

JOINT OPERATING COMMITTEE

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

OCTOBER 2, 2019

ITEM 1: Recommend approval of Local Advisory Committee for 2019-2020 school year. (Att. #1)

The administration recommends approval of the member list of the 2019-2020 Local Advisory Committee. One of the means by which our various stakeholder groups help us to shape practice and procedure is through our Local Advisory Committee (LAC). Our LAC is comprised of individuals from the community, business and industry who contribute their unique perspective to the overall administration of the school.

ITEM 2: Recommend employment of the following individual: **Resume attached for your review.**

Name:	Deja Johnson
Position:	Instructional Assistant
Status:	Full-time/190 days
Effective Date:	September 11, 2019
Hourly Rate:	\$21.00
Benefits:	As stated in the current ESPA Support Staff Agreement

ITEM 3: Recommend approval for Dr. Angela King, Alissa Messina and student Evelyn Romero to attend the Washington Leadership Training Institute on September 21 to 25, 2019 at a cost not to exceed \$1515.00. (Attachment #2)

ITEM 4: Recommend approval of the 2019-2020 Memorandum of Understanding between Career and Technical Centers and Sending School Districts and the Bureau of Career and Technical Education for Participation in the BCTE Technical Assistance Program. (Attachment #3)

ITEM 5: Recommend approval for the SkillsUSA and HOSA youth club officers and advisors to attend a leadership conference at Pocono Manor, Mt. Pocono, PA. (Attachment #4)

Program:	SkillsUSA and HOSA Youth Clubs
Destination:	Pocono Manor - Mt. Pocono, PA
Purpose:	Provide leadership training to officers of the student youth clubs
Date:	November 6 - 8, 2019
Time:	Depart November 6 at 6:30 a.m. Return Nov. 8 at 2:00 p.m.
Students:	40
Chaperones:	Troy Madden, David Ayres, Angie King and Alissa Messina
Transportation/Cost:	School Bus/\$640.00
Anticipated Cost:	\$11,000.00 - includes conference fees and meals

The administration recommends that the student leaders and adult advisors designated above attend the annual District II Leadership Conference at Pocono Manor, from November 6 to 8. Student leaders throughout the region gather to focus on such topics as team building, responsibilities of holding an office, and parliamentary procedure. The students will include our school-wide officers, as well as the officers elected in each classroom. In addition to the students and advisors attending this conference, the District II Directors are encouraged to attend the banquet on the second evening.

ITEM 6: Recommend approval of out-of-district students on a tuition basis for the 2019-2020 school year:

Name		Program	Grade	School
Armstrong	Samantha	Early Childhood	12	Harrington
Bakula	Stefan	Video, Sound & Music	10	Lower Merion
Beasley	Joelle	Video, Sound & Music	10	Lower Merion
Canales Manzanares	Jorge	Building Trades	11	Lower Merion
Catapano	John	Auto Tech	12	Lower Merion
Colbert	Micah	Collision	12	Lower Merion
Corgliano	Lola	Cosmetology	12	Lower Merion
Craig	Michaela	Building Trades	11	Lower Merion
Crosbie	Nicolas	Video, Sound & Music	11	Lower Merion
Davis	Wilson	Allied Health	11	Lower Merion
DiCicco	Matthew	Collision	12	Harrington
DiCriscio	Luca	Visual Comm.	10	Lower Merion
Dion	Sebastien	Building Trades	11	Lower Merion
Dutwin	Aidan	Video, Sound & Music	10	Lower Merion
Eisner	Jamie	Cosmetology	11	Harrington
Fields	Cameron	Video, Sound & Music	12	Lower Merion
Fiorentino	Hanna	Health Care Sciences	11	Lower Merion
Francis	Giana	Baking	11	Lower Merion
Glickman	Olivia	Cosmetology	12	Lower Merion
Grazier	Thomas J.	Building Trades	11	Harrington
Haynes	Arnold	Video, Sound & Music	11	Lower Merion
Herrenkohl	Daniel	Teacher Academy	12	Harrington
Ho	Victor	Culinary	12	Lower Merion
LaPorte	Joseph	Building Trades	12	Lower Merion
Palmer	Donjae	Culinary	12	Lower Merion
Potluri	Sujith	Networking	11	Harrington
Roland Harcourt	Samuel	Video, Sound & Music	11	Lower Merion
Rollins	Eyani	Health Care Sciences	11	Lower Merion
Rossa	Gianna	Baking	11	Lower Merion
Ryan	Shenille	Health Care Sciences	12	Lower Merion
Seelig	Todd	Networking	12	Harrington
Shmulevich	Raphael	Auto Tech	11	Harrington
Steerman	Justin	Visual Comm.	11	Harrington
Vargas Antunes Coimbra	Maria	Visual Comm.	12	Lower Merion
Willette	Luke	Health Care Sciences	11	Lower Merion
Winkler	Jackson	Visual Comm.	12	Harrington
Wojnilower	Levi	Visual Comm.	11	Lower Merion
Pantellas	Augustus	Landscaping	12	Marple Newtown

ITEM 7: Recommend approval of the following educational activities:

- (Att. #5) Program: Building Trades
Destination: Greater Philadelphia Expo - Oaks, PA
Purpose: Construction Fair
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2019
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Chaperones: David Ayres, Amy DeLellis and Kendall Wilson
No. of Students: 50
Transportation/Cost: School Bus/\$285.0
- (Att. #6) Program: Health Care Sciences/Allied Health
Destination: Montgomery County Community College
Blue Bell, PA
Purpose: Expo activities/exposure to opportunities
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2019
Time: 8:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Chaperones: Kathy Glacken, Connie Price, Jacqui Gilkey and
Katie MacLuckie
No. of Students: 65
Transportation/Cost: School Bus/\$235.00
- (Att. #7) Program: Allied Health
Destination: Drexel College of Medicine, Phila., PA
Purpose: Tour/observe cadaver lab
Date: Thursday, November 7, 2019
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Chaperones: Connie Price and Jacqui Gilkey
No. of Students: 26
Transportation/Cost: School Bus/\$285.00
- (Att. #8) Program: Teacher Academy/Early Childhood Education
Destination: Montgomery County Community College
Blue Bell, PA
Purpose: College Tour/Dual Enrollment opportunity
Date: Monday, October 21, 2019
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Chaperone: Debora Broderick
No. of Students: 9 Teacher Academy/2 Early Childhood Education
Transportation: Some drive and others with instructor
- (Att. #9) Program: Building Trades
Destination: Phila. Electrical Expo, King of Prussia PA
Purpose: Lectures on code, safety and new products
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2019
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Chaperone: Jerrold Mackereth
No. of Students: 8
Transportation: School Van

(Att. #10)	Program:	Various
	Destination:	Fabric Workshop & Museum – Philadelphia
	Purpose:	Visual Teaching Philosophy Project
	Dates:	October 29, 2019 and April 14, 2020
	Time:	8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
	Chaperones:	Debora Broderick, Eileen Lawler, Fred McCarthy and Marcus Branch
	No. of Students:	42
	Transportation:	School Bus paid through grant

INFORMATION

Colours Inc. donated over \$23,000 worth of supplies for our Auto Collision program.

Students in Teacher Academy began community service this past week at [CCATE](#), an arts based community organization in Norristown that serves primarily the Latino population. The following students are volunteering as teaching assistants in CCATE's after school programming:

Adriana Andrade (Senior, Norristown): Cooking Class
 Irene Tornez (Senior, Norristown): Read, Play, Create
 Mariah Boccella: (Senior, Norristown): Empowering Girls Group
 Ryan Browning: (Senior, PW): Fitness Club

According to Ms. Messina, Kyara Avery, an 11th Grade Norristown Student went above and beyond with creativity for her updo that needed to include fishtail braids! Bravo Kyara!!!!



RJ Trainor - removing a drum brake off of a truck; Ratoksky & Trainor
 Billy Harris - completing an oil change and tire rotation; Conicelli Hyundai



Here are the pictures of our students completing the Stop the Bleed First Aid Severe Trauma (FAST) training today from the American Red Cross. Fourteen of our Health Care Science and Allied Health students participated in the exercises regarding CHECK-CALL-CARE. We had an amazing day learning to use tourniquets and control bleeding from traumatic injuries. The Red cross gifted us with a bleeding kit and mini bandage kits.



SETH SCHRAM
 ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2019-2020 School Year

Bernadette Billetta	-	Health Care – Retired
James Sayre, Jr.	-	Automotive – G. L. Sayre
James Williams	-	Business – Assets Inc.
Vince Console	-	Construction - ABC
Cindy Serratore	-	Early Childhood Education
Vince Krout	-	Construction - Grainger
Kathleen Candelore	-	Business/Industry
Kathy Bello	-	Education – Retired
Shawn Murray	-	Education
Donna Lorenz	-	Healthcare
David Huot	-	Landscaping – Brightview
Emily Weiser	-	Early Childhood Education
John DiMino	-	Collision Repair



Professional Improvement Conference/Workshop Request Form

Name of Conference/Workshop Washington Leadership Training Institute

Place and Date of Conference/Workshop

Program/
Purpose:

SkillsUSA Leadership Training Workshop for State Officer, Evelyn Romero and Advisor, Alissa Messina

The cost for Evelyn is paid for by PA SkillsUSA

Attendees: Dr. Angela King, Alissa Messina and Evelyn Romero

Cost not to exceed:

Registration:

\$ 450.00

Lodging:

\$ 715.00

Transportation:

\$ 200.00

Meals:

\$ 150.00

Other (Describe):

Total:

\$ 1515.00

Source of Funding: Budgeted General Funds: \$ 1515.00

Grant:

Amount: \$

Submitted by:

Supervisor's Approval:

Director's Approval:

2019-2020

MEMORANDUM of UNDERSTANDING

Between

Career and Technical Centers and Sending School Districts

And

The Bureau of Career and Technical Education

For

Participation in the

BCTE Technical Assistance Program

Technical Assistance Program Commitment

Despite a decade of reform and rising public expenditures for education, little has changed in most high schools to prepare students for the demands of work and further education. The Technical Assistance Program (TAP) is focused on assisting schools in raising student academic achievement. The technical assistance is designed to support career and technical centers (CTCs) and high schools with approved programs by offering these sites multiple resources at minimal cost.

Purpose

The purpose of this Program is to significantly raise the academic and technical achievement of all students enrolled in career and technical education programs at a CTC or high school which take advantage of this opportunity. Through this Program, BCTE will assist CTCs and their sending school districts with raising student performance on academic assessments and occupational end-of-program assessments. Each participating school agrees to align their Perkins local plan activities for increasing student achievement with the TAP activities and participate in all professional development activities provided by BCTE.

Goal

The academic targets are based on the state's level of proficiency in 2017-18: Literature - 55%, Algebra 1 - 45% and Skill Attainment - 82%. Progress is defined as a five percentage point increase over the state's performance or local performance level in students achieving proficiency on the *Literature Keystone Exam*, a six percentage point increase over the state's performance or local performance level in students achieving proficiency on the *Algebra I Keystone Exam* and a two percentage point increase over the state's performance or local performance level in students achieving proficiency on the *end-of-program occupational assessment*.

TAP Activities

Your school has confirmed all of the TAP services you will participate in during the 2019-2020 school year. Schools were chosen to participate in the various activities based on BCTE review of the *Intent to Participate Survey* responses and a school's ability to most benefit from each TAP activity. Each activity will be on-site at each school with the exception of the Teacher Coaching Clinics and selected PIL programs.

**Memorandum of Understanding
with
Central Montco Technical High School
2019-2020
Technical Assistance Program (TAP) Activities**

By signing this Memorandum of Understanding, you are assuring your school's participation in the following TAP activities:

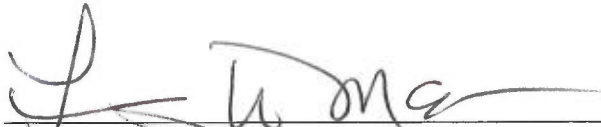
- NOCTI Pre-Tests and Study Guides



Career and Technology Center Director Signature 9/21/19
Date



Superintendent of Records Signature 9/9/19
Date



Joint Operating Committee Chair Signature 9/13/19
Date



Director, Bureau of Career and Technical Education 6/27/2019
Date
Pennsylvania Department of Education



FIELD TRIP REQUEST FORM

Return completed form to the Director's Office. **All Field Trips require J.O.C. approval.**
Request form must be submitted four (4) weeks prior to the event.

Today's Date: 9-19-19 Date of Trip: Nov. 6 - 8 Instructor making request: Dr. King

Destination: Pocono Manor

Destination address: Mt. Pocono, PA

Destination Telephone # and Contact Person: _____

Names of Chaperones: _____ Substitute Needed? _____ No. students participating:

Alissa Messina

☒ Yes ☐ No

Session: ☐ A.M. ☐ P.M. ☒ Both

David Ayres

☒ Yes ☐ No

Leave 11-6-19 Return 11-8-19

Troy Madden

☒ Yes ☐ No

Leave 6:30 A.M. Return 2:00 P.M.

Angie King

Transportation: ☐ School Van ☒ School Bus ☐ Chartered Bus ☐ Airline

Describe how students are selected for participation:

Elected school officers

Please Provide a detailed description of the trip including its purpose, relevance to your curriculum and the expected outcomes for the students.

Provide leadership training to officers of the student youth groups

Source of Funding:

Budgeted General Funds \$ TBD

Youth Club Fund Raising \$

Grant \$

Individual Class Account \$

Instructor's
Signature _____

Supervisor's Signature Angie King

Director's Signature _____

J.O.C. Approval Date _____

Permission Slips Given to Instructor: _____ Date: _____ Date Returned: _____

Bus: Not Date Ordered: 9-20-19

Contact Person: Tolson Cost: \$640.00

**FIELD TRIP REQUEST FORM**

Return completed form to the Director's Office. **All Field Trips require J.O.C. approval.**
Request form must be submitted four (4) weeks prior to the event.

Today's Date: 5/16/19 Date of Trip: 10/22/19 Instructor making request: D. Ayres
Destination: GREATER PHILADELPHIA EXPO
Destination address: 100 STATION AVE OAKS PA 19456 Hall "D"
Destination Telephone # and Contact Person: 484-965-0492 VINE CONSOLE
Names of Chaperones: _____ Substitute Needed? _____ No. students participating: 50
Amy DeLuna ☐ Yes ☒ No Session: ☐ A.M. ☐ P.M. ☒ Both
DAVE AYRES ☒ Yes ☐ No
KENNETH WILSON ☒ Yes ☐ No Leave 8:30 Return 2:00
Transportation: ☐ School Van ☒ School Bus ☐ Chartered Bus ☐ Airline

Describe how students are selected for participation:

Juniata Area Seniors from Building
TRADES - 3 COMPETITORS FROM BUILDING

Please Provide a detailed description of the trip including its purpose, relevance to your curriculum and the expected outcomes for the students.

ABC Construction Fair 2019

Source of Funding:

Budgeted General Funds \$

Youth Club Fund Raising \$

Grant \$

Individual Class Account \$

[Signature]
Instructor's
Signature

[Signature]
Supervisor's Signature

Director's Signature

J.O.C. Approval Date

Permission Slips Given to Instructor:

Date:

Date Returned:

Bus: Netz

Date Ordered: 9-20-19

Contact Person: Wilson

Cost: \$285.00

FIELD TRIP REQUEST FORM

Return completed form to the Director's Office. **All Field Trips require J.O.C. approval.**
Request form must be submitted four (4) weeks prior to the event.

Today's Date: 9/13/19 Date of Trip: 9/24/19 Instructor making request: K Glacken
Destination: MCCC Health Science Center
Destination address: 340 Morris Rd Blue Bell, Pa
Destination Telephone # and Contact Person: _____

Names of Chaperones: Katie MacLuckie Substitute Needed? ☐ Yes ☒ No No. students participating: 65
Kathy Macken ☐ Yes ☒ No Session: ☐ A.M. ☐ P.M. ☒ Both
Gina Price ☐ Yes ☒ No
Josquin Hilkey ☐ Yes ☒ No
Transportation: ☐ School Van ☒ School Bus ☐ Chartered Bus ☐ Airline

Describe how students are selected for participation:

STUDENTS were all invited & told of this opportunity in both HCS & AH. They need to have returned the health emergency form & the criminal background clearance in order to go.

Please Provide a detailed description of the trip including its purpose, relevance to your curriculum and the expected outcomes for the students.

EXPO ACTIVITIES: include hands on experiences by participating in demonstrations by surrounding area healthcare facilities along with the opportunity to speak to several colleges/universities who have various healthcare programs. Giving students exposure to opportunities they might not have known.

Source of Funding:

Budgeted General Funds \$ 235.00
Grant \$ _____

Youth Club Fund Raising \$ _____
Individual Class Account \$ _____

K Glacken
Instructor's Signature
Director's Signature

[Signature]
Supervisor's Signature
J.O.C. Approval Date

Permission Slips Given to Instructor: _____ Date: 9-17-19 Date Returned: _____
Bus: metz Date Ordered: 9/12/19 (by merilyn)
Contact Person: Wilson Cost: \$235.00

**FIELD TRIP REQUEST FORM**

Return completed form to the Director's Office. **All Field Trips require J.O.C. approval.**
Request form must be submitted four (4) weeks prior to the event.

Today's Date: 9/16/19 Date of Trip: Nov 7, 2019 Instructor making request: Price/GilKey
 Destination: Drexel Med School
 Destination address: 2900 Queen Lane Phila 19129 215-991-8307
 Destination Telephone # and Contact Person: Theresa Connor tc42@drexel.edu
 Names of Chaperones: Price GilKey Substitute Needed? ☐ Yes ☒ No
☐ Yes ☒ No
☐ Yes ☐ No
 No. students participating: 26
 Session: ☐ A.M. ☐ P.M. ☒ Both
 Leave 8A Return 2P
 Transportation: ☐ School Van ☒ School Bus ☐ Chartered Bus ☐ Airline

Describe how students are selected for participation:

Entire Art class participates.

Please Provide a detailed description of the trip including its purpose, relevance to your curriculum and the expected outcomes for the students.

Students tour Drexel med school and attend informational groups for demonstrations. Each student spends 1 1/2 hrs. in cadaver lab assisting first yr. med. students.

Source of Funding:

Budgeted General Funds \$ 285-
 Grant \$

Youth Club Fund Raising \$
 Individual Class Account \$

Instructor's
Signature

Supervisor's Signature

Director's Signature

J.O.C. Approval Date

Permission Slips Given to Instructor:

Date:

Date Returned:

Bus:

Date Ordered:

Contact Person:

Cost:

**FIELD TRIP REQUEST FORM**

Return completed form to the Director's Office. **All Field Trips require J.O.C. approval.**
Request form must be submitted four (4) weeks prior to the event.

Today's Date: 9/19/19 Date of Trip: 10/21 Instructor making request: Debora Broderick

Destination: Montgomery County Community College

Destination address: 340 DeKalb Pike, Blue Bell PA 19422

Destination Telephone # and Contact Person: Katherine Browna

Names of Chaperones: _____ Substitute Needed? _____ No. students participating: 11

Debora Broderick ☐ Yes ☒ No Session: ☐ A.M. ☐ P.M. ☒ Both

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Yes ☐ No

Leave 10:30 Return 2:30

Transportation: ☐ School Van ☐ School Bus ☐ Chartered Bus ☐ Airline

Describe how students are selected for participation:

Students enrolled in Dr. Broderick's ENG101 course will be attending the trip; 9 from Teacher Academy and 2 from ECE.

Please Provide a detailed description of the trip including its purpose, relevance to your curriculum and the expected outcomes for the students.

Students will be traveling to MCCC for a college tour, admissions session, library session & lunch on campus. The purpose of the trip is to expose students to the college experience, and let them know what resources are available to them as a dual enrollment student through MCCC. Students will also be getting an overview of library resources and how to access materials relevant for their research work required for ENG101.

* This trip has no fee. Students must bring lunch money. Students will provide their own transportation to & from MCCC.

Source of Funding:

Budgeted General Funds \$

Youth Club Fund Raising \$

Grant \$

Individual Class Account \$

Debora Broderick
Instructor's
Signature

[Signature]
Supervisor's Signature

Director's Signature

J.O.C. Approval Date

Permission Slips Given to Instructor: _____ Date: _____ Date Returned: _____

Bus: _____ Date Ordered: _____

Contact Person: _____ Cost: _____



FIELD TRIP REQUEST FORM

Return completed form to the Director's Office. **All Field Trips require J.O.C. approval.**
Request form must be submitted four (4) weeks prior to the event.

Today's Date: 9-20-19 Date of Trip: 10-23-19 Instructor making request: J. Mackerech

Destination: Phila Electrical Expo

Destination address: 1160 First Ave, King of Prussia PA 19406

Destination Telephone # and Contact Person: The Electrical Association 610-825-1600 x11

Names of Chaperones:

Substitute Needed?

No. students participating: 8

J. Mackerech

☐ Yes ☒ No

Session: ☐ A.M. ☐ P.M. ☒ Both

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Yes ☐ No

Leave 9:00am Return 5 pm

Transportation: ☒ School Van ☐ School Bus ☐ Chartered Bus ☐ Airline

Describe how students are selected for participation:

Students in tested in electrical with good grades, discipline and work ethic

Please Provide a detailed description of the trip including its purpose, relevance to your curriculum and the expected outcomes for the students.

Students will attend lectures on Code, Safety and learn about new products in the electrical field

Source of Funding:

Budgeted General Funds \$

Youth Club Fund Raising \$

Grant \$

Individual Class Account \$

Instructor's
Signature

Supervisor's Signature

Director's Signature

J.O.C. Approval Date

Permission Slips Given to Instructor:

Date:

Date Returned:

Bus:

Date Ordered:

Contact Person:

Cost:

Return completed form to the Director's Office. **All Field Trips require J.O.C. approval.**
Request form must be submitted four (4) weeks prior to the event.

Destination: Fabric Workshop & Musuem

Destination address: 1214 Arch Street, Philadelphia PA

Destination Telephone # and Contact Person: Christina Roberts (215) 561-8888

Debora Broderick ☐ Yes ☒ No

Session: ☐ A.M. ☐ P.M. ☒ Both

Eileen Lawler ☒ Yes ☐ No

Fred McCarthy, Marcus Branch ☒ Yes ☐ No

Leave 8:00 Return 2:00

Transportation: ☐ School Van ☒ School Bus ☐ Chartered Bus ☐ Airline

Seniors from Vis Comm, Early Childhood, & Teacher Academy will participate in a year-long arts grant project with the Fabric Workshop & Museum.

Students will be developing a visual teaching philosophy (ECE & TA) or visual/mixed media artist statement (Vis Comm) over the year. Both field trips will support the creation of this project. A teaching artist will be at CMTHS 8 times during the year.

Budgeted General Funds \$	
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Youth Club Fund Raising \$	
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PCA/PAEP Grant \$

Individual Class Account \$

Instructor's
Signature

Supervisor's Signature

Director's Signature

J.O.C. Approval Date

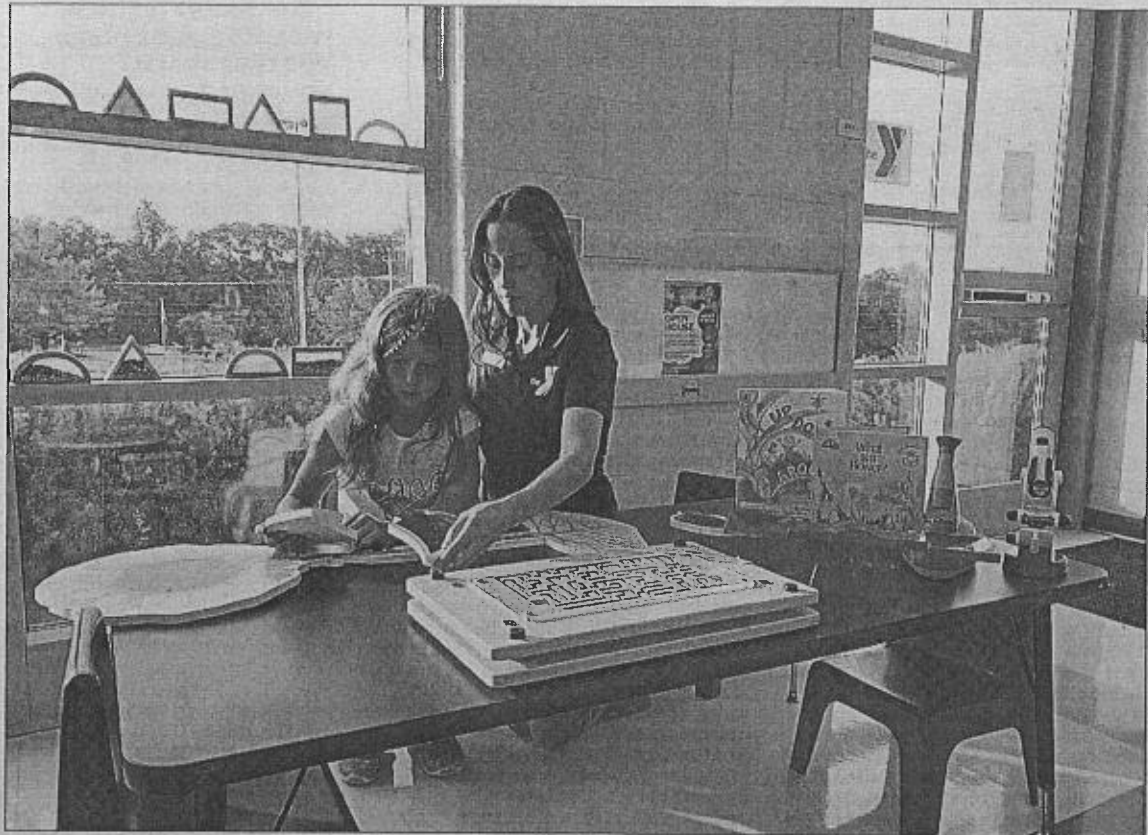
Permission Slips Given to Instructor:	Date:	Date Returned:
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Bus: Date Ordered:

Contact Person: Cost:

'WIN-WIN' PARTNERSHIP

YMCA Early Learning Center to open at Central Montco Tech



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Emily Weiser gets some help setting up the new Early Learning Center at CMTHS from daughter Olivia.

By M. English

For MediaNews Group

PLYMOUTH » The new YMCA Early Learning Center set to open at Central Montco Technical High School Sept. 9 is a clear "win-win partnership," says YMCA spokesman Emily Weiser. A "no brainer," adds CMTHS Director Seth Schram.

ELC open houses are scheduled to continue on Aug. 14 and 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at CMTHS's Plymouth Meeting campus, 821 Plymouth Road (adjacent to intersection of Johnson Highway and New Hope Street). For tours on other dates, email childcare-helpdesk@philaymca.org. Registration began Aug. 1 and is ongoing at 215-628-9950 (ext. 1574) or eweiser@philaymca.org.

org.

The new year-round center will operate as a licensed preschool for three- to five-year-olds. Regular classes will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m., but children may be dropped off as early as 7 a.m. and picked up as late as 6 p.m. The Y will provide a daily snack, but students must bring their own lunches.

Weekly tuition is \$215 for five days, \$172 for three days and \$150 for two days, regardless of drop-off or pick-up times. Additional enrollees from the same household will receive a 10 per cent discount. The program will also accept students whose families receive third-party funding for childcare. Information

YMCA » PAGE 2



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Emily Weiser points to the Early Learning Center postings at the new collaborative location with Central Montco Tech High School.

SPOTLIGHT

OPINION

BUSINESS

YMCA

FROM PAGE 1

about financial assistance is available at 215-628-9950 (ext. 1506). All students will receive free YMCA memberships.

The center will not open on major holidays or dates that CMTHS is closed.

According to Weiser, the new facility will occupy rented space in CMTHS. All YMCA Early Learning Centers are licensed and regulated by the Department of Human Services and staffed by fully-credentialed head teachers.

"This is a brand-new collaboration, and we're very excited about it because there's currently no Y

presence in that area," says Weiser, the Ambler YMCA-based advanced child care director for Greater Philadelphia YMCA. "Seth came to us with the idea, and things just took off from there. I'm a member of the (CMTHS) local advisory board, so I'm familiar with the school's programs, and they're all first class."

She points specifically to CMTHS's existing early childhood education program for high school students interested in pursuing a career in the specialty. Those students typically attend home schools in the Colonial, Norristown and Upper Merion Area School Districts.

"At the Y, we've provided mentoring and hiring opportunities for those students, and we have, maybe, four or five of them on our staff right now," Weiser says. "But to get their CDA (Child Development Associate certificate), the students need field experience in a (state-approved early childhood center), so this new collaboration enhances the Central Montco program by making that possible (on the CMTHS campus)."

In short, CDA status is earned after successful completion of an assessment process overseen by the Council for Professional Recognition. The latter is a national organization that supports professional development in early education and childcare.

Schram says the Y's Early Learning Center will also benefit the school's new Teacher Academy program, designed to give high school students interested in a career in education a leg up prior to college by providing both in-class and field experience in local pre-K, elementary and secondary schools.

"We're very excited about the Teacher Academy," the CMTHS director says. "We've hired an incredible director, someone with awesome credentials and really great ideas for running the program. The students will spend 40 per cent of their time in the classroom (at CMTHS) and 60 per cent of their time in the field. So, having all of these programs right here on-site - the Teacher Academy, the Y's new Early Learning Center and our own early childhood edu-

cation program - is terrific for everyone involved.

"The Y's Early Learning Center services the community because it fills a growing need. It services the high school students enrolled in the Teacher Academy because it gives them one more setting they can rotate into to meet their requirements for field experience. And for someone interested in a career in education, that puts them way ahead of the game. We have an articulation agreement with Montgomery County Community College that will give our students up to nine credits once they've completed the program here."

Weiser says the YMCA Early Learning Center at CMTHS will use The Creative Curriculum "with the philosophy that young children learn best by doing."

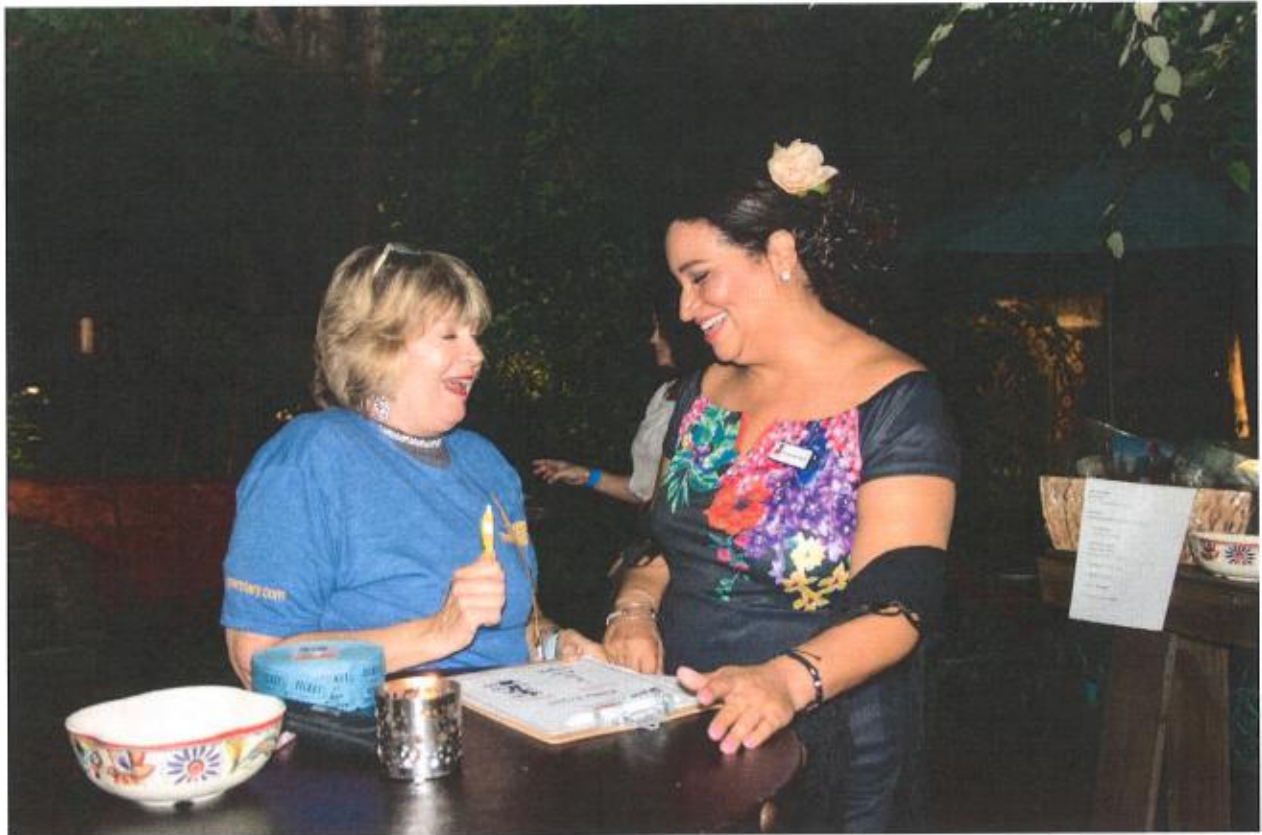
"The Creative Curriculum allows children to remain our central focus while developing four key areas - social emotional, physical, cognitive and language."

The Y is currently hiring "before and after-school enrichment mentors... with at least two years' ex-

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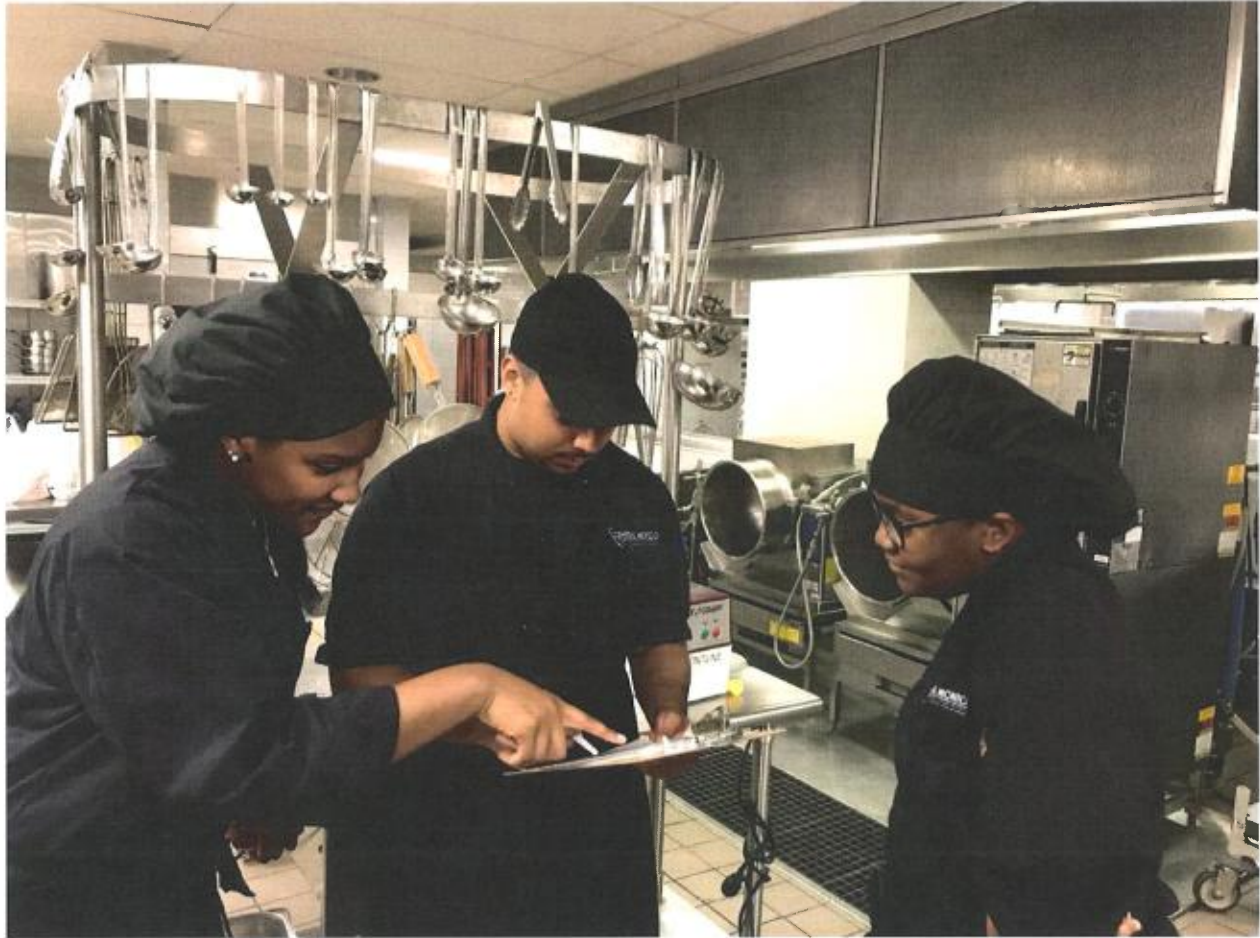
Culinary students cater to Puerto Rican theme for movie fundraiser

- By M. English For MediaNews Group
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Conshohocken United Methodist Church member Pat Patterson and Jacqueline Rocco, head of the Hispanic Heritage Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania, discuss buffet options for the Teatro Por Amor fundraiser.

- Submitted photo



Jaliyah Ricard, Jorge Palau and Brianna Toussaint, left to right, culinary students at Central Montco Technical High School, created the Puerto Rican-Caribbean menu for Conshohocken United Methodist Church's Sept. 28 Teatro Por Amor Movie Benefit. Ricard also designed the hand-out that describes the menu's assorted finger foods.

Over the years, the culinary students at Central Montco Technical High School in Plymouth have prepared and hosted international buffets, thematic gourmet dinners and decadent bake sales. The school's student-run restaurant is a favorite with savvy local foodies (and bargain-hunters). But as the 2019-20 academic year begins, CMTHS's aspiring chefs are hoping to expand their off-campus presence via an energized catering service helmed by Chef-Instructor Randy D'Angelo.

The Norristown native is a new addition to the CMTHS faculty but a seasoned culinary pro who graduated from CMTHS in 1998, attended the prestigious Culinary Institute of America and went on to assemble an impressive professional resume. D'Angelo

returned to CMTHS to help kick-start the culinary program's catering reach, and the menu he and his students created for Sept. 28's Teatro Por Amor Movie Benefit at Conshohocken United Methodist Church makes for a promising start.

The CUMC event is a fundraiser for a youth theater group founded in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. The film documents actor Antonio Morales' efforts to establish Teatro Por Amor, and at press time, the local teens -- who attend CMTHS from home schools in the Colonial, Norristown and Upper Merion Area School Districts -- were prepping a complementary Puerto Rican-Caribbean spread that includes mofongo (Puerto Rican plantain balls), pernil (Puerto Rican roast pork), pollo guisado (chicken stew with sofrito), arroz con gandules (rice with pigeon peas), empanadillas de camaron (shrimp empanadas), papas rellenas (ground beef picadillo-stuffed potato balls), tostones (twice-fried plantains with mayo ketchup) and mini guava cheesecakes.

"I worked with three second and third-year students to come up with the menu," D'Angelo says. "I wasn't personally familiar with this (cuisine), so the first thing I did was immerse myself in a lot of research, before we actually began discussing our options. We came up with our menu after studying about the geography of Puerto Rico, what kind of food is popular at a given time of year -- Christmas dishes, for example -- how weather affects what people are eating, things like that. Purely by chance, one of the students that got involved is Puerto Rican, so I learned a lot by riffing with him, too."

In the end, D'Angelo asked his young sous chefs to plan a mix of options that best represent the Puerto Rican culture. They came up with eight dishes and designed a hand-out that lists them in Spanish and English.

"The kids did such a great job," D'Angelo says. "I was hired to help get our catering business off the ground, and it's still early, but judging from the way the students handled this (assignment), we're off to a good start."

CUMC member Pat Patterson explains she reached out to the school after she and other organizers began brainstorming possible food sources for the Teatro Por Amor

benefit. The latter will take place in Jillian's Café, a CUMC event space named for Patterson's late daughter. Jillian Patterson, who had Down Syndrome and passed away when she was 28, was enrolled in the CMTHS Culinary program as a teen.

"Jillian had such a wonderful experience at the tech school that...as we tried to figure out where we'd get the food (for the Teatro Por Amor event), a light bulb went off," Patterson says. "I thought, 'What about the tech school?' So, we contacted Chef Randy at the school. He came over to the church a couple of weeks ago to check out the space, and he's been working with the kids ever since."

Conshohocken resident Jacqueline Rocco, who established the Hispanic Heritage Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania about a year ago, helped tweak the menu. She and Patterson met as fellow members of Conshohocken Plymouth Whitemarsh Rotary Club. Rocco's family moved to the United States from Puerto Rico when she was a toddler, and she also belongs to the Pennsylvania Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs.

"So, thanks to Jackie and the (research) Chef Randy and his students did, we're thrilled to have such an authentic variety of hors d'oeuvres and finger foods lined up," Patterson says. "Hopefully, this will raise a little money for Teatro Por Amor ... and also let people see the wonderful opportunities our kids have at the tech school."

That's fine with D'Angelo and his young kitchen crew.

"The kids have done such a great job with this," he says. "This (off-site catering) is definitely something we want to expand on ... and see develop, so if anyone is interested, they should just contact the school."

CMTHS is located at 831 Plymouth Road in Plymouth Meeting. Additional information about the school's Culinary offerings and catering options is available at 610-277-2301.