

Criminal Justice students start off the year serving their community

Criminal Justice (CJ) students at the Career Tech Center (CTC) are taught not only to protect, but also to serve. Since the new year, they've already completed three service projects.

Stop the Bleed—In January, Criminal Justice students, along with students from Allied Health, participated in Stop the Bleed training. Stop the Bleed is a national awareness campaign to encourage bystanders to become trained, equipped, and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency until professional help arrives. 150 students were trained that day!

Day of Service—Just before a cold snap, Criminal Justice students lent a hand to CTC Hospitality & Food Management parapro Bill Friend while

he was recovering from surgery. Students and instructors helped by chopping and stacking wood, clearing snow, visiting with Friend and, of course, playing with River, Friend's golden retriever.

Human Trafficking Awareness—CJ students David Utzinger (Oakridge), Silver DeWolfe (Mona Shores), Kaitlynn Weirich (Oakridge), and Alexis Fox (Oakridge) assisted representatives from The Hope Project and the Lakeshore Human Trafficking Task Force (LHTTF) during the Fifth Annual Human Trafficking Forum at Port City Church in Muskegon. CJ students also delivered several boxes of hygiene products they collected to The Hope Project to support the victims of human trafficking the Hope Project serves.



Students pause for a photo with parapro Bill Friend



Criminal Justice students along with Carly Campbell (LHTTF, Co-Chair) and Sara Johnson (The Hope Project, Executive Director/Co-Chair HTTF)

Former student returns to inspire next generation of healthcare workers



Rachel Kuck, RN and Linda Dunmore, Chief Nursing Officer, Trinity Health Muskegon

Former Allied Health and Health Science Academy student Rachel Kuck (Reeths-Puffer) recently returned to the Career Tech Center to speak with current healthcare students. Joining her was Chief Nursing Officer for Trinity Health Muskegon Linda Dunmore. Together they shared their healthcare career journeys with students hoping to encourage and support the future healthcare workforce.

While an Allied Health student (2016-18), Kuck and her classmates were shown a video of a total knee replacement. While some classmates cringed, Kuck says she saw the surgery as an opportunity for the patient to enjoy a better quality of life.

"That's when I knew surgical nursing was my career path," said Kuck.

Both Kuck and Dunmore knew at an early age that they desired a career in healthcare. Dunmore first served as a Candy Striper at the age of 16 until she was able to attend nursing school at 17. She was pinned as a nurse before she graduated from high school, and at the age of 20 was hired as a nurse at Mercy Hospital in Muskegon.

"I've always desired to help those in need," shared Dunmore.

Kuck also began her healthcare career

path in high school earning her CNA certification while a Health Science Academy student. She believes that her experience at the CTC, and the certifications she earned, helped her get hired as a Relief Procedure Support Tech (PST) at Trinity. She was later accepted to the first class of Surgical Nurse Externs, a program facilitated by Health Science Academy Instructor Samantha Jaggassar who was serving as a Clinical Liaison at Trinity at that time. Today, after earning her Associate's Degree in Nursing from Muskegon Community College, Kuck is a Registered Nurse Circulator in the surgical department at Trinity Health.

"It's important for students to realize that their work will not only impact the lives of the patients they serve, but their own lives too," shared Kuck.

Career Exploration dDay connects employers with interested students

February 9, the CTC hosted its first annual Career Exploration Day. The event was designed for Muskegon Area students interested in careers in healthcare, hospitality, information technology, criminal justice, engineering,

manufacturing, and industrial technology. Hundreds of students from the CTC and local districts connected with over 30 employers from the area during the event.

Visit the CTC Facebook page to see more photos as well as video from the event.



From West Michigan to the East Coast–Hospitality grad hopes Italy is his next stop



Sircher outside the fountains at the Culinary Institute, New York

Former Hospitality & Food Management (HFM) student Garrett Sircher (Reeths-Puffer) is now pursuing his Bachelor’s of Business Management/Core of Culinary Degree at the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) in Hyde Park, New York. While a HFM student, he and several classmates were part of a team working to encourage changes to the U.S. Department of



Black bean power bowl made by Sircher and his culinary team

Agriculture’s school nutrition standards regarding dry beans. Sircher’s experience working with beans came in handy during a recent CIA assignment when he and his team created a black bean tostada with barbacoa chicken, along with Cuban-style black beans, a black bean power bowl, black bean mochi topped with candied pecans, and black bean and cocoa crème



Black bean and cocoa crème brûlée created by Sircher’s and his culinary team

brûlée with melted jalapeño sugar and a toasted meringue!
Next fall, Sircher hopes to participate in an externship at Osteria Francescana, a Three Michelin Star Restaurant in Modena, Italy. He hopes one day to be an executive chef in Italy or even own his own restaurant there.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

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TECH-CENTERED
A publication of the Career Tech Center



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