening classes. Through a combination of strategic planning and visionary ideas from students and staff to improve instructional delivery and program outcomes, this institution is looking to develop a 21st Century HVAC/R lab. Also a part of the improvement discussions are daytime instructor Mr. Awa Uma and veteran evening instructor Bill Spellman.

Currently, the program services almost 100 students in the course of an academic year in , which includes full and part-time theory and practice. The uniqueness of the HVAC/R programs of study provide students differentiated pathways to entry-level employment, or professional re-certification in the industry. Additionally, students may track toward apprenticeship opportunities such as the United Association of New Jersey Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Division (visit www.UANJ.org for more information) as a full-time gainfully employed journeyman, while attending school in the evening several days a week.

These improvements being discussed will provide students and faculty a lab to conduct research, and gain meaningful workplace readiness skills, to service an ever-growing industry and vital cog in the US economy. Mr. Vic Lynch, Principal stated, “We have qualified teachers, students eager to learn and jump into a career, and our goal to provide a top notch facility would be a game changer.”

Above: HVAC/R students Alex Roberts (l.) and Carlos Abreu (r.) perform a technique called “recovery” that is applied in AC maintenance.

Career Placement Corner

In 2016-2017, the Career Services Department showed a job placement rate of 86% for all program completers as gainfully employed in their CTE area of study.

New courses for Evening School expand service to County

Greater Bergen County (NJ) - Under the able direction of Principal Mr. Vic Lynch, the Adult & Continuing Education Evening School division has expanded its outreach to the residents of Bergen County with new course offerings and at other campuses in the district. Starting in March 2018 and culminating in late May, Evening School has advertised course offerings in culinary arts, jewelry making, self defense, knitting, and crocheting. All these classes are designed for recreational or personal improvement. A Microsoft 365 computer class is also available improve one's business skills or personal use. Additionally, the Evening School division has been approved to complete a the construction of a tiny house over three sessions on the Paramus Campus. The house will be complete with plumbing, electrical, and heating and cooling essentials. Ms. Pat Field, Administrative Assistant to the Principal, has facilitated much of the protocols for these new initiatives from scheduling, advertising, ordering supplies, and supporting the team of instructors to design and implement these classes. For further information call 201-343-6000 x2289 or register online at www.adulted.bergen.org.