

CareerTEC Chronicle

Partnering to Prepare Students from Dakota, Durand, Freeport, Orangeville,
Pearl City and Pecatonica for Tomorrow's Careers

IMPORTANT DATES

- FEB. 13: Lincoln's Birthday: No classes at Highland College (ECE, CJ, Ind Tech, Cosmo, NT); Careers to Consider event at Highland College
- FEB. 20: Presidents' Day: No classes at St. John (CIB, CIS, HOYA, Cul), Freeport H.S. (NJROTC, CATS, GD, Ed Path, Fire science) & construction
- FEB. 22-24: Mall of Life at Highland College for area junior high students
- MARCH 20-24: Spring Break: No CareerTEC classes at Highland College, St. John, Freeport H.S. and construction
- MARCH 31: End of third quarter

CareerTEC

2037 W. Galena Ave.
Freeport, IL 61032

Phone: (815) 232-0709
Fax: (815) 235-8050

See us at:
www.careertec-il.org

Follow us on:

twitter

@CareerTEC

facebook

CareerTEC @freeport61032

Real-World Lessons

CareerTEC celebrates CTE Month

BY BRIAN GREENE
CareerTEC system director

"CTE: Good for Students, Good for Business, Good for Communities!"

Every February, area career centers across the United States celebrate Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, which is a public awareness campaign "to celebrate the value of CTE and the achievements and accomplishments of CTE programs across the country," according to the Association for Career and Technical Education.

CareerTEC in Freeport provides CTE each year to hundreds of high school students across Stephenson and Winnebago counties.

The Career and Technical Education Consortium (CareerTEC) welcomes high school juniors and seniors from Dakota, Durand, Freeport, Orangeville, Pearl City, Pecatonica and Aquin Central Catholic. Eleven of the 16 CareerTEC programs include dual credit from



With generous donations from ABC Supply in Freeport, CareerTEC construction trades students learned how to shingle a roof in the fall.

Highland Community College, which also has CTE programs. Industry certifications also are available in several programs.

"I like (CareerTEC) because it provides good learning opportunities, and you have a chance to meet people from other schools," said Pearl City senior Nathan Brinkmeier, who takes Careers in Business and is one of 213 CareerTEC students this year. "We learn real-world lessons that will be applicable in our future."

Over the past five years, 97.3 percent of graduating CareerTEC seniors (220 of 226) who participated in a Senior Survey said that they would recommend a CareerTEC class to another

student. Graduating students cite the focus on hands-on learning, excellent instruction, and work-based learning time as reasons to recommend CareerTEC.

CTE courses are not required by the high schools; students choose them as electives. CareerTEC has entrance requirements that require a 2.0 GPA, good attendance and no discipline referrals; however, with school approval, students may enroll as a provisional student.

Offering two years of study, CareerTEC classes run 90 minutes each and include programs in Auto Mechanics, Careers in Auto Tech and Service, Careers in Business, Computer Information

(CTE continued on page 8)

Looking Back at the First Semester ...

COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS (CIS)

August

CIS students are learning how to quantify and qualify bullet points for their résumés with the activities they are performing (e.g. setup user objects in Microsoft Active Directory). They also are preparing the road map for their final (CompTIA certification testing).

We have gone over the basic components of electronics, the hardware, firmware, and software. Students are learning about machine language and receiving practical applications. Students are preparing pc's by upgrading the bios/uefi, the drivers, and installing Windows 10 Professional and activating the license. They have also begun learning the OSI model to speak in IT language.

September

CIS 1 students have learned about motherboards and their connectors. They have also taken a look at printers, and begun learning about the brain of the computer: the CPU.

Year 2 students have been learning about the different modes in the Cisco Catalyst 2960 switch and how to do



basic configuration. They have also been going over cabling, and building network topologies.

We just finished a trip to Tri-Rivers Data Center and had the opportunity to converse with members from different areas of their IT Department, and talk with them about work and internship opportunities.

October

CIS year 1 spent a day helping fourth-graders from Tri-County Christian School build robots (above photo). It was a great experience for both the high school juniors and TCC fourth-graders, who were so happy at how nice the students were to them and are looking forward to coming to CareerTEC and learning how

to program robots.

CIS 2 students have been going over copper and fiber optic cable types, and how to use troubleshooting tools at the physical layer of the OSI model. In addition, they have begun programming switches. They have learned how to do basic configure, reset, and recovery procedures on them.

November/December

CIS 1 finished up wireless technologies and has scheduled their finals to be taken prior to Jan 20, 2023; this will be the first of two tests that will get them to become A+ certified. We will be spending some time this month learning about the basics of networking and learning how to create subnets.

CIS 2 students have completed their cabling and switching and are now getting into routers and layer 3. They have scheduled their finals for the CompTIA Network Plus exam. All students will be spending time working on troubleshooting with diagnostic procedures over the next two months.

— Doug Meyers,
Computer Information Systems
instructor

CULINARY ARTS

August

The Culinary Arts 1 class is off to a fantastic start! Students have begun the school year by learning about food sanitation, safety, and knife skills, learning these skills by making salsa.

September

Culinary Arts students took the Certified Professional Food Manager exam and most received their sanitation license, making them highly employable in any food service establishment. Students also receive dual credit through Highland Community College for passing the exam.



They also practiced knife skills and learned how to cook with a variety of cooking methods, including sautéing, roasting, baking, boiling and simmering.

For example, to learn sautéing, students prepared chicken sofrito and brown sugar glazed carrots, among other foods. To learn how to boil and simmer, students made mashed potatoes and

gravy and soup.

October

Students learned a wide variety of new culinary skills and techniques. They are now proficient with knife skills and most cooking methods, such as sautéing, roasting, and poaching.

Students learned about more advanced baking methods, and prepared carrot cake, mixed berry tarts, chocolate cake and blueberry coulis cupcakes. They also learned how to cook with vegetables, including recipes such as yam hash, onion rings, zucchini fries, and veggie flatbread.

November/December

Students became proficient with beef, pork and chicken cookery through recipes such as teriyaki meatballs, chicken parmesan, and stuffed burgers.

Students are learning how to prepare soups, including French onion, chili, chicken noodle, and potato corn chowder.

In December, students will learn how to prepare sauces, which is an essential culinary skill. Students will also learn how to utilize fresh and dried herbs and spices.

— Steve Konefes,
Culinary Arts instructor

Looking Back at the First Semester ...

CAREERS IN BUSINESS (CIB)

August

During the first several days of class, students from five school districts spent time getting to know one another through different games, ice breakers, and conversation.

CIB II has an enrollment with nine fantastic seniors from Freeport or Pecatonica who have an internship at local businesses. Some of the students began in the beginning of June to accommodate their busy school schedule and have been working all summer, while others have just started.

It was the student's responsibility to find their own internship primarily based off of their job shadowing experiences last year, and each one has done a fantastic job and I'm so proud of each of them!

Below is a list of the students, their home school, and their placements.

- Nia Anderson (Pecatonica): German American Bank - Pecatonica
- Keegan Gallagher (Freeport): Inertia
- Korbin Gann (Pecatonica): Brown's Shoe Fit
- Jaden Gocken (Pecatonica): Northstar Graphics
- Christopher Koch (Pecatonica): Melissa Schwartz-Thomas – State Farm Insurance
- Zachary Linder (Pecatonica): German American Bank - Winnebago
- Kamdyn Raymond (Freeport): Brinkmeier Plumbing
- Miguel Villarruel (Pecatonica): Lingle Design Group Inc.
- Natalie Yeoman (Freeport): Highland Community College

In addition to their internships, they will be working on portfolios, college and career papers, volunteering, and presentations just to name a few things. This is a talented group of students and I'm thrilled to see what they accomplish this year!

September

The Year 1 students put their communication skills to work in the form of writing a business proposal, which they learned is different than an essay. They each chose a college they wanted to go to upon graduating high school and researched 20 to 25 different metrics about that school to educate themselves. Of the students, 70 percent would still pursue that school but 30



percent would not largely due to price or high crime rates.

Going forward they will learn to write different types of "Routine Business Messages," such as letters showing appreciation, apologies, expressing sympathy, providing directions, creating announcements, and making claims to name a few.

Students will also be learning how to plan and deliver different types of business presentations, including how to properly format a PowerPoint (and not just write in sentences, which is a no-no!) We will also discuss the proper business casual and business professional attire for different situations.

Speaking of attire, in the latter half of the month, the students will begin job shadowing! They will continue to shadow approximately every two to three weeks through April 2023 businesses of their choice. They will be putting their business casual attire to the test. They are nervous but each shadowing will be a great experience for them.

CIB II students have been working hard at their internships as well as balancing extracurricular activities and school. We've had the opportunity to meet and discuss some of the details surrounding filing out the FAFSA for those who are college-bound.

Students are currently writing a career paper and abstract in hopes of learning

more about their chosen career field. Our purpose is that students solidify their career choice or realize it's not what they want to do; therefore, saving themselves and parents time and money in the long run.

October

Year 1 students completed their college business proposals, learned how to write letters and memos, and learned how to plan and deliver presentations without reading from the PowerPoint slides. All of these are valuable skills used daily in the business world.

CIB II students continue to work and add to their portfolios, beginning with a career goal paper, personal statements, and obtaining reference letters. All of these will help with college admissions and acquiring employment too. All nine students have been very successful in each of their internships!

November/December

November was a fun month, ending with a Thanksgiving feast and celebration with the other CareerTEC programs within St. John's. It was a great time to reflect on the multitude of blessings we each have. Thank you to all of the students and their families who donated to our feast; the food was delicious and appreciated! A special thank you to Ms. Vock for organizing all of the student games.

In the spirit of giving thanks and paying it forward, the students rang bells for the Salvation Army on Dec. 2 and Dec. 13 at various locations in Freeport and Lena.

We began our money management unit and students are learning about balance sheets, cash flow and Income and expense statements. They will complete one for parents too ... free of charge, of course!

I'm so excited for the Year 2 students because some of them have already received several acceptance letters to colleges. It's exciting to see what the next step of their life will be: college, workforce, or the military. They are completing scholarship applications and learning the skill of haggling with colleges about the cost of tuition.

Yes, you CAN do that!

— Elizabeth Hazzard,
Careers in Business instructor

Looking Back at the First Semester ...

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS I

August

FANTASTIC!! Fantastic is the word I have chosen to describe the start of this year. Amazing students is all I can say about this group of young people. They have already worked hard and I anticipate a great year.

Day two of class was a volunteer day. We have helped with Paint the Port for years. These students rocked it that day with all they accomplished. They marked and painted over 400 squares on the streets, survived a chilly drizzle of rain, and stuffed 500 hundred bags of promotion items from sponsors. I was so proud of them for working so hard.

Of course, they ate donuts and enjoyed beverages, too. After all, where there is work there should be food!

We have already had a quiz on the rules of the classroom and studied the history of healthcare.

They even survived my first life lesson on being owed nothing in the world or from the world and work ETHIC! Our goal is to grow as people this year, not just learn skills.

September

Fall has arrived and we have been busy! First of all, I have to say these students are amazing! We have had a really great start to the year and they continue to work hard. Maintaining an 86 percent is not easy.

This month we had three important topics: abuse, bioethics and communication. Our local ombudsman (a person who advocates for residents in facilities) came and shared his role and all



about resident's rights and how we can protect those rights.

Ethics and laws are in our everyday lives and we learned the difference between the two. Each student had an ethical topic that they had to research for and against and then formulate their opinion on the topic. Each student then presented their topic, and we held class discussions regarding the for and against. To say the least, some topics were quite interesting .

Abuse is never an easy topic. We often just think of physical abuse, but there are so many forms of abuse. To help them learn the different forms, skits were done to help lighten the heaviness of this topic. Props, humor, and examples helped drive home the different types of abuse.

Then it was on to communication. Listening is always difficult. We were made for connection and we all have a story to share. Barriers, hearing loss, vision impairment, and culture all play a role in how we communicate.

This week we learned how to better communicate, work with barriers, answer the phone professionally and meet our patients'/residents' needs.

When we think of foreign

language, we think of Spanish, French, and others, but medical terminology is also its own language. Abbreviations and medical terms were part of our communication chapter. The students will learn over 200 medical terms this year. Our abbreviation test was a great start and intro into the medical world.

Remember to follow our year at HOYA at CareerTEC on Facebook!

October

Feel that oxygen flow. This month has been busy as usual. We finished infection control and moved to learning how to use oxygen. Each student felt how the cannula sits in their nose and feel oxygen coming through the concentrator. It is always good to feel what your patients feel.

Our annual blood drive was another success.

- Collection Goal: 39
- Registrations: 42
- Units Collected: 22
- First-Time Donors: 35

Our first job shadow was a success. These take place during class, and we are so thankful for all our business partners. These shadows allow students to see different areas of healthcare and explore career options.

Moving residents can be a challenge, so learning the proper form for ambulation and transferring a resident is so important. We stress to students you only get one back so take care of it. The students had a good time learning how to use restraints and learning alternatives to restraints, how to ambulate a resident and what to do if a resident is falling.

Equipment can be a challenge so they learned how to run the beds and wheelchairs. Once they understood, they were able to transfer each other in and out of bed.

There is no better way to start learning these skills than to have each person take the position of a patient so they can empathize with their patients later.

Our students of the month for our September essential skills topic, Personal Mindset and Social Awareness, were Miley Seaton, Adrian Salgado, Abigail Cook, Abygail Medina, Macy Barkley, Daeshon Verner, and Maniah Clark. This is voted on by students every month.

November/December

Giving thanks was November's highlight. Those who live a life with gratitude have a great attitude.

Our Thanksgiving feast did not disappoint. The food was plentiful, and then the race was on to win the team relay games. Each student was challenged to note something they were thankful for before they could eat, and then they were challenged to go home and tell one person something they were thankful for. We in HOYA are beyond thankful this year for our great students!

(HOYA I continued on page 6)

Looking Back at the First Semester ...

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS II

August

HOYA II is off to a great start. Students passed their state CNA exam over the summer and most are working as CNAs for their Internships. Some are thinking outside the box and working with FHN to secure some other opportunities.

Students were encouraged to have fun while maintaining their full plates during this final year of high school. We will be discussing how stress affects our health and ways to help relieve some of the stress they will definitely be feeling this year.

Each student will be choosing an employability skill each month that they can work on at their internship site. They will write a short memo discussing why the skill is important in healthcare and what they specifically did that month to make improvements.

We learned that health insurance is an important part of our lives, but it also has many challenges for the customer. We discussed several types of insurance, the difference between Medicare and Medicare advantage plans, as well as the importance of having a secondary insurance.

We learned that the newest drug, Aduhelm, for Alzheimer's disease is not 100 percent covered by most insurance companies, especially Medicare (which is the primary insurance for our elderly population).

The outrageous annual cost of the medication is



approximately \$56,000, which is out of reach for most of those who truly need it. Someone on Medicare would have to pay 20 percent (\$11,200), unless they have co-insurance. All of this for a medication that has questionable effects on the disease.

September

Students did a fantastic job with their first Community Health bulletin board and subsequent fundraising project.

September was National Suicide Awareness Prevention Month. The bulletin board (above), which just happens to be one of the best boards in the past few years, is something students see as they first enter the building for their CareerTEC classes.

The students also designed brochures and created a Google slide presentation on this important subject.

Alisa Moore, from Durand High School was able to sell her quota of the Suicide Awareness wristbands and lapel buttons in less than 24 hours, earning a \$30 Starbucks card. She even

chose to take additional fundraising items to support and promote this crucial subject. Great job, Alisa.

We are currently studying the collection of principles that should be guiding doctors, nurses, and all healthcare clinicians in providing medical care, also known as healthcare ethics. Because healthcare deals with moral dilemmas regarding life and death, it requires a strong ethical code to provide guidance in making decisions.

Unfortunately, this is not always the case, thus students are researching historical clinical research trials with some questionable ethics. This will allow them to utilize their critical thinking skills if they decide to personally join a clinical research trial or discuss one with a future patient.

October

Our second Community Health bulletin board this month is related to Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The ladies did a great job grabbing everyone's attention as they walk into the building again. Most people know how breast

cancer affects our female population, but not everyone realizes how important this subject is even for our younger population, male and female. HOYA II encourages everyone to "CHECK YOUR BOObies"

As they delved deeper into professional ethics, students were shocked and appalled at some of the clinical research trials that occurred in U.S. history. The Milgram Experiment, MK Ultra, Midnight Climax, Stanford Prison Experiment, Jewish Chronic disease trials, UCLA Schizophrenia Experiment, San Quentin Prison Experiment, Tuskegee, The Monkey Drug Trials, and Elizabeth Loftus' Lost in the Mall were the 10 trials that students discussed.

We then discussed some additional research trials that have occurred in more recent years, such as one in 2004 where HIV/AIDS medications were given to foster infants and children; some as young as 3 days old and some who did not have HIV or AIDS.

These medications already had black box warnings, which are the FDA's most stringent warning for drugs and medical devices on the market. Black box warnings, or boxed warnings, alert the public and health care providers to serious side effects, such as injury or death. The FDA requires drug companies to add a warning label to medications that have a black box warning.

(HOYA II continued on page 6)

Looking Back at the First Semester ...

(HOYA II continued from page 5)

The FDA uses boxed warnings to highlight risks in the following situations:

- If evidence shows a drug causes a serious adverse reaction — potentially fatal, life-threatening or permanently disabling — where the risks might outweigh the benefits
 - A serious side effect can be avoided or reduced in severity or frequency by appropriate use of the drug, such as avoiding use in specific situations, observing patients, careful patient selection or avoiding using the drug with certain medications
 - The FDA approved the drug only for restricted use to ensure public safety
 - The drug is less effective or dangerous to certain populations such as the elderly, children or pregnant women
- Students found that questionable clinical research trials utilized vulnerable populations to complete their experiments even though medical professionals are bound by ethics of nonmaleficence and beneficence, which mean do no harm and promote good.

We learned more about the Illinois POLST form (Physician's Order Form for Life Sustaining Treatment), Power of Attorney (POA) for Healthcare, and Organ Donation. We discussed when POA for healthcare actually comes into play, and the importance of making wise decisions for choosing the correct person.

Students also studied cultural competence and how it can influence healthcare. Culture can determine how a



patient views medications, touch, physical space, what they see as wellness and health prevention, dietary needs, pain control, as well as beliefs during pregnancy.

Did you know there are yin and yang foods in some cultures? Or, that because there is alcohol in many cough syrups, that some cultures won't take cough syrup because alcohol is taboo? Or, who has heard that reaching your hand above your head while pregnant will cause the umbilical cord to wrap around the baby's neck?

November/December

HOYA II celebrated Thanksgiving with all the other CareerTEC classes here at St. John's. Students and teachers reflected on how blessed we truly are.

As a way to make Thanksgiving a little more joyful for our community, students delivered homemade cards and flowers to many different places around the area. The response from those receiving

these little random acts of kindness flowers was overwhelmingly positive; the students were touched by the reactions. Sometimes we forget that holidays are not always a happy time for some.

The ladies rang the Salvation Army Bells at Sullivan's and Walmart on Nov. 30.

In November, students were able to listen to heart and lung sounds during class. We also discussed what a pulse deficit was and why it is important. It is comparing someone's apical and radial pulse to discern any abnormalities.

They then practiced checking for pulse deficits on their classmates. We will be focusing on our own wellness by doing a physical fitness assessment in class. This activity usually brings laughs and really tells us how fit we are.

December promises to be just as busy. The students will be completing their teaching projects. They are going out to their local schools and teaching younger students (up to fifth grade) a healthcare related task, such as handwashing.

Before our Christmas break, students will be visiting Hawthorne Inn for some caroling and a craft/food activity with the residents. Even though they think they can't sing very well, this will bring Christmas joy to the Hawthorne residents.

— Lori Steele,
Health Occupations II instructor and
HOYA Coordinator

(HOYA I continued from page 4)

Students continue to learn what they may want to be when they grow up through our monthly job shadows.

We had a great field trip to Highland Community College. Students learned the many different programs HCC offers in healthcare and many prerequisites a student can take there for things such as veterinarian and doctor degrees. The labs are amazing and, of course, seeing a real brain and cadaver is always a highlight of our trip. You can learn in a book, but when you get to see the real thing it all makes more sense. We are thankful in healthcare for those who cared enough about science and donate their bodies to science so we can learn.

In December, students will bring Christmas cheer and raise money for the Salvation Army through bell ringing. We also will continue checking off on important skills because clinicals are coming up in February. Skills we will complete this month are teeth brushing, nail care, shaving and checking off on their bed-making skills (hope they have been practicing at home :))

At the end of the month we vote for the previous month's student of the month. October's theme was leadership. Winners for October were Devyn Phillips, Kayleigh Calhoun, Aya Malik, Xzander Bennett, Caitlyn Simpson, and Damien Bell.

Lastly, each month we focus on an

essential skill. These are skills that are important in life and to employers. This month our focus was on verbal communication. We discussed ways to communicate, how to assess our audience and how to ask questions to deepen our understanding of a topic. Then each student picks a word in the category of communication that represents them best and adds it to their skill sheet. We will use these later in the year for our job applications.

These last few weeks will fly by. Students must continue to work hard to maintain an 80% or better in this class!

— Stacey Vock,
Health Occupations I instructor

Looking Back at the First Semester ...

CONSTRUCTION TRADES

August

It will be a fun and exciting year teaching the students and exposing them to the different opportunities in the building trades industry. We are currently working through the OSHA 10 safety course.

This is my first year with the students, and we are eager to get out of the classroom and into the shop to start some hands-on learning. We also have a couple of out-of-shop projects that we are looking forward to doing.

September

The construction class has been finishing up the trim on the porch at our Factory Street project. We have put furring strips and steel on the garage ceiling.

With the help of ABC Supply, we will be in the shop working on roofing, framing,

siding & soffit the next few weeks. ABC is donating the materials so we can do mock-up walls, roofs, etc.

October

This month we have finished up our in-shop roofing projects. The students were engaged and eager to learn.

Overall, I believe they are enjoying the class with the hands-on learning experiences. We dismantled the roof systems and recycled as much material as possible.

We are now learning about framing components, and how to install them. The walls that we are building in the shop will be used to learn about siding and soffit installation.

We had a siding/soffit material representative join us to go over the different products and how to install them. When we finish with the siding/soffit project, we will leave the



walls up to use for electrical & plumbing lessons.

— Jim Shaw,
Construction Trades instructor

CareerTEC's Programs at Highland College and Freeport H.S.



A Look Inside CareerTEC

(CTE continued from page 1)

Systems, Construction Trades, Cosmetology, Nail Tech, Criminal Justice, Culinary Arts, Early Childhood Education, Educator Career Pathways, Fire Science, Graphic Design, Health Occupations, Industrial Technologies, and Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. CareerTEC classrooms are located at Highland Community College, Freeport High School, St. John UCC, and various construction sites.

“There’s a myth that jobs are still leaving our area,” said Highland College/CareerTEC Industrial Tech co-instructor Aaron Sargent, who also credits the great partnerships that CareerTEC and Highland College enjoy with local organizations and employers, such as Honeywell. “In reality, they are trickling back in.”

About half of all CTE learners are enrolled in programs in leading fields such as health care, information technology and STEM (acronym for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). Data from Advance CTE shows that six of the 10 hardest-to-fill positions are in technical fields or require a CTE background.

Ultimately, CTE prepares many students for high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand careers.

Other goals include preparing students not only for two- and four-year colleges but also helping them learn



**CELEBRATE TODAY,
OWN TOMORROW!**

foundational and technical skills needed in a technical school and/or an entry-level job in the career field. Advance CTE data indicates that over 75 percent of students taking a concentration of CTE courses enroll in postsecondary education after graduating from high school.

Another key goal is to help CTE students understand the necessary “soft skills” needed to succeed in the workplace. Punctuality is an important part of CTE as are problem-solving, critical thinking and communication skills.

CTE’s most important goal for high school students: Provide opportunities for students to explore career options before students declare college majors and/or make career decisions. Most find it to be a wise investment as a little money and time to discover a career in high school is better than spending large sums of money and time in college only to learn later that the career is not a good

fit.

Illinois has 56 Education for Employment (EFE) regions, including the Career & Technical Education Consortium / EFE #220. Without these regions, most CTE programs would be too costly for a local school district to hold on its own. Area school districts share in the administrative costs of the career centers, making it affordable for all.

At CareerTEC, 57 percent of its funding comes from local school districts. A total of 42 percent of funding – most in the form of state (34 percent) and federal (8 percent) grants – comes from outside the region and the final 1 percent is provided by participating families.

While families may need to pay for various program fees, member school districts cover the tuition for each student to attend CareerTEC. Depending on the CareerTEC class, families save as much as \$1,812 on tuition. Families who cannot afford to pay program fees may apply for a waiver through their district office.

CareerTEC has been offering CTE to students since it opened its doors in the late 1960s as the Stephenson County Career Center (SACC). Also formerly known as the Stephenson Area Vocational Technical Education System (SAVTES), the current name has been in place since July 1999.

“We’re here to give real-world experiences,” said Highland College/CareerTEC Industrial Tech co-instructor Todd Vacek.

In cooperation with local companies and high schools, Highland College sponsors Careers to Consider in the spring to endorse career exploration. CareerTEC hosts Manufacturing Day each fall to promote the importance of manufacturing in our region.

Area career centers and Highland College also serve middle school and elementary students. In the spring, CareerTEC brings area middle school students to Highland College for its Mall of Life, an event that helps students understand careers and financial literacy. Highland College and CareerTEC invite local sixth- and seventh-graders in June each year to Success Camp, an opportunity to explore career interest areas, soft skills, and the college. Also, a portion of CTE grant dollars go to elementary schools for career exploration.

CTE is good for students as it prepares them for the future.

CTE is good for business as it gives hires the skills needed to be successful in the workforce.

CTE is good for communities as it fills the employment needs of our local companies, agencies, and organizations. Everyone wins with CTE!

2023-24 Apps Being Accepted!



1. Go to www.careertec-il.org
2. At bottom of home page, choose Quick Links, 2023-24 Course Catalog for complete information about each CareerTEC program.
3. Talk to your school counselor about your interest in a program.
4. At the top of the home page, select the application link.
5. Applications should be done with a parent/guardian in order for proper consents and information to be received.