**SkillsUSA** – The time has come for our CWCTC students to shine at the SkillsUSA State Competition to be held in Hershey on April 10th through 12th, 2019. Central Westmoreland CTC has over 20 students heading to the competition along with 4 advisors. The students have been preparing for months for this event. Students will be participating in 14 different competitions. CWCTC has taken a student the last two years to the National Competition in Louisville, Kentucky. We are looking for a three-peat! Good luck to all our competitors.

**Scholarship Deadlines** are fast approaching for the month of April. One current scholarship due at the end of April is the Thomas O’Brien Memorial Scholarship. Other local scholarship deadlines are quickly approaching. The small amount of effort required to write an essay and turn in the paperwork can reap many benefits. The small scholarship money can add up quickly and help pay for books and other college needs. Seniors should check into our guidance office with Mr. Elder (last names A-L) or Mr. Hayes (last names M-Z) for more details.

**CWCTC Facebook page** is up and running. Check our Central Westmoreland CTC Facebook page. Daily posts are made highlighting our students and teachers in their everyday educational settings. Many community members may not know what is happening within our school or even where we are located. This social media opportunity will allow everyone to know what skills are being taught, how are students are prepping for the real world as well as community projects that we undertake. Share with your friends!
Job Opportunities Abound

Many of our seniors are gearing up for the last 45 days of school. Some are anxious and nervous about what is next, while some are going about their days knowing they are ready to move on and have plans made for their future. Whichever category you fall under, keep in mind all of your post-secondary options and realize your future is what you make it.

One area that is booming at this point is the building trades. According to the Builder’s Guild of Western Pennsylvania now is the time for people to pursue a career in the building trades. With future construction projects upcoming as well as the retirement of many current workers, there will be many positions open. These apprenticeship programs involve hands-on job training and refining your skills. There is an initial upfront cost of training materials and union dues, but within a short amount of time, an apprentice could be making between $17 and $32 per hour depending on their trade.

With numerous programs offered at CWCTC, (Construction Trades, Carpentry, Electrical, HVAC, Masonry and Plumbing just to name a few), that relate to the building trades, our students are ahead of the game with their knowledge and skill level. CTC graduates are perfect candidates for apprenticeship positions.

According to Jeff Nobers, Executive Director of the Guild, “There are thousands of opportunities.” It is definitely the perfect time to be an apprentice.

National Technical Honor Society

Every year Central Westmoreland CTC students are highlighted for their success in the academic world. Students are invited to join the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) based on their grades, attendance, and discipline record. This year, after all the information was received and reviewed, we are happy to announce that we have 21 seniors and 66 juniors being inducted for the first time into NTHS. In addition to those first year students, there are 37 seniors who will receive their pins for maintaining their grades and attendance for the second straight year.

Our annual induction ceremony will take place for these students and their families on Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at Westmoreland College in Youngwood. This event is just one of the many that highlight the accomplishments of Career and Technical Education students. Congratulations to this group!

Career Awareness

During the last two months of the school year, in between testing and school activities, middle school and elementary students are continuing to learn about career education. This topic is a hot one across the state with continued hopes that our current students will be ready and have plans in place once they graduate from high school. Central Westmoreland CTC supports our 10 school districts with career awareness and exploration provided by Ms. Butala, our Career Education Counselor. Along with Ms. Butala, various teachers and students throughout the school, visit our school districts discussing careers and opportunities available to them. These classroom presentations give food for thought about what will occur during high school including possibly attending CWCTC as well as what post-secondary options are available to everyone. It is important that students know about apprenticeships, as well as trade schools and community college. These are fantastic opportunities alongside our four-year colleges that can lead to great futures.

The Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries may be directed to the Administrative Director, Title IX Coordinator, or the Section 504 Coordinator at 240 Arona Road, New Stanton, PA 15672, belwood@cwctc.org or 724.925.3532 X1306.