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2025 - 2026 : Quarter 3 Edition

The Official Newsletter of CWCTC

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

PHOENIXQUARTERLY

100+ EMPLOYERS, ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES AT CWCTC CAREER DAY

CWCTC Career Day was a tremendous success, bringing together over 100 local employers to connect with our students and showcase the wide range of opportunities available in today's workforce. This event provided an invaluable, real-world experience for our 1,500 students, allowing them to step outside the classroom and actively practice essential employability skills.



Throughout the day, students engaged in meaningful conversations with industry professionals, confidently introduced themselves, handed out resumes and business cards, and even participated in on-the-spot interviews. These interactions not only helped students build confidence, but also gave them a clearer understanding of career pathways and employer expectations.

Events like Career Day play a critical role in preparing our students for success beyond CWCTC. By bridging the gap between education and industry, students are able to see firsthand how their skills translate into real careers and begin building professional networks that can support their future goals.



We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of the employers, universities, colleges, United States Armed Forces, and organizations who took the time to participate. Your willingness to share your expertise and connect with our students made this experience truly impactful. Because of your support, our students were given a unique opportunity to grow, explore, and take meaningful steps toward their futures.





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.

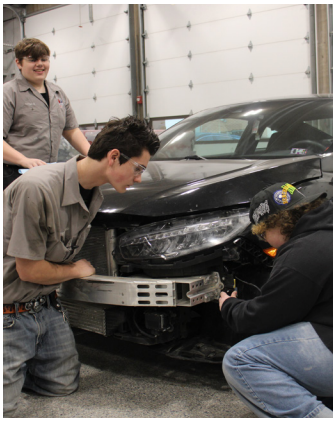
AGRICULTURE: GROWING SKILLS, PLANTING SUCCESS



Students in the Agriculture and Landscape Design program dedicated most of the third quarter to greenhouse planting and NOCTI preparation, focusing on performance and computer testing. A visit to the Spring Pittsburgh Garden & Home Show inspired fresh ideas for upcoming projects and gained employment prospects.

In celebration of Agriculture Literacy Week, CWCTC FFA members read to students at both Stanwood and Norvelt Elementary with a hands-on agriculture activity afterwards. Moving into the fourth quarter, the Seed Sale fundraiser is underway, Landscape Design will be the classroom focus and greenhouse preparation has begun for the early May Plant Sale.

AUTOMOTIVE COLLISION: DAMAGED TO DRIVE-READY



This semester, students in Automotive Collision have completed work on two customer vehicles, gaining real-world experience from repair to finish. Seniors are currently preparing for their upcoming NOCTI exam at the end of March, focusing on both written knowledge and hands-on performance skills.

In the AM class, students have been developing industry skills such as panel fabrication, welding, and properly masking vehicles for paint. These essential techniques are helping students build a strong foundation for careers in the collision repair industry. Looking ahead, the class plans to complete two full paint jobs over the next two months to wrap up the year with finished, professional-quality projects.

ASPIRING EDUCATORS: FUTURE TEACHERS IN ACTION



This semester, Year 2 students have been preparing to take the second part of their NOCTI exam in professional teaching practices while continuing to thrive in their practicum placements, gaining valuable real-world classroom experience.

Year 1 students have been focusing on the foundations of education, including classroom management, professional ethics, lesson planning, developing their own teaching philosophies, and tutoring students at Stanwood Elementary. These experiences are helping them build confidence and prepare for future practicum placements.

Together, both groups represented CWCTC at the Educator's Rising Leadership Conference, where they earned a bronze medal in the Teacher Recruitment public service competition, showcasing their dedication and professionalism.

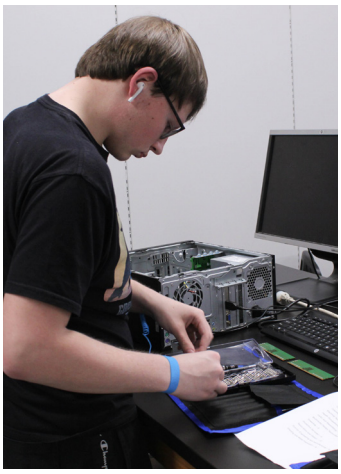
AUTOMOTIVE MECHANICS: UNDER THE HOOD LEARNING



Mr. Lewandowski's PM class has been very busy this semester. They finished up working on brakes and rotors. They are now diving into steering and suspension components.

Seniors have been working hard on getting their state inspection license, along with studying for the NOCTI exam. All three classes attended The Pittsburgh International Car Show at the David Lawrence Convention Center. Mr. Lewandowski's class will continue to work on steering and suspension, along with many customer cars.

COMPUTER INFORMATION SCIENCES: UPGRADED TECH, UPGRADED SKILLS

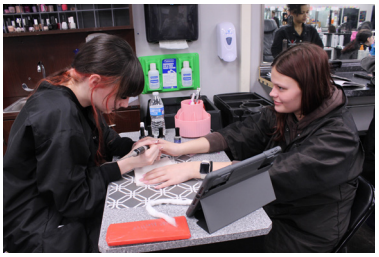


In the 3rd quarter, 1st year AM students are working on learning responsive web design, focusing on creating websites that adapt to different devices and screen sizes.

Second-year students are preparing for their PC Pro certifications, building knowledge in computer hardware, software, and troubleshooting. Third-year students are working toward earning their Security Pro or Network Pro certifications, developing advanced skills in networking and cybersecurity.

Additionally, 14 students are continuing their WCCC dual enrollment in Cyber Security, where they are currently taking a Computer Forensics course. These experiences are helping students build valuable technical skills and prepare for future careers in the IT field.

COSMETOLOGY: STYLING TOWARD STATE BOARDS



In the AM session, Level 1 students have been building foundational cosmetology skills, including wrapping and processing regular perms.

Throughout the year, they have learned a variety of haircutting techniques while also completing extensive book work to prepare them for the next two years in the program. These experiences are helping them develop both technical ability and industry knowledge.

In the PM session, seniors have been focusing on preparing for their NOCTI exams and State Board licensing. They have been studying, practicing hands-on skills, and refining their techniques to ensure they are ready for successful careers in the cosmetology industry after graduation. This continued practice and dedication is setting them up for success as they transition into the professional world.

CONSTRUCTION TRADES: BUILDING SKILLS THAT MATTER



Construction Trades students are gaining valuable, hands-on experience through real-world projects that benefit both their education and the community. As part of their training, students are building high-quality chicken coops that will be offered for sale, allowing them to apply skills such as measuring, cutting, and assembling materials while working as a team.

In addition, students are actively participating in a work-based learning project at the Southwest Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department. There, they successfully remodeled a bunk room for firefighters, completing tasks such as masonry, framing, insulation, installing pocket doors, hanging and finishing drywall, installing new flooring, and trim work. This project provided students with experience in multiple phases of construction while meeting a real community need.

CULINARY ARTS: COOKING UP COMPETITION & SKILLS



In Quarter 3, some Culinary Arts students began working on FCCLA competitions, while others focused on meeting preparation and upcoming events, working efficiently while showing dedication and teamwork.

Students had outstanding success at the FCCLA PA State Conference, earning multiple medals and National Honors. Highlights include strong performances in Menu Planning, Job Interview, Hospitality & Management, Culinary, Food Art, Event Management, and Entrepreneurship. Bryce and Landon earned gold with National Honors, securing a spot at Nationals this summer. We are extremely proud of all students for their hard work and achievements!

ELECTRICAL: WIRED FOR SUCCESS



During the third quarter, the AM Electrical Technology class focused on working with MC cable and began an introduction to EMT conduit. Students learned about the tools and techniques required to properly measure, cut, and install these materials.

A strong emphasis was also placed on electrical safety, including proper tool use, safe handling of materials, and understanding basic safety protocols on the job. In the PM class, students worked on a more complex EMT conduit project that included wiring applications. The PM class also began preparing for the NOCTI exam by completing projects such as doorbell circuits and activities that require identifying and working with mixed materials from the PDE task list. These activities helped reinforce practical skills and industry knowledge needed for electrical careers, while continuing to prioritize safety in all tasks.

HVAC: HEATING UP HANDS-ON LEARNING



During the last quarter, second-year HVAC students have been focusing on heat pump and electric furnace operation. They have been installing fully operational systems that utilize electric heat packs and heat pump technology, which allows systems to function like an air conditioner in reverse to provide heat. This hands-on experience has helped students better understand system components, efficiency, and real-world applications.

Seniors have been preparing for their NOCTI exams while installing and servicing oil-fired furnaces. Due to system setups, students have installed booster pumps and pressure regulators to ensure proper fuel delivery. These adaptations have strengthened their problem-solving skills and prepared them for real industry challenges.

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS: COMPETITIONS AND CAREERS

The HOT students are preparing for their spring certification exams with focused review and hands-on practice.

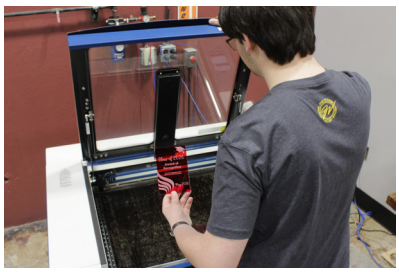


Patient Care Technician students recently completed their Phlebotomy and EKG units and are now learning specimen collection techniques, safety procedures, and patient care skills.

Pharmacy Technician students continue studying therapeutic drugs across body systems, including uses and classifications. Both year levels are actively preparing for certification exams at the end of April.

In addition, first year students explored health care careers during a Career Fair at Independence Westmoreland Hospital, rotating through stations that introduced them to a variety of medical professions and responsibilities.

MULTIMEDIA DESIGN: CREATING IN EVERY MEDIUM



From lens to screen, Multimedia Design students have been capturing, creating, and producing impactful work all quarter long. These are the key accomplishments of the Multimedia Design program this quarter. Students designed advertisements for the Phoenix Custom Car Show and created ad packages using photography and label design. They also gained customer service and retail experience through t-shirt sales, and completed hands-on customer work for our school.

The AM session focused on photography, including camera operation and tripod use, while the PM session developed videography and video editing skills such as transitions and audio effects.

Upcoming milestones include NOCTI assessments and Adobe certifications. These experiences reflect the skills and opportunities within the Multimedia Design classroom.

POWERLINE: POWERING UP FROM THE GROUND UP



The Powerline Program has been taking full advantage of the nice weather this quarter. AM and PM students worked together to build a three-phase line on the hill completely from scratch.

They dug new holes, set fresh poles, installed crossarms, and ran lines, gaining valuable hands-on experience. Both classes also added additional hardware, further enhancing their understanding of the system.

This collaborative project helped students build teamwork and real-world construction skills. Seniors have completed their online NOCTI exams and are now working hard to prepare for the upcoming hands-on performance test, continuing to build confidence and industry readiness.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES: TRAINING THE NEXT FIRST RESPONDERS



First year students just completed 15 weeks of Law Enforcement training including vehicle code, crimes code, police use of force and vehicle stops. AM students are moving on the PA State Fire Academy Rope I/II certifications as the weather improves.

Second year students have finished AHA Advanced First Aid and are moving onto the PA State Fire Academy Exterior and Interior fire operations. Two live fire training days have been scheduled in May.

Third year EMT students are completing Trauma Assessments and getting ready for NOCTI Testing late in March. EMT students will take their hands-on assessment in early May at EMSWest.

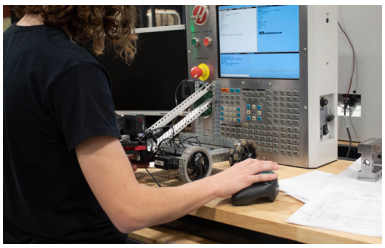
RESTORATION & DESIGN: PAINTING WITH PURPOSE



Restoration and Design has been busy working on their Resumes, Cover Letters, Portfolios and the PM worked on their Invoicing. Also, we helped the Southwest Fire Hall paint their living quarters. Pictures from these projects are on the CWCTC Facebook.

We are also currently working on certifications. PM worked on receiving their CORE certification through the NCCER. OSHA-10 and Soft Skills AHA is also worked on by those who have not completed them. Wood Finishing is another section of the task lists that have been worked on by the PM and AM is working on Drywall hanging. The Seniors will be doing their Trade Assessment very soon, so they have been practicing their skills to prepare for the test.

ROBOTICS, ENGINEERING, & MANUFACTURING: BATTLEBOTS IN THE MAKING



During the 3rd quarter, the afterschool BotsIQ club hosted by REM has worked tirelessly to prepare this year's battlebot, Drumroll, for competition preliminaries in early March.

Students have dedicated countless hours to designing, building, and testing the robot to ensure it meets competition requirements and performs at a high level. In addition to hands-on fabrication and assembly, students have also been completing detailed documentation in advance, recording design choices, testing results, and performance data. This combination of technical building and written documentation is helping students develop valuable skills in robotics, engineering processes, teamwork, and data collection that mirror real-world industry expectations. These experiences also strengthen problem-solving skills, communication, and attention to detail as students prepare for competition and continue improving their design.

SERVICE OCCUPATIONS: REAL SKILLS, REAL WORK



This quarter, students continued building practical workplace and culinary skills through a variety of hands-on learning experiences. During the morning session, students focused on industry knowledge and workplace operations, including ServSafe certification, kitchen measurement equivalents and abbreviations, and accurate ingredient measurement. Students also supported daily operations by stocking the Snack Shack, working the register, making deliveries, and assisting with inventory management.

In the afternoon, students focused on OSHA 10, culinary production, and retail logistics. Projects included making appetizers, pancakes, cookies, and stir-fry dishes. Students also practiced workplace responsibilities such as ordering inventory and balancing cash drawers, and were introduced to basic garden tools.

SPORTS MEDICINE: TRAINING FOR TREATMENT



In Sports Medicine, the PM is preparing for our NOCTI Performance exam on March 31st by practicing measuring vital signs, anatomy palpation, ankle taping and crutch fitting, knee range of motion and strength testing, and injury treatment through the PRICE method. We recently worked on wrist and elbow splinting and taping techniques to help support and protect injured joints.

In addition, we are preparing for an upcoming field trip to the Johnstown Red Cross Blood Bank to learn more about blood donation and its role in healthcare. We have one student, Tessa Oslosky, on Co-Op at East Suburban Sports Medicine Center in Penn Township. Students in the AM are working to identify the 4 muscle compartments of the lower leg, including the origin, insertion, and action of each of the 13 muscles that move the ankle and toes.

WELDING & FABRICATION: PRECISION IN PRACTICE



In Welding, our seniors have just completed the theory portion of the NOCTI exam and are now focusing on preparation for their hands-on performance assessment at the end of the month. This preparation has included a structured six-week review of key concepts, along with continued practice on multiple process fabrication projects to strengthen their skills and ensure readiness for certification requirements. These experiences are helping students build confidence, accuracy, and efficiency in real-world welding tasks.

Our AM students are currently working on V-groove welds in multiple positions while also learning to read blueprints and interpret weld symbols. These foundational skills are essential for industry readiness and certification success. We currently have 10 students out on Co-Op gaining valuable on-the-job experience.

LOOKING AHEAD at CWCTC

APR 2-6 - SPRING BREAK (NO SCHOOL)

APR 9 - JOC MEETING

APR 8-10 - SKILLSUSA STATE COMPETITION

APR 15 - FOOD TRUCK RALLY

APR 16 - SENIOR SIGNING DAY

APR 24 - SENIOR AWARDS CEREMONY

MAY 4 - NATIONAL TECHNICAL HONOR SOCIETY

MAY 7 - JOC MEETING

MAY 11 - SENIOR RECOGNITION CEREMONY

MAY 13 - CWCTC FUN DAY

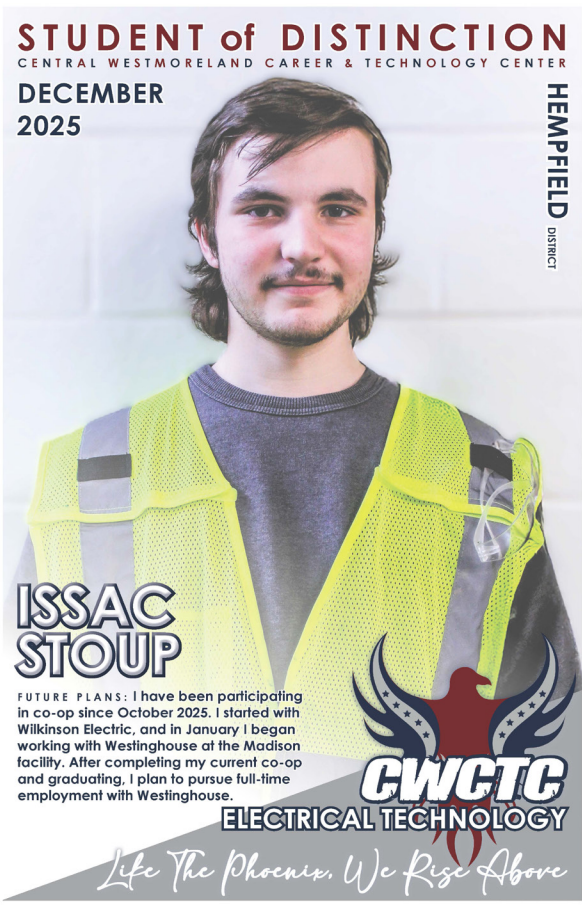
MAY 18 - NEW STUDENT NIGHT

MAY 25 - MEMORIAL DAY (NO SCHOOL)

MAY 29 - LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS



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."

EDUCATORS RISING:
CWCTC STUDENTS EARN TOP STATE HONORS



Central Westmoreland CTC's **Educators Rising** students achieved outstanding success at the March State Competition. Abby Rayman and Torrie Rhoades earned 3rd place in the PSA Competition focused on addressing the teacher shortage. Leah Boris, Addison Martinelli, Harley Yancec, and Vivian Gale placed in the top 10 in the same category, while Caitlin Haney also earned a top 10 finish in Educators Rising Moment. In addition, the entire chapter was awarded gold in the APEX competition, highlighting their teamwork and dedication.

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."









CWCTC FFA: IN FULL BLOOM AND ON THE MOVE

Over the last quarter, **CWCTC FFA** members have been busy with valentines florals, gearing up for the upcoming greenhouse sale and preparing for competitions. The chapter also participated in Ag Literacy Week by going into Stanwood and Norvelt elementary schools to read an agricultural Dr. Seuss book and complete crop production based activities. Many thanks to the Pennsylvania and Westmoreland Farm Bureau for sponsoring these activities.



WOMEN IN INDUSTRY NETWORK: CWCTC STUDENTS SHINE AT YOUTH SUMMIT



Members of the **CWCTC Women in Industry Network (WIN)** presented at the Pennsylvania Next Generation Youth Summit on March 3, 2026, in Lancaster, PA. They shared a successful model for connecting students pursuing non-traditional careers with industry mentors. Students Emma Jubic (REM), Aspen DeFoor (Sports Medicine), and Mia Hribal (Welding) discussed how WIN has helped them build confidence, gain mentorship, and develop leadership skills. Their presentation highlighted how student leadership and strong industry partnerships empower young women to pursue and succeed in traditionally male-dominated career fields.

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."

CWCTC CULINARY ARTS: UNSTOPPABLE!





Our students had phenomenal success at the FCCLA PA State Conference, earning GOLD and National Honors! We are beyond excited to share that our team is heading to NATIONALS this summer!

Here are the highlights:
2nd - Alex B. & Aria – PA Menu Planning
2nd - Jaidyn & Tiffany – PA Menu Planning
2nd - Angelo – Job Interview
2nd - Victoria & Morgan – Hospitality & Management (National Honors!)
3rd - Tessa & Cynthia – Interpersonal Communication
3rd - Lillianne – Culinary
2nd - Ghost – PA Food Art
3rd - Giada & Ali – Event Management
1st - Bryce & Landon – Entrepreneurship (National Honors!)

GOOD LUCK AT NATIONALS!!!!

ENGINEERING RESILIENCE: CWCTC BOTSIQ TAKES ON REGIONALS



On March 12th, the **CWCTC BotsIQ** team debuted their robot, DRUM ROLL, at the WCCC regional competition. Building a combat-ready machine required immense dedication, including numerous Saturday sessions and a final late-night push to integrate the weapon system. The team showcased remarkable poise under pressure, solving critical weight-limit violations and programming glitches just moments before the matches began. While the results didn't meet their initial expectations, the experience provided invaluable insights into mechanical design and teamwork. The team is already implementing strategic upgrades, fueled by the lessons learned, as they prepare for the Championships this April.

BOTSIQ

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."

CWCTC E-SPORTS:
COMPETING, CONNECTING, AND BUILDING TEAMWORK



Our **Esports club** is an after school activity, primarily taking place in the fall season. Students compete in the Pennsylvania Scholastic Esports League (PSEL) and also participate in local, in-person tournaments that give them the chance to showcase their skills in a competitive environment. Through Esports, students build teamwork, communication, and strategic thinking skills. All students at CWCTC are welcome to join the club, regardless of experience level, making it an inclusive opportunity to connect with peers who share similar interests.



The **Multimedia Design** program is running a student-led print shop featuring t-shirts, hoodies, and stickers created and prepared by students. Sticker designs showcase original student artwork, while apparel items include overstocked and misprinted pieces that are being repurposed to reduce waste and support a good cause. All proceeds will go directly toward updating classroom equipment and improving technology used in instruction. Beyond fundraising, this project provides students with hands-on experience in customer service, sales, and small business operations. Students are developing communication skills, professionalism, and confidence through real interactions with customers while applying their creative and technical design skills in a meaningful way.

CWCTC.org /CentralWestmorelandCTC @cwctcphoenix CwctcPhoenix

PHOENIX CUSTOM CAR SHOW

SATURDAY
2
MAY

RAIN DATE
16
MAY



CENTRAL WESTMORELAND CTC

240 ARONA RD. NEW STANTON, PA 15672

9 A.M. - 1 P.M.

CONCESSIONS - 50/50 - BASKET RAFFLE

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