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2025 - 2026 : Quarter 2 Edition

The Official Newsletter of CWCTC

CENTRAL WESTMORELAND
Career & Technology Center
New Stanton, PA
cwctc.org

PHOENIXQUARTERLY

SANTA, SMILES, & SEASONAL CHEER AT CWCTC



On Saturday, December 13, 2025, Central Westmoreland CTC opened its doors to families from across the community for a magical morning at our annual Breakfast with Santa. The event was a heartwarming celebration filled with festive fun, delicious food, and plenty of holiday cheer.



Guests were treated to a hearty breakfast prepared by our talented Culinary Arts department, featuring sausage, French toast sticks, scrambled eggs, and hash-browns. The delicious meal set the stage for a morning of joyful activities, including personal visits and photos with Santa, which created lasting memories for children and families alike.

The festive fun didn't stop at breakfast. Families also had the chance to purchase raffle tickets for the Parade of Trees and take part in crafts and holiday-themed activities for kids, thoughtfully set up in the shops by our dedicated staff.

Adding to the magic were student "elf" helpers, who assisted with activities, spread holiday cheer, and made sure every little visitor felt special.



The event was a true showcase of the talent, creativity, and holiday spirit of our staff and students. From decorating the shops to preparing delicious meals and engaging families in crafts, everyone contributed to a morning that was as festive as it was memorable. The laughter, smiles, and sense of community throughout the day reminded us all why Breakfast with Santa is such a beloved tradition at CWCTC.



Thanks to the generosity of families and the hard work of our staff and students, all proceeds from the event benefited the Central Westmoreland Foundation, supporting programs that enrich student learning and experiences throughout the year.

This year's Breakfast with Santa was a wonderful success, leaving hearts full and spirits bright. It was a morning of joy that will be remembered by our community and cherished by everyone who attended, a perfect reminder of the magic and togetherness the holiday season brings.

PHOENIXQUARTERLY is a production of the CWCTC Multimedia Design Technology Program of Study Instructor: Mrs. Alison Camut
News Article Contributors: CWCTC Student Ambassadors from each of our nineteen Programs of Study who also attend one of our ten sending School Districts.

AGRICULTURE: WREATHS, GREENHOUSE, & GROWTH



Throughout the second quarter, the Agriculture and Landscape Design class stayed busy and productive. Students focused on patio projects in November and the annual Christmas wreath sale in December.

In addition to the wreath sale, students remained active in winter greenhouse management, performing tasks such as cleaning, watering, planting, and growing a variety of new plants while practicing customer service. These hands-on experiences continue to build essential horticultural skills, reinforce classroom learning, and provide valuable mock workplace experience.

Looking ahead to the third quarter, the CWCTC FFA chapter will attend the Pennsylvania Farm Show/ PA FFA Mid-Winter Convention, where 23 first-year members will receive personalized official FFA jackets. In class, AM students will explore hydroponic greenhouse growing, while the PM session focuses on business and marketing plans.

AUTOMOTIVE COLLISION: PREP, PAINT, & PROGRESS



This quarter, students in our Automotive Collision Repair program have been focused on hands-on skill-building and career preparation. Second-year students worked on prepping vehicles for full paint jobs, including panel preparation and replacements, and will move on to two-tone paint jobs next semester.

Senior students completed their I-Car certification, preparing to enter the industry after graduation, while first-year students wrapped up basic skill requirements and began working on customer vehicles, gaining practical experience and confidence.

Throughout the quarter, students demonstrated dedication, teamwork, and attention to detail, making steady progress toward mastering the skills needed for success in the collision repair industry.

ASPIRING EDUCATORS: FROM CLASSROOM TO COMMUNITY



As we move through the second quarter, our program has made great strides in learning and community involvement. Students explored education theories and participated in volunteer events like North Pole Night, Breakfast with Santa, and Snow and Glow, engaging with kids in fun and meaningful ways.

Recently, students gained hands-on experience at West Hempfield Middle School and met with administrators at the Hemfield Area School District.

Looking ahead, both AM and PM students are preparing for upcoming projects and field trips. We're excited to keep learning, growing, and making a difference in our community!

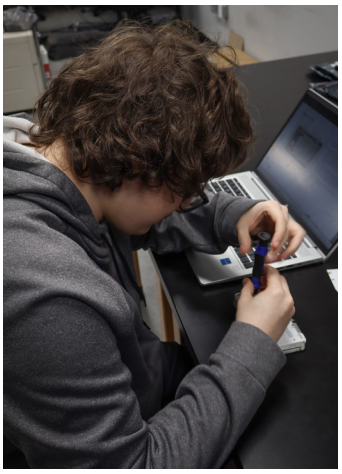
AUTOMOTIVE MECHANICS: DIAGNOSE, REPAIR, & REBUILD



In Mr. King's automotive class, seniors have been diving into ignition systems as part of engine performance. They've also been getting hands-on experience, completing real car repairs like brakes, routine maintenance, and diagnostics.

First-year students are focusing on engine repair, working hard to complete their engine rebuild projects. Everyone is getting a mix of classroom learning and practical experience, building the skills they'll need for future careers in automotive work. It's all about understanding how cars run and learning to fix them right, so students leave class confident in both theory and real-world repairs.

COMPUTER INFORMATION SCIENCES: UPGRADED TECH, UPGRADED SKILLS



Computer and Information Science have replaced all their old equipment with new PC's, chairs, monitors, mice, and keyboards.The second year students are beginning to complete their PC Pro certifications.

The third year students are working towards completing their Networking Pro and Security Pro certifications as well as beginning a Java course. The class is also participating in dual enrollment through WCCC, where the students have completed their Intro to Cloud Computing for three college credits and begun Digital Forensics Fundamentals for three more credits.

The first year students are completing their IT Fundamentals Pro certifications and beginning HTML, CSS, and JavaScript courses.

COSMETOLOGY: SKILLS & STYLE



Step into the world of style and creativity! The cosmetology program is hard at work preparing students for careers in the beauty industry. PM seniors are studying for the State Board exam to earn their cosmetology licenses and preparing for hands-on NOCTI testing coming up in March.

Second-year students have completed their hair coloring unit and are now working on chemical relaxers, gaining confidence with chemical applications. First-year students recently finished their haircutting unit and are working toward earning their Barbicide certifications.

Currently, the program has two students in co-op and 15 students in the CT program, providing valuable exposure to the cosmetology field. Seniors will continue reviewing with flashcards while first- and second-year students build their hands-on skills in the lab.

CONSTRUCTION TRADES: LEARNING BY BUILDING

Where wild creativity meets hands-on learning, Construction Trades shops are full of energy as students work across three areas.



The Kitchen and Bath students are learning plumbing fundamentals such as proper slope and solid connections while building a full bathroom and practicing kitchen techniques, all while gaining valuable experience with layout, safety, and tool use.

Year-long students are sharpening their skills by constructing a complete mini home from top to bottom, featuring a kitchen and bath on each side. Through this large-scale project, students develop teamwork, problem-solving, and time-management skills while learning to follow plans and meet real-world expectations. These hands-on experiences help prepare students for successful careers in the construction trades and give them confidence in their ability to build, troubleshoot, and create with purpose.

CULINARY ARTS: RISING TO THE OCCASION

This quarter, students have been focused on preparing for upcoming meetings and getting ready for competitions in the near future.



Throughout this process, they have demonstrated strong teamwork skills while learning and applying new concepts in the classroom and lab.

Students have also expanded their baking knowledge by making multiple new types of bread, practicing proper techniques and consistency.

Senior students have taken on leadership roles, setting a positive example for younger students in the PM session by offering guidance, encouragement, and support as everyone works together toward shared goals.

ELECTRICAL: FROM CIRCUITS TO CONDUIT



Electrical students spent Quarter 2 building a comprehensive kitchen, applying residential and commercial wiring skills in a real-world layout. They studied LED lighting with a presentation from DiodeLED Lighting and wired load centers, focusing on safety, organization, and code awareness.

The quarter concluded with an intricate EMT conduit project that challenged their measuring, bending, and layout skills while emphasizing accuracy and craftsmanship. Students also practiced teamwork, problem-solving, and troubleshooting while reinforcing industry standards and electrical codes.

Throughout the quarter, they demonstrated growth in both skill and confidence, building a strong foundation for future electrical projects.

HVAC: BUILDING SKILLS & CHEER



This semester in HVAC, students are sharpening their skills with heat pumps and electric heating systems, building on the gas heating and air conditioning skills they completed last semester. They are gaining hands-on experience troubleshooting systems and applying their knowledge to real-world scenarios, developing problem-solving skills and technical confidence.

Students also helped prepare for Breakfast With Santa, setting up decorations, lights, arches, and new inflatables for the children. They made sure the Christmas tree was decorated and presents were in place. Working together, students practiced planning, attention to detail, and teamwork while creating a magical experience for every child.

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS: COMPETITIONS AND CAREERS

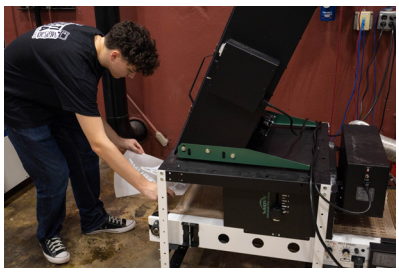


Happy New Year from Health Occupations Technology! In the morning, students practiced recording vital signs while continuing work on anatomy and clay skeletons. They have also begun collaborating with Mr. Urkell's Sports Medicine class.

In the PM, PCT students are studying for their certification exam and learning personal care skills, while PharmTech students are preparing for their NOCTI exams. Both classes recently enjoyed a guest speaker, a Pharmacy Technician Training Program Manager.

Our SkillsUSA district competitions went very well, with Mackenzie Thomas taking 1st in Health Occupations Professional Portfolio, Mariah Klingensmith 1st in Opening and Closing Ceremony, and Lilly Amy, Maddie Ohler, Olivia Aller, and Colby Thomas 3rd in Health Knowledge Bowl. We're all excited to start the next semester!

MULTIMEDIA DESIGN: HANDS-ON CREATIVITY



As the holidays approached, Quarter 2 in AM Multimedia Design was a very busy and productive time. Students focused heavily on learning Photoshop, starting with simple projects and gradually creating more advanced designs such as digitally painted holiday cards, vintage photo retouching, and taking our drawings from sketch to vector graphics and finally into vinyl stickers.

The class also played a major role in school events, especially the CTC's Breakfast with Santa, by designing backdrops, stickers, props, and gingerbread photo cutouts, as well as decorating a tree for the Parade of Trees.

In addition, students worked on shop projects like shirts, displays, and ongoing Powerline shirt production with our new direct-to-film printing system. Adding to the excitement, student Leya Hartman placed first in the SkillsUSA district competition for her t-shirt design and will advance to the state competition in April.

POWERLINE: LEARNING WITH LINEMEN



The Powerline program has had an exciting second semester. The school has partnered with Duquesne Light Company and welcomed new instructor Mr. Wile, who has already brought fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the program.

Students have learned about transformers, building three-phase lines, reclosers, fuses, and have been memorizing different types of wires. Both AM and PM students are getting valuable hands-on practice with current linemen, applying their knowledge in real-world scenarios.

It has been a productive and beneficial semester, with students gaining technical skills, confidence, and a deeper understanding of the powerline industry. Mr. Wile is already planning new projects for next semester.

RESTORATION & DESIGN: PAINTING WITH PURPOSE



As we are going through the second quarter, we have accomplished a lot of projects. AM has been working on finishing up painting one-color doors. They are starting to learn how to cut in and learn to paint around trims, windows, and doors.

PM has been focusing on doing certification for CORE that is affiliated with the NCCER. They have been doing side projects as well to sell for our student activity fund. We had a 6-day project painting the Norwin High School library.

Before Christmas, our class sponsored the Toys for Tots. We also helped out with making and painting wooden tree ornaments for Breakfast with Santa that was held at our school. We are finishing our side projects, and we will keep working on certificates. One of our upcoming projects is painting the South Greensburg Fire Station.

ROBOTICS, ENGINEERING, & MANUFACTURING: CODING MEETS CRAFT



This quarter, the REM program has been extremely active and productive. Students began work on senior plaques while also learning to code and program several types of CNC equipment, including mills and lathes. In addition, significant time has been spent operating manual mills and lathes to build foundational machining skills. Although these machines may not appear as high-tech or modern as CNC equipment, they remain highly efficient, durable, and essential in industry.

Students also practiced interpreting technical drawings and measuring materials precisely, reinforcing skills that are critical for success in manufacturing careers. Overall, REM students have gained valuable hands-on experience across a wide range of manufacturing processes this quarter, preparing them for real-world applications in both CNC and traditional machining.

SERVICE OCCUPATIONS: WORKDAY IN ACTION



In our Service Occupations class, students have been busy building real-world job skills through hands-on practice. During the morning sessions, we continued our Workday Wednesday tasks, reinforcing essential cleaning skills such as window cleaning, vacuuming, sanitizing high-touch points, and adding mopping to our routine. We also reviewed sweeping techniques, explored different types of brooms and when to use them, and practiced identifying garden tools.

In the afternoons, students extended these skills by continuing garden tool identification, balancing a cash drawer, and completing inventory tasks to strengthen workplace readiness. They also learned how to organize workspaces efficiently and manage time effectively, further preparing them for success in real-world service occupations.

SPORTS MEDICINE: FROM WOUNDS TO WELLNESS



The PM has learned about different ways to evaluate concussions using tests like,Vestibular/ Ocular Motor Screening (VOMS), Balance Error Scoring System (BESS), Myotome testing, and Cranial nerve assessments. Using these tools will provide us with the information needed to diagnose and treat patients with concussions.

The AM is working on the importance of wound care and how to treat injuries like lacerations, abrasions, and incisions. They are also working to create a brochure which will help guide people through the essential care and information needed to deal with these sorts of injuries.

As the semester continues the PM will continue to work on certifications (OSHA-10, Bloodborne Pathogens) and the AM will soon begin splinting and bracing procedures.

WELDING & FABRICATION: TIG, FLUX, AND FESTIVITY



This quarter, our weld shop has been hard at work creating Christmas tree-shaped ornaments. Students are learning how to carefully read and measure blueprints for each tree, translating those measurements into precise fabrication in the shop. To add a festive touch, they learned to use a new tool called a forge, giving the trees a unique, handcrafted look.

In addition to the holiday projects, students continue to work toward industry certifications by practicing V-Grooves and T-Plates using both GTAW (TIG) welding and FCAW (Flux Core) welding. These exercises build both technical skill and confidence. Students are gaining valuable hands-on experience, combining creativity with professional welding techniques, and developing skills that will prepare them for careers in the welding industry.

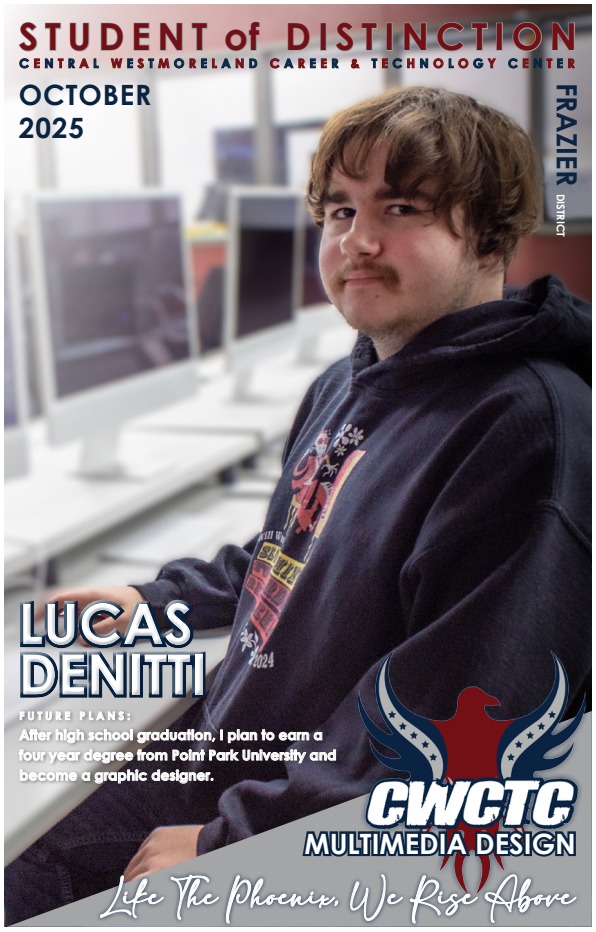


STUDENTS of DISTINCTION



STUDENTS of DISTINCTION









CTSO Career & Technical Service Organizations Spotlight

"Student organizations allow you to gain leadership experience, learn new transferable skills, build your own resume, and get involved in your school community."

CREATIVITY IN BLOOM: CENTRAL WESTMORELAND CTC FFA STUDENTS COMPETE STATEWIDE









Students from Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center's **Agriculture and Landscape Design program and FFA** showcased their creativity and real-world skills at the Western Regional Floral Competition. Hempfield students and CWCTC Agriculture students Faith Smith and Emma Vamosi earned an impressive 7th place in the Bring Your Own Container category, competing against 55 teams from 14 schools across Pennsylvania. This year's theme, Disney villains, inspired bold designs, including an Ursula-themed arrangement created by CWCTC students Addison Paramonte, a junior from Greensburg, and Brayden Caccia, a senior from Hempfield.

Working in teams of two, students had just one hour to craft arrangements using identical flowers and greenery, emphasizing technical skill and design under pressure. The competition mirrors real-world floral and horticulture careers, reinforcing the hands-on, career-focused learning central to Central Westmoreland CTC's Agriculture and FFA programs.

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY: WE WIN WHEN WE LIFT UP OTHERS



Our **WIN (Women in Industry Network)** Club at Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center proudly partnered with WIN (Women's Interactive Network) to support individuals re-entering the workforce through an Angel Tree collection. This initiative focused on providing essential workwear to help remove barriers to employment and promote confidence and success on the job.

Thanks to the generosity of our students and community, donated items are creating meaningful opportunities and fresh starts for those in need. We are still accepting new or gently used workwear, including hats, boots, gloves, socks, coats, and cargo pants. Every donation helps support workforce readiness and positive change.

LOOKING AHEAD at CWCTC

FEB - CTE MONTH
FEB 11 - PROSPECTIVE STUDENT NIGHT
FEB 16 - PRESIDENTS DAY (NO SCHOOL)
FEB 25 - ELEMENTARY NIGHT
MAR 11 - CAREER DAY
MAR 20 - VIRTUAL DAY (NO STUDENTS)
MAR 23 - VIRTUAL DAY (NO STUDENTS)
APR 2-6 - SPRING BREAK (NO SCHOOL)

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DOUBLE VICTORY FOR CWCTC CULINARY ARTS: AT PRLA SWING & DINE CHALLENGE









Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center celebrated an exciting double win as **Culinary Arts ProStart/FCCLA** students earned both the Judges' Pick and the Social Media Pick at the PRLA Swing & Dine Challenge. Competing against other programs from across the region, CWCTC students impressed industry professionals with their creativity, teamwork, and strong culinary and presentation skills.

As part of their achievement, students were awarded $500 in PA Pork products, event swag, and secured a spot at the Pennsylvania Restaurant and Lodging Association state competition in Hershey this February. CWCTC will proudly send three teams to the state competition to represent the school in Culinary, Restaurant Management, and Cake Decorating events. These accomplishments highlight the hands-on learning, career readiness, and professional skill development that define Central Westmoreland CTC's Culinary Arts program.

ENGINEERING IN ACTION: BOTS IQ TEAM POWERS THROUGH WEEKEND BUILD SESSION





BOTSIQ

Innovation and teamwork were on full display during the **BOTS IQ** team's Saturday build session on January 17. Students dedicated the day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., remaining highly engaged and motivated throughout the entire session. One photo features Adam Dimaio machining a custom component for the team's robot. All parts are designed and manufactured in house, providing students with authentic, hands-on experience in engineering, design, and precision machining.

The BOTS IQ team is supported by two mentors from General Carbide who attend build sessions every Tuesday and Thursday. As professional machinists, they guide students through the design and fabrication of a 15-pound combat robot. Another image highlights mentor Braydn Szymkiewicz teaching students advanced soldering techniques, including the challenge of securely connecting four 10 AWG wires. The team's preliminary competition will take place March 12 at WCCC.

CTSO Career & Technical Service Organizations Spotlight

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CWCTC E-SPORTS CLUB COMPETES AT PENN TRAFFORD TOURNAMENT



Our CWCTC **Esports Club** had an exciting day at the Penn Trafford tournament on November 22! A total of nine students competed in the Super Smash Brothers bracket, showcasing their strategy, quick thinking, and competitive spirit. Meanwhile, one dedicated student represented our school in the Valorant bracket, putting teamwork and precision to the test.

The event provided students with the opportunity to experience a real competitive gaming environment, test their skills against peers from other schools, and strengthen camaraderie within the team. Our participants demonstrated focus, determination, and sportsmanship, making CWCTC proud both on and off the virtual stage.

CWCTC STUDENTS DOMINATE SKILLSUSA DISTRICT COMPETITION





Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center students showcased their talents at the SkillsUSA district competition at Westmoreland County Community College, bringing home an impressive number of top finishes. Students from Belle Vernon, Frazier, Hempfield, Mount Pleasant, Norwin, Southmoreland, and Yough excelled in events ranging from Quiz Bowl and Teamworks to Automotive Service, Baking and Pastry Arts, and Criminal Justice.

Competitions like SkillsUSA are important for CTC students because they reinforce the organization's core values of preparation, service, vocation, and reputation. Students learn to respect their trade, uphold high moral standards, and take pride in their work. By participating, they practice professionalism, fair play, and dedication which extend beyond the classroom and into their future careers. CWCTC students demonstrated their skill, teamwork, and commitment, continuing the school's tradition of excellence.

To see the full list of winners, see page 11.

Place	Competition	Student Name	School
1st	Teamworks	Derek Deleonibus	Belle Vernon
1st	Quiz Bowl	Mikayla Sweikart-Smead	Belle Vernon
2nd	Masonry	Angelo Menozzi	Belle Vernon
2nd	Automotive Maintenance + Light Repair	Brandt Cramer	Belle Vernon
2nd	Electrical Construction Wiring	Nathan Kostelnick	Belle Vernon
1st	Teamworks	Mason Ritz	Frazier
3rd	Collision Repair Technology	Jett Murphy	Frazier
3rd	Health Knowledge Bowl	Colby Thomas	Frazier
1st	Baking and Pastry Arts	Gaida Poulich	Hempfield
1st	Customer Service	Arabella Weinman	Hempfield
1st	Firefighting	Broc Rahl	Hempfield
1st	Health Occupation Professional Portfolio	McKenzie Thomas	Hempfield
1st	Job Skill Demo Open	Leanna Fetter	Hempfield
1st	Opening and Closing	Mariah Klingensmith	Hempfield
1st	Related Technical Math	Adam Dimaio	Hempfield
1st	T-Shirt Design	Leya Hartman	Hempfield
1st	Teamworks	Drew Ronald	Hempfield
1st	Quiz Bowl	Emma Vamosi	Hempfield
1st	Quiz Bowl	Faith Smith	Hempfield
1st	Quiz Bowl	Brayden Cassia	Hempfield
3rd	Restaurant Service	Landon Angulo	Hempfield
3rd	Health Knowledge Bowl	Lilly Amy	Hempfield
3rd	Health Knowledge Bowl	Madalyn Ohler	Hempfield
3rd	Cosmetology Under 500	Jorjah Ostrosky	Hempfield
1st	Criminal Justice	Casey Lowhigh	Mount Pleasant
1st	Automotive Service Technology	Alex Gildroy	Mount Pleasant
1st	Quiz Bowl	Alexis Leyroy	Norwin
1st	Medical Math	Aubrey Graney	Norwin
1st	Early Childhood Education	Vivian Gale	Norwin
1st	Plumbing	Trevor Vitsas	Norwin
1st	Opening and Closing	Addie Marincic	Norwin
1st	Opening and Closing	Eve LeRoy	Norwin
1st	Opening and Closing	Avery Waszo	Norwin
1st	HVAC	Jacob Fawcett	Norwin
1st	Esthetics (Model)	Rachael McFarland	Norwin
1st	Employment Application Process	Addison Cecconello	Norwin
2nd	Carpentry	Micah Baer	Norwin
3rd	Welding	Patrick Altman	Norwin
1st	Opening and Closing	Madison Lucia	Southmoreland
1st	Opening and Closing	Audrey Miller	Southmoreland
2nd	Job Interview	Jack Smith	Southmoreland
2nd	Action Skills	Wyatt Welsh	Southmoreland
1st	Building Construction	Lucas Baker	Yough
2nd	Basic Health Care	Shelby Hoyle	Yough



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