

# EXCEL LETTER

News of EXCEL TECC • Mayfield Excel Technical Education Career Consortium

Vol. XIX No. 2

Spring 2019

## Director's Notes

by Nate Bishko

Wow! It is hard to believe that another school year has come and gone. As I reflect on the 2018-2019 school year, I could not be more proud of the accomplishments by so many of our students and programs. From the Eastlake Skatepark collaborative project featuring our CADD and Welding students to our Medical Technologies, Allied Health and Medical Assisting programs being recognized by the Cleveland Clinic as "Banner Schools" it has been an outstanding year for Excel TECC. On May 14<sup>th</sup> we had the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Excel TECC Senior Send Off at Landerhaven as 470 amazing students walked across the stage. This same group of seniors earned over 10 million dollars in scholarships toward their post secondary plans and also have earned over 2000 college credits! To all of our seniors, we wish you the best of luck and know that you will always have a home at Excel TECC. To our incoming junior class, we can't wait for you to experience the greatness of your Excel TECC program. You should be receiving pertinent information this summer from your program instructor and also please save August 8, 2019 on your calendar as we will have

...continued on page 2

## Program Power



TOP: SkillsUSA Team Contestants  
 CENTER: State Medalists  
 BOTTOM: Gold Medalists - National Qualifiers

## SKILLS USA WINNERS...on to Nationals!!

On April 16/17 Excel TECC sent 43 students to the SkillsUSA State competition in Columbus. Congratulations to our 19 students who earned medals, including six Gold medalists who will go on to National competition in Louisville in June.

### BRONZE MEDALISTS

- ITP: **Eli Carty** [West Geauga] and **Shane Pigram** [Mayfield] - CyberSecurity
- Interactive Media: **Owen Kabelitz** [Mayfield] and **Alex Popovich** [Chagrin Falls] - Digital Cinema Production

### SILVER MEDALISTS

- Medical Technologies: **Marisha Syed** [Mayfield] - Job Skills Demonstration
- CADD: **Icarus Fernandes** [Solon] and **Michael Schwartz** [Solon] - Additive Manufacturing
- CADD: **Karen Argie** [Mayfield], **Michael Carlson** [Mayfield] and **Zach Ross** [South] - Engineering Technology
- ITP: **Michael Pattison** [West Geauga] - Computer Programming
- ITP: **William Bohlen** [Solon] and **Jacob Dimick** [South] - Interactive Application & Video Game Design

### GOLD MEDALISTS

- CADD: **Luke Sarris** [Mayfield] and **Joey Suchy** [Mayfield] - Additive Manufacturing
- Fire/EMS: **Cheyenne Earl** [North] - First Aid/CPR
- Fire/EMS: **Madison Basak** [Mayfield] - Job Interview
- ITP: **Blaise Lombardo** [South] and **Chris Seitz** [Mayfield] - Web Design

**Director's Notes** (continued from page 1)

an Excel TECC Orientation for Mayfield-hosted programs [CADD, Construction Trades, Cosmetology-Mayfield, Fire/EMS, Medical Technologies, Interactive Media, Information Technology & Programming, and Environmental Education] beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Mayfield High School. Programs hosted at other sites will send out their own information regarding their orientation schedule. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 440-995-6750. I hope that everyone has a restful and enjoyable summer and we will see you in August!

**Construction Trades  
Tiny Homes**

by Rick Zivny, Instructor

As the school year comes to an end the graduating class of 2019 leaves the Mayfield City Schools Construction Trades Training Facility with knowledge, pride, and self confidence that will help them achieve their goals in the paths they choose in the fields of Construction Management – Civil Engineering – Electrical Engineering – NEO Union Carpenter – NEO Union Electrician – NEO Union Bricklayer – NEO Union Plumber – Electrician – New Construction Home Building – Plumbing – HVAC – Painting – Roofing – Home Remodeling – US Army – Business – Counselling. We wish them the best of luck and we look forward to hear their success stories. The Junior class had a tremendous first year bringing what was taught in the classroom and applying it in the lab to complete their learning projects, which this year was six Tiny Homes. Working as a team they set and accomplished goals in order to meet the completion dead line of May 10 - our 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House. Many of the Juniors will be working construction jobs this summer to further enhance the skills they learned. I am looking forward for another great year of teaching and working with our students to help guide them in the paths they choose.

**Mayfield Cosmetology**

by Maryanne Hummell and Debby Kall, Instructors

As the Cosmetology year comes to an end we have many things happening. We have had some exciting education classes with our class. Many of our seniors have taken their State Board Test and passed, earning their Cosmetology State License. We are so proud of all of our students who have worked hard for the past two years. Many of our students have jobs lined up and large majority of them will also head off to college in the fall. Good Luck Seniors!!!!

The Junior Cosmetology students are finishing off their year and excited to begin their senior year. All of our juniors are working on securing an Internship for the next school year. The junior class will also be providing a spa day and working the carnival at summer camp.

We have spent our first year in our new beautiful building at Alpha Park [off Driveway #17 on Alpha Drive] in Highland Heights. If you have not been out to see us try to take the time next year to visit us. The Cosmetology program is fortunate to have this opportunity.

As the school year comes to an end we would like to thank everyone who has supported our program. We could not do it if it wasn't for everyone's support. Our customer clinic is closed for the year but will reopen at the end of August. We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer.



Scenes from the Construction Trades Open House, including a powerpoint presentation of the collaborative process by CADD students

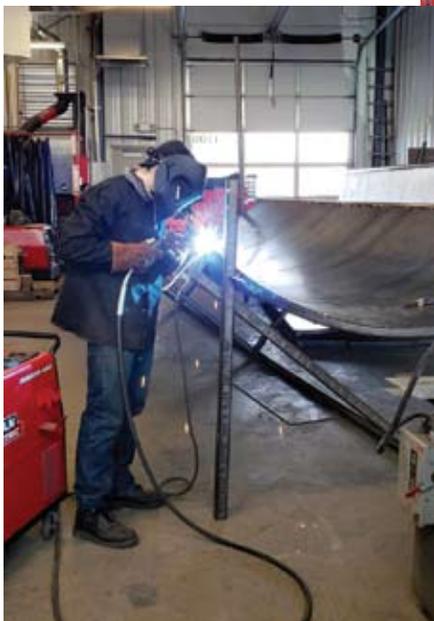
## Willoughby Welding

by Michelle Sutter, Project Assistant

As the 2018-2019 school year comes to a close, the young men of the Welding Program have been diligently working toward the completion of the Eastlake Skate Park. This project, in collaboration with the city of Eastlake, will provide new and improved equipment for use by residents. The construction has been featured on Cleveland 19 News, Cleveland.com and the News-Herald. The park consists of five new pieces of equipment. The largest of these is a Double Half Pipe which measures 17x40 feet!

Under the direction of Mr. Mark Stevens and Mr. Mike Kirchhevel, the students have learned to fabricate parts, read blueprints and utilize their welding skills to produce a more modern, longer lasting product for the city.

The newer pieces will be located at the former skate park site at the Eastlake Community Center. Anticipated installation is in Fall 2019. All of the students have taken great pride in participating in the project and seeing their efforts come to fruition.



WELDING students at work in their lab: [from above, clockwise] Taj; Jesse; Aaron; Jesse and Jon



TOP: Jemiah [Beachwood] stands by a TEACH bulletin board

BOTTOM: Austin, Carisa, Emmie and Kaitlyn stand by a TEACH board



## TEACH IN SERVICE

by Katie Ball and Patti Krupinski, Instructors

The students from TEACH were involved in a fundraising campaign at Beachwood High School. The students planned and created bulletin boards for BHS teachers during the entire school year. In turn, the teachers donated to the program for their service. Hundreds of dollars were raised and will be presented to The Domestic Violence and Children's Advocacy Center in Cleveland.



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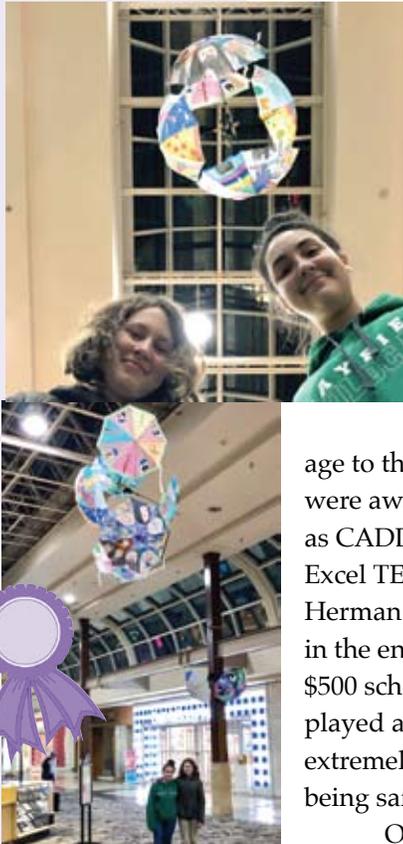
## CADD Students Earn Regional and State SkillsUSA Championships

by Craig Schmidt, Instructor

The Excel TECC CADD Engineering Technology program experienced another incredible year!

In January, three CADD senior teams entered the always-competitive Student Model Home Design Contest this year - our most entries ever. This year's theme was The Great Multi-Unit Townhouse. Two of our teams were tied at the end of judging, and the contest judges broke the tie! The team of Karen Argie, Max Campbell, Michael Carlson, and Pedro Rodriguez-Garcia earned seventh place, while the team of Logan Gorka, Bill Kennelly, Daniil Kurnosov, Zach Ross, and Samone Sturkey earned eighth place, and also won the Best Model award. The team was not happy with their model and decided to rebuild it 24 hours before the contest deadline! The projects were on display throughout the Great Home and Garden Show in February.

CADD juniors were invited to participate in the L.E.A.F. Umbrella



L.E.A.F. Umbrella Project engineering scholarship winners Rachel Herman and Adara Tsirlin each earned \$500 scholarships for their umbrella display fixture designs.

Project, sponsored by the Lake/Geauga Educational Assistance Fund. Students from area high school art classes decorated umbrellas to be eventually auctioned. CADD students from our program and the Lakeshore Compact CADD program designed the fixtures to display the umbrellas at Great Lakes Mall. Students had to focus on safety and durability, as well as preventing damage to the umbrella handles. Scholarships were awarded to the art students, as well as CADD students for the top designs. The Excel TECC CADD junior team of Rachel Herman and Adara Tsirlin earned first place in the engineering portion, and each won a \$500 scholarship for their design, which displayed a total of six umbrellas, while being extremely efficient with materials, as well as being safe.

Our collaboration with the Welding programs and the City of Eastlake continued with work on the Eastlake Skate Park. Our CADD senior team passed the project to Welding one year ago, the students have been hard at work fabricating the various skate park structures. In March, a team students from CADD and the

NCI Welding programs attended the Association for Career and Technical Education Student Showcase at the Ohio Statehouse. Karen Argie, Logan Gorka and Bill Kennelly represented CADD at the event, and T.



TOP: The CADD senior team of Pedro-Rodriguez-Garcia, Karen Argie and Michael Carlson are shown with their 7th place townhome design project at The Great Home and Garden Show. Not pictured is Max Campbell, who attended his senior swim meet that day.

BOTTOM: The CADD senior team of Bill Kennelly, Samone Sturkey, Daniil Kurnosov, Zach Ross and Logan Gorka pose with their 8th place townhome design project, and winner of Best Model, at The Great Home and Garden Show.

J. Siko represented the welding programs, where they gave state officials a preview of the skate park using drawings, models and virtual reality. The Eastlake Skate Park is tentatively scheduled to open in September.



Welding student T. J. Siko, and CADD students Logan Gorka, Karen Argie and Bill Kennelly present the Eastlake Skate Park design to State Senator Kenny Yuko, while Eastlake Mayor Dennis Morley looks on, at the ACTE Student Showcase at the Ohio Statehouse.

A total of 9 CADD students entered SkillsUSA competitions, our largest group ever. In February, senior Matthew Marting won the SkillsUSA Regional Championship for

continued on next page...

**CADD Engineering...**(continued from previous page)

the Extemporaneous Speech contest. In April, Matthew earned fourth place in the SkillsUSA Ohio Championships. Bill Kennelly teamed up with Construction Trades students Matthew Mahovic and Jaidion Moss, and earned fourth place in the Career Pathways Showcase - Industrial Engineering Technology with their Tiny Homes presentation. The CADD senior team of Karen Argie, Michael Carlson and Zach Ross earned silver medals in the Engineering Technology and Design contest for their collaboration with our Medical Technologies program with the Medical Vein Finder project. Two CADD teams competed in the Additive Manufacturing (3D printing) contest and swept the top two positions, with the team of Joey Suchy and Luke Sarris winning the State Championship, and the team of Icarus Fernandes and Michael Schwartz earning the silver medals. All four Additive Manufacturing competitors were juniors, and the teams were separated by 0.2 point! The team of Suchy and Sarris will compete in the SkillsUSA National Championships in Louisville this June.

In May, CADD and Construction Trades celebrated their collaboration at the Construction Trades Open House. This year's project involved the design and construction of six Tiny Homes and a new storage

building at Construction Trades new facility. Several hundred visitors toured the homes and had an opportunity to speak with the students who made it all happen. Now in our eighth year of collaboration, this project gives students from both programs a truly authentic learning experience.



CADD juniors Luke Sarris and Joey Suchy are the 2019 SkillsUSA Ohio State Champions in the Additive Manufacturing category.



As you can see, our program continues to be involved in a number of collaborative projects each year. CADD students just completed our 30th collaborative project since moving to the Mayfield Innovation Center in Fall 2015!

See what's happening in CADD by following our Twitter, Facebook and Instagram feeds @excelteccadd.

**2019 Auto Technologies**

*by Nathan Inbody, Instructor*

The 2018-2019 Auto Technology classes have concluded with another successful year. Students worked on numerous customer vehicles where they provided services from details and oil changes to a complete engine rebuild. Students have worked hard all year which has yielded record amounts of service work. One of the highlights from the Junior class include the rebuild of a 6.4L Diesel Powerstroke engine in a 2008 Ford F-350. Nearly half of the Senior class have been working on internships at various locations such as Classic Ford, Goodyear, Valletto Construction, Valvoline, and Mentor Nissan. Some

Seniors have committed to continuing their education at schools like Ohio Technical College and Ohio Northern University after graduation. We look forward to continuing excellence next school year.



**AUTO TECHNOLOGIES:**  
TOP PHOTO - Juniors and Seniors attending the 2019 Cleveland Auto Show at the IX Center

BOTTOM PHOTO - Juniors in the auto shop [L-R] Matt, Mike D, Mike F, and Fadi

## Exercise Science & Sports Rehabilitation

by Justin Murphy CSCS, Instructor

The Exercise Science & Sports Rehabilitation Healthcare Program had a great year – culminating in the graduation of our first class of ESSR students! This first group of seniors reached a number of milestones and helped build the foundation of the program for future student success. As an instructor, it has been awesome to see these students grow as individuals and as young exercise science professionals following their interests. The field of exercise science covers many different career paths, and we now have graduates pursuing post-secondary opportunities in physical therapy, occupational therapy, cardiac rehab, physician assisting, pre-medicine, military service, radiology, personal training, and strength & conditioning. These different pursuits will add to our program's depth as we grow our alumni network of exercise science professionals.

One of the major program highlights from this year was presenting our program and curriculum at the Ohio School Boards Association Capital Conference Student Achievement Fair in Columbus this past November. Our program was represented there by seniors Justin Finney (Solon) and Hailey Mekruit (South), and junior Kyra Boiner (Brush) who all did an outstanding job presenting to school board members and staff from all over the state of Ohio.

This school year also saw the first group of ESSR students become certified physical therapy aides through the American Medical Certification Association. All 24 junior students passed the AMCA Physical Therapy Aide Certification exam!

Students in our program had multiple opportunities to complete internship and shadowing experiences with University Hospitals and other local industry partners. We also worked with other high school and elementary school classes within the South Euclid-Lyndhurst School District, and with other local schools to provide health and fitness programming in a variety of formats.

We have many people to thank for their help with our program this year, but we would especially like to thank: the parents of our students, Mr. Bishko and the Excel TECC team, Superintendent Reid, Dr. Veronica Motley, Dr. Lorraine Fuller, Mr. Karl Williamson, Ms. Christina Thompson, and Mr. Brian Adams.

### “Four Keys to Summer Fitness”

by ESSR Juniors: Sydney Nicolli and Makyla Monroe

Key 1: Attitude – Achieving the perfect summer body begins with your attitude. If you are striving to see results, strong willpower is a must. We all know that the basics for weight loss are reducing your food intake and increasing your activity level, however, altering habits requires both determination and focus; which additionally demands a positive mindset and self-awareness. Find your motivation – make

continued on next page...



From top down/  
clockwise

[L-R] Justin, Kyra and Hailey presenting at OSBA Capital Conference

Juniors at Tri-C Exercise Studies Lab

Juniors at Kent State University Exercise Science Labs. Front: Ashley; Back: [L-R] Maddie and Ayanna

Back [L-R]: ESSR Juniors Johntez and Clay working with Excel TECC Fire Student Elijah [front]

Front [L-R]: Natalie and Ryann; Back [L-R]: Ayanna and Mattia

[L-R]: Kyra, Ayla, Ashley and Maddie



**ESSR - Four Keys...**(continued from previous page)

sure you know the “why” behind your actions.

**Key 2: Movement & Strength –** Get up and get moving! Movement increases your blood circulation and results in increased energy. Moving also increases the glucose uptake of your muscles and helps prevent excess fat storage. Aim for 150+ minutes per week of your favorite moderate intensity cardiovascular exercise to see results. You also need to get in the gym and strengthen those muscles! Stronger healthier muscles burn more calories and have a positive impact on your metabolism, even when you aren’t exercising. Stronger muscles also look more toned for revealing summer clothes, and can help with injury prevention and performing daily activities. If it’s tough getting access to equipment at home, you can strength train using just your body weight. Perform exercises like squats, triceps dips, bridges and planks using a slower eccentric (lowering) movement or with a pause at different parts of the range of motion. – And, you can always ask an ESSR student for some exercise ideas!

**Key 3: Nutrition –** The ultimate tip to ensure your physique for this upcoming summer is to jam pack your diet with calorie friendly, beneficial, and yummy foods. Eating a high-quality, high-protein diet, which includes a lot of vegetables, fruit, beneficial fats, and other nutrient dense unrefined / processed foods, is an effective way of reducing body fat and promoting optimal body composition. Whole foods should also be incorporated into your diet as they require more energy for the body to digest and utilize them much more efficiently than processed foods do.

**Key 4: Stay focused and stress free!** Do not revolve your life around or become obsessed with getting the perfect beach body. High levels of stress can reduce the amount of hormones in your system that help with fat loss and muscle recovery. Instead, stay attentive to maintaining overall better health and fitness. Practice deep breathing, visualization and meditation when you find yourself feeling uptight. Remember- things don’t happen overnight. Stay disciplined and determined!

**CULINARY ARTS**

*by Stephanie Czech, Instructor*

If we were asked to use one word to describe the year our Culinary Arts students had, it would have to be “*success.*” Our Junior class prepped, prepared, and served a deliciously *successful* Grand Buffet on May 16th. By far, this was one of our highest volume Grand Buffet in years. During competition season, we had both senior and junior Culinary Teams. Both teams earned Gold at Regionals, which allowed them to compete at the State-level. During State competition, both teams were *successful*, our Junior team earned Silver and our Dynamic-Duo Senior team earned Gold and placed 3rd in Ohio; we are so proud of them.

During this school year, we have been out in the community promoting Excel TECC, our program and our students’ culinary talents. Some of the community events we were present at were Soup4theSoul, The Taste of Beachwood, Cleveland Eats and the American Culinary Federation’s President’s brunch; we look forward to these events again next year and adding even more. Our senior students hosted a *successful* dinner honoring their parents as they ended their time with us at Excel TECC. Students were able to spotlight their culinary talents as they prepared a meal to remember for their parents; the food was wonderful, but the guests were even better! Finally, we are proud to announce that every one of our seniors *successfully* earned their ProStart Certification of Achievement, which is recognized by the National Restaurant Association and earns them credits towards post-secondary culinary arts programs. Spark your taste buds and have a relaxing, delectable summer!



[Left] Taste of Beachwood set-up

[Above] Jillian and Corinne with their Gold/Third Place trophy

[Right: L-R] Junior Culinary Team: Caitlin, Julia, Ekaterina and Jordyn

## Auto Collision

by Lou Masitto, Instructor

This year one of the larger projects that the Auto Collision students completed was in partnership with the Lake County SWAT Team. The Auto Collision students converted a used city van into a SWAT team vehicle which will house equipment for Lake County's SWAT Response Team. Students learned how to remove lights and sirens, removed stickers and labels, sanded, patched dents and scratches all before masking off, taping and finally painting the vehicle a flat black. The officers who arrived to pick up the vehicle were quite pleased with the results! Police Chief Larry Reik from the City of Eastlake said "It is always a privilege to work with Mr. Masitto and his students on projects and we are always blown away with the outcome. Once again these students rose to the challenge and it was fun to watch!"



TOP: Standing by the Eastlake SWAT team van is the Auto Collision senior class with the mayor of Eastlake Mr. Morley

BOTTOM: Hunter is painting the van

**WINNERS' CIRCLE...** LOOK for our *Winners' Circles* throughout this newsletter!!



## Business Academy

by Lisa Simon, Instructor



In March 2019, selected students from the junior and senior class competed at states for DECA. 3 students placed top 10 in their category to qualify for Nationals. This competition was held in Columbus, OH where we stayed for 2 days



Students from the junior class working collaboratively on a creative assignment. They had to make a product to potentially sell out of random items. This was a Veale Venture Challenge Think-fest field trip that we have recently taken.



Senior students were selected to participate in the J.A Titan competition. This was an amazing experience for these students. Students practiced for this competition for 2 weeks in class. They had fun on this field trip and did amazing.

## Academy For The Performing Arts

by Tom Fulton, Instructor

### OUR ELEVENTH SEASON!

11 years! About to enter year 12. This year we had a rollicking good season of musicals, classical and contemporary plays, each boasting some remarkable performances by young artists destined to make names for themselves in the professional world. We opened with the hysterical YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN - the musical version of Mel Brook's brilliant send up of old monster movies. Next we went from the ridiculous to the sublime with Anton Chekhov's classic play THE SEAGULL, followed by a wonderful play by an old classmate of mine, Jack Heifner. VANITIES, a play I directed at Playhouse Square in 1977, was a wonderful revival of a play set in the turbulent 60's, following the lives of three cheerleaders. March brought us JOE TURNER'S COME AND GONE - a pulitzer prize winning play by August Wilson, author of Fences. We have a large African American student base that brought the richness of their experience and culture to a play depicting the struggle of black people as they coped with racism and bigotry several decades after the Emancipation Proclamation. Finally, we just closed Shakespeare's great tragedy OTHELLO, cast this time with a actress as Othello, allowing us explore the power of women as leaders.

### OUR ALUMS ARE MAKING GREAT STRIDES:

2018-19 has been a year of success for many of our Alums. Here are a few success stories.

DAN HOY (class of 2014) is playing the lead cat Rustamov in the Broadway National Tour of CATS;

CASEY COTT(class of 2010) is currently starring in the CW drama series RIVERDALE as Kevin Keller. He has also just been signed to play the lead in a new Matthew Perkins film THE MASCOT;

MATTHEW HARRIS (class of 2014) just closed his critically acclaimed production of WOMAN FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY at Lincoln Center, NY;

JORDAN BROWN (class of 2012) is currently playing the primary role, ELDER CUNNINGHAM, in the Broadway National Tour of THE BOOK OF MORMON. He has been on Broadway serving as standby for Elder Cuningham for the past two years;

SIOBAHN CARROLL (Class of 2014) is currently a company member of the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company in Boston, Massachusetts playing such roles as Juliet in ROMEO AND JULIET and Irina in Chekhov's THE THREE SISTERS;

SEAN GRANDILLO (Class of 2014) recently closed a Broadway run of SPRING AWAKENING. He starred in MTV's horror series SCREAM, ABC's comedy series THE REAL O'NEILLS, as Jeremy in NBC's RIS, as Collin Cowher in YOUTH AND CONSEQUENCES and recently in the movie IN REALITY as Scott.

### NEXT YEAR: Our Twelfth Season

To inquire about openings and the audition process, contact our admissions office at 440-247-2072 x4393. Our season is shaping up to be one of our most exciting. We will be opening with the Broadway musical CHICAGO, followed by a wonderful dark comedy THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN. Our plays under consideration for the 2020 season are SHE LOVES ME with music by the authors of FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, COMPANY, with music by Stephen Sondheim, MACBETH by William Shakespeare, UNCLE VANYA by Anton Chekhov, ENDGAME by Samuel Beckett and BLUE STOCKINGS by Jessica Swayle. Our final season will be announced soon.

To find out more about our exciting curriculum in technical and performance theatre, please visit our Web Site at [www.chagrinacademy.org](http://www.chagrinacademy.org).



From top clockwise:  
Chad and Gwendolyn in 'THE SEAGULL';  
Matthew as Coalhouse Walker in 'RAGTIME';  
Blake, John, Kennedy, Anaiya, LeBronn and Brynn in 'JOE TURNER'S COME AND GONE';  
Kate as Hamlet in 'HAMLET';  
Ashley and John in 'YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN';  
Riley, Ruby and Alyssa in 'VANITIES'



## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & PROGRAMMING

by Ron Suchy, Instructor

### Class of 2020 Update

ITP welcomed the Class of 2020 to the team this year, which finishes up with 25 students! Of our current 25 students 24 earned the Desk Top Pro Certification, which is an industry acknowledged credential demonstrating expertise and workforce readiness in the use of the Microsoft Office suite of software applications as well as Internet expertise and knowledge of operating environments. Additionally, 100 percent of the Class of 2020 earned a proficient or advanced score on the Computer Programming Webxam. ITP-2020 is a highly motivated group students who will be working in various Senior Capstone Pathways next year including: Interactive Application/Video Game Design with Unity, Mobile Application Design, Cyber Security/Ethical Hacking, Networking, Linux Technologies, and Server 2016 Technologies. Additionally, all ITP-2020 students will complete the PC Pro Certification Program that is a core content area of ITP and along with Programming, Web Design, and Software, provides our students who meet the standards, with college credit granted by the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

In addition to academic accomplishments, ITP-2020 participated in a number of special activities this year. The first special activity was participation in the PEPP Explorer Program sponsored by Progressive Insurance, where students are introduced and exposed to all the teams that comprise the Information Technology Department of Progressive Insurance. Students also toured the corporate data center known as Bunker-East, and interacted extensively with Progressive IT Professionals as our students rotated through a series of activities which highlighted all the major components of the Progressive IT infrastructure.

ITP Junior Stuart Leavitt helped provide our second professional development activity by designing and conducting a thorough workshop on working with hearing impaired colleagues, and American Sign Language (ASL).

This spring, ITP-2020 traveled to Stow to visit cyber security firm, Binary Defense. Binary Defense is the sister cyber security company of Trusted Sec, from Strongsville. Our students were introduced to a wide range of career options in the cyber security field as well as a great number of different cyber security issues and vulnerabilities that is every day business as usual for a firm like Binary Defense.

ITP-2020 participated in an interactive session of the Cleveland Clinic Worldwide Classroom, utilizing new technology added to the ITP lab this school year. This session featured leaders and members of the Cleveland Clinic IT Department, who shared with us their roles and backgrounds. In addition they described to us the multitude of software and hardware applications, telecommunications, security and privacy, and connectivity and interoperability needs and issues affecting an organization as large and dynamic as the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Lastly, utilizing the ITP Lab's 80"

Sharp Aquos Display and wide-angle camera, students with given an extensive, interactive Q & A session with the professionals from CCF and other classrooms from across the country as well as several international locations.

Lastly, two teams from ITP-2020 have taken the initiative to take on real-world client projects this spring for their Web Design capstone project. The five member team of Mike DeMello (Mayfield), Dom Honarvar (South), Chris Jofferion (Brush), Evan Bogus (Solon), and Max Patrick (North) are designing and building a new website for the LINFERION FOUNDATION. The two person team of Lauryn Nobles (North) and Mike Pattison (West Geauga) are working with the HIGHLAND HEIGHTS HURRICANES Swimming Team on the development of a new website for their extensive organization. Both sites are expected to be elevated and online by the end of May.

### Class of 2019 Wrap Up

The Class of 2019 (ITP-2019) set new standards for our program in many realms. In the classroom, the class of 26 students earned a total of 47 industry credentials in the areas of computer software applications, computer hardware maintenance and repair, and cyber security; with 17 students earning two certificates and four earning three. ITP-19 participated in Greater Cleveland Business Technology Week at Public Auditorium in downtown Cleveland. ITP-19 again participated as seniors in the Progressive PEPP Explorer program which set many member of the class on a trail that led through the PEPP Capstone Internship application and interview process eventually landing Isabel Nekić (South), Blaise Lombardo (South) and Chris Seitz (Mayfield) into three of the eight coveted Progressive PEPP Senior Capstone Experience slots. Nearly 300 applicants from four Career-Technical Education schools as well as a number of traditional high school classes from across Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula Counties, applied for the PEPP Capstone. Excel TECC ITP has claimed eight of the sixteen spots over the last two years.

Academically, the class was a standout,  
continued on next page...

**ITP...**(continued from previous page)

earning over \$670,000 in scholarships, with a number still to be determined. ITP seniors also earned in excess of 450 college semester credits through Tech Prep Articulations and CT-2 valued between \$170 to over \$500 per credit earned depending on the institution the student may be continuing at for his or her post-secondary training and degree program. Eighteen of the twenty-six ITP-2019 graduates earned Advanced Placement (AP) or College Credit Plus (CCP) credit to apply toward their respective post-secondary enrollments as well; once again demonstrating that CCP and AP are a fantastic compliment to a Tech Prep CTE course of study. Our ITP graduates of 2019 will be continuing on at Lakeland Community College, Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland State University, Miami University (Ohio), Kent State University, The Ohio State University, The University of Toledo, Brigham Young University, Heidelberg University, Morningside College, and The United States Marine Corps.

Special wishes go out to ITP-19 Graduate Aiden Holloman of South High School; thank you for your commitment and service to our great nation in defense of our freedom as a United States Marine, we appreciate you, good luck!

**Introducing the Class of 2021**

Our ITP Class of 2021 (ITP-2021) consists of 28 incoming juniors from Aurora, Brush, Mayfield, North, Orange, Solon and South high schools respectively. We are looking forward to an exciting 2019-2020 school year with a strong and highly motivated team from the Class of '21. ITP welcomes the following students and their families to the Excel TECC ITP team.

Excel TECC ITP sincerely thanks Mr. Joe Hayes, Mrs. Kay Vincent and Mrs. Cathy Catullo for another amazing job in recruiting and enrolling another strong group of student for all of our Excel TECC programs. Excel TECC ITP is also very grateful to all of our consortium member schools, their respective Guidance Departments and their respective Administrators for all the time and effort you put in to assist us with the recruitment and enrollment process. Thanks to you, in no small part, ITP will have again have the opportunity to work with a tremendous team of students and families, and continue to grow and develop the next generation of Information Technology Professionals.

**Competitive Activities**

Excel TECC ITP students once again showcased their skills and knowledge against the best from our region, from across the state and on a national stage. In December, ITP Seniors Caleb Kremer, Shrey Patel and Gabe Goulakos were finalists for the Ohio 14<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in the Congressional App Challenge.

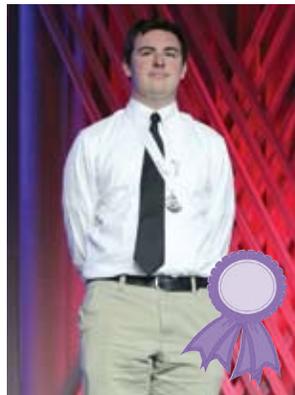
In February, at the SkillsUSA North-Central Regional Competition hosted by the Medina County Career Center, ITP Senior Izzy Neki followed up her 2018 State Championship and 7<sup>th</sup> place Nationals Finish with her second Regional Gold Medal in the Prepared Speech contest. Fellow senior Donovan Engle, who earned the Regional Gold Medal in the Information Technology Services

contest, joined Izzy. Senior Jacob Galla also competed in the Information Technology Services contest and earned the Silver Medal for finishing second in the contest. All three regional medalists advanced to the SkillsUSA Ohio Championships on April 16. In April the team of Kremer, Patel and Eli Carty earned first place in the RITE Board Cool Tech Challenge for Web Development, and shared in a \$1500 scholarship award. On April 11 this team was featured at the OhTec Tech Week, Cool Tech Showcase at Cleveland Public Hall in April and at the OhTEC Best of Tech Awards that same evening at Signature Flight. Also earning recognition in the Cool Tech Challenge was ITP Junior Shane Pigram who earned second place in the MCPc Cyber Security Challenge. Shane earned a \$750 scholarship award for his accomplishment.

Up next, on April 16, came the SkillsUSA Ohio Championships where ITP sent 18 qualifiers. Senior Eli Carty collaborated with Junior Shane Pigram to earn a Bronze Medal for a third place finish in the Cyber Security contest. Junior Mike Pattison earned the Silver



Bronze Medalists Shane and Eli



Silver Medalist Mike



Silver Medalists Jacob and Will

continued on next page...

**ITP...**(continued from previous page)

Medal in Computer Programming for his second place finish while fellow Junior Stuart Leavitt took fourth place.

ITP Seniors Will Bohlen and Jacob Dimick earned the Silver Medal for taking second place in a highly competitive Interactive Application/ Video Game Design contest while fellow Senior Team Micah Bosko and Gabe Goulakos finished in fifth place.

Juniors Jaida Tinsley and Shannon Searle finished fifth and sixth respectively in the Technical Computer Applications contest, and the Business, Management & Technology Showcase Team of Seniors Kristyn Wagner, Caleb Kremer and Shrey Patel finished fourth in the Career Pathways Showcase contest. Senior Izzy Nekic earned a fifth place finish in the extremely competitive and challenging Prepared Speech contest.

Earning their second consecutive State Championship and First Place Gold Medals was the Web Design Team of Chris Seitz and Blaise Lombardo. Chris and Blaise have earned their second consecutive trip to the SkillsUSA National Championships, where last year, as juniors they finished fifth nationally in the Web Design competition. Chris and Blaise's state championship this year marks the third consecutive gold medal for Excel TECC ITP in the Ohio SkillsUSA Web Design Contest, and the sixth ITP team to earn a Web Design medal in the last five years! Chris and Blaise will join four other

Excel TECC qualifiers at the SkillsUSA National Championships in late June. If you or your organization may be interested in supporting or sponsoring our competitors or SkillsUSA chapter, please contact Ron Suchy, Lead Advisor at [rsuchy@mayfieldschools.org](mailto:rsuchy@mayfieldschools.org) or by phone at 440-995-6774 or mobile at 440-476-5731 (call or text).

With a wide range of skills, experience, credentials and abilities, ITP students have the ability to provide many types of services. If you or your company/organization have an IT need and may be looking for an intern, or a team of students that may help you develop a solution or complete a project, please contact Mr. Suchy, ITP Instructor, [rsuchy@mayfieldschools.org](mailto:rsuchy@mayfieldschools.org), 440-995-6774. We are always looking for projects from local business and industry partners or any person or organization in the community to complete for experience and to utilize for competitions and showcases.



Gold Medalists Blaise and Chris

## Environmental Education

### Landscape Construction & Design

by Ed Tuhela, Instructor

The Landscape Construction and Design students are putting the finishing touches on a stone staircase they built this spring. The stairs lead down into a ravine. They have been working on this project since last October. This project taught the students important skills such as measuring and making calculation, using machinery in a safe and efficient manner, such as cut off saws, working with the client on how the project is coming out, and working with each other in a team atmosphere.

Looking to next year, the juniors are interested in doing a large project at the Gates Mills Environmental Center's campus. What it is they have not decided yet. The Landscape Olympics will be coming up fast, and the juniors are starting to choose what events they want to compete in. Some study and practice can start this summer. The juniors as a whole are starting to come up with a strategy on how to attack next year, since the class will have the largest enrollment to date. There are many basic skills taught in the first month of the year which the juniors (then seniors) can help the new students perfect. The Landscape Construction and Design students wish everyone a great summer and a successful start to the next school year.

### Cleveland Botanical Garden

by Kim Haydu, Instructor

Why wouldn't you love to be at the Cleveland Botanical Garden

**EVERYDAY?** Our students enjoy working and learning in our extended classroom on the grounds of Cleveland Botanical Garden and off site Green Corps Farms. We complete every task that the horticulture staff and garden manager are responsible for in the most beautiful gardens and producing farms in CLE. We have started the growing season with many spring clean-ups, opening up the veggie gardens, and assisting with the seasonal shows and displays. Check out the students work and other various

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activities held at CBG and the Holden Arboretum by visiting [cbgarden.org](http://cbgarden.org) or by stopping by the farm stand at Midtown and Buckeye Woodland Farms.

**ACE and Floral Operations**

*by Becky Gardner & Kim Judson*

2019 Spring Open House and Plant Sale was a huge success! Customers came in for hanging baskets, annuals, perennials, and veggies. Even with the wet spring this year our crops sold out quickly in record time.

FFA Floriculture contest events are a large part of our early spring learning. The classes study general knowledge, floral identification, and floral design of bud vases and corsages. This year at FFA District 3: ACE had a 1<sup>st</sup> place team (Nikki Davis- Beachwood, Justin Elliott- Mayfield, Chloe Kropko- South, Scott Aldridge- Mayfield, Deonte Williams- Mayfield). Also, Micayla Schlesinger placed 1<sup>st</sup> individual! In March the team competed at the State FFA Contest and placed 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Senior Send Off and Senior Awards Night**

Watching our seniors graduate is a very special time for us to celebrate their various accomplishments. Excel TECC Senior Send-Off is special because the students walk across the stage to receive their certificate that they have worked for two years. Our GMEEC awards night is a time when we announce our scholarship winners and celebrate as a family. We work side-by-side with the students, watching them grow. The scholarships are awarded to students that go above and beyond, have a passion for the green industry, great grades and attendance.

*Congratulations to our 2019 GMEEC Seniors!*

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**GMEEC Work projects**

Perhaps you need a crew to come to your yard to help with your landscaping needs? Work projects are hands-on projects that the students complete to experience a career of landscaping as if they are employed with a real landscape company. The teachers lead the class with the tasks given by the customer. Student's edge, prune, mulch, seasonal clean-up and other learning experiences in a two-hour time frame. The class brings the tools and equipment to get the job done. The cost of a work project is a donation of \$75.00. There is still room available on the calendar to schedule for the fall season. Appointments for FALL work projects will start to be scheduled the first day of school. Spring projects go fast-to secure an appointment, call after January 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in a work project for your home or business, please call Ed Tuhela for more information at (440) 995-7556.



TOP: Floriculture class working with West Wood second graders

CENTER: Floriculture Class field trip to Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

BOTTOM: Micayla with Dr Keith Kelly at the Spring Open House and Plant Sale



**2019-2020 Important Dates to Remember**

Family Fall Festival  
Saturday, October 5, 2019:  
Noon- 4pm

Holiday Open House  
Friday, December 6, 2019:  
8am-6pm

Spring Open House & Plant Sale  
Friday May 8, 2020  
8am-6pm



TECHNICAL EDUCATION CAREER CONSORTIUM

TECC Office: 6116 Wilson Mills Road • Mayfield OH 44143

DISTRICT Office: 1101 SOM Center Road • Mayfield Heights OH 44124

## Senior Send-Off Awards Celebrate Success!

Excel TECC seniors and school personnel gathered on Tuesday May 14 at Landerhaven in Mayfield Heights for a luncheon celebration of their program completion. The 470 seniors in the Class of 2019 have garnered many awards and accomplishments through competitions and work experiences, as well as earning \$10,870,022 in scholarship offers. The event began with the National Anthem sung by Ashley Foster from Aurora high school and John Payne from South high school in the Performing Arts Academy program. They received their certificates of completion at the event. Congratulations to Karen Argie, Mayfield student in the CADD Engineering program, who was awarded the Director’s Scholarship of \$3,000. The event was live streamed and the video is still available on YouTube - search for ‘Mayfield DMP Excel TECC.’



TOP: Ashley and John singing the National Anthem



BOTTOM: Cosmetology students recognized



LEFT: Scholarship winner Karen [2nd from left] with [L-R] Nate Bishko, Deanna Elsing and Lorraine Fuller

RIGHT: Guests at Senior Send-Off

BOTTOM: Classes on stage [L-R]: Culinary, CADD, TEACH



## INSIDE...

Front-SKILLS USA

2 -CONSTRUCTION/COS-MAYF

3 -TEACH/WELDING

4 -CADD

5 -AUTO TECH

6 -ESSR

7 -CULINARY ARTS

8 -AUTO COLLISION/BUSINESS

9 -PERFORMING ARTS

10 -ITP

12 -ENVIRONMENTAL ED



## CONGRATULATIONS 2019 NTHS INDUCTEES!

Congratulations to the 90 students who were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society [NTHS] on Tuesday April 23 in a ceremony at Mayfield high school. The inductees represented all ten consortium districts, all eleven consortium high schools and seventeen different programs. To qualify for membership in NTHS students must have a 3.5 overall GPA and an ‘A’ average in their career technical program. Students complete an application packet which includes an essay on the attributes of an honor student: Skill, Honesty, Service, Responsibility, Scholarship, Citizenship and Leadership. The ceremony was followed by a reception.



**GO TO:** <http://www.mayfieldschools.org> >ExcelTECC for news, program information & calendar of events