

# News Flash

CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

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\*Pictured: Adult Diploma graduate pictured with CVCC Board Members

## HOSA International Leadership Conference

Three outstanding CVCC students recently represented our school at the HOSA International Leadership Conference in Nashville, showcasing their skills and dedication in highly competitive national events.

- **Emilee Sanicky**, a senior from Cuyahoga Heights in the Health Careers program, competed in Nursing Assisting, advancing to the second round and finishing in the top 10 in the nation—ultimately earning the title of 1st Place National Champion! This event also includes both a written exam and a hands-on skills demonstration.
- **Ash Watkins**, a junior from Brecksville in the Sports Medicine Exercise Science program, competed in the Nutrition event, which requires students to complete a comprehensive written exam.
- **Penelope Bly**, a senior from North Royalton also in the Sports Medicine Exercise Science program, competed in Sports Medicine. She advanced to the second round and ranked in the top 34 in the nation. The competition includes a first-round written test, followed by a skills-based assessment in the second round. We are incredibly proud of these students and their impressive achievements. Not only did they excel in competition, but they also represented CVCC with professionalism, enthusiasm, and pride throughout their time in Nashville.





## SkillsUSA NLSC 2025

We are proud to celebrate and congratulate our exceptional students who represented CVCC at the 2025 SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC)! After earning top honors at the state level, these talented individuals advanced to compete on the national stage this summer in Atlanta, Georgia, where they showcased their skills, passion, and dedication to career and technical education.

Team CVCC – SkillsUSA NLSC 2025:

- **Alexandra Elsbury**, Construction Trades – Nordonia High School
- **Jaden Robinson**, Construction Trades – Twinsburg High School
- **Jake Gahagan**, Construction Trades – Twinsburg High School
- **Kayleis VanLeer**, Automotive Service Technology – Twinsburg High School
- **Rylee Basel**, Auto Body Repair & Refinishing – North Royalton High School
- **Spencer Mills**, Media Arts – North Royalton High School
- **Brandon Gipson**, Media Arts – Garfield Heights High School

Each of these students has shown remarkable commitment and expertise in their respective fields. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the way they represented both CVCC and the state of Ohio on a national level. Congratulations, Team CVCC – you’ve made us all proud!

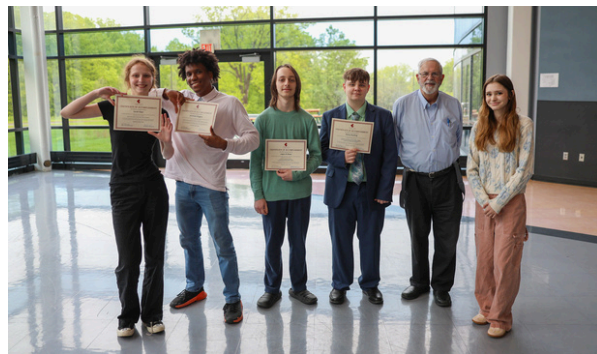




## CTSO Board Recognition

At the May Board Meeting, CVCC had the privilege of recognizing some exceptional individuals — including students who earned top 3 placements at Regional, State, and National competitions, Adult Diploma graduates, our newest staff members, and retiring team members who have given so much to CVCC. Congratulations to all!

*\*High school students are pictured with the CVCC Board Member representing their home school district*





## Dental Assisting Program Visits Papandreas Orthodontics

Our Junior Dental Assisting students had an incredible experience visiting Papandreas Orthodontics this month! They were warmly welcomed by Dr. Papandreas, Office Manager Betsy Klos (who also teaches our Adult Education Dental Assisting program), and Ryleigh Papesh—a 2024 CVCC grad now working in the field! Students got a behind-the-scenes tour of the cutting-edge practice, explored the latest techniques and tech, and even got hands-on with the iTero scanner, practicing scans on each other. Dr. Papandreas also shared valuable advice on employability skills, giving our students a clearer picture of what it takes to thrive in the dental profession. Huge thanks to Dr. Papandreas, Betsy, and Ryleigh for such a fun and inspiring day!





## CVCC Awarded DEWALT Grow the Trades Grant

Cuyahoga Valley Career Center (CVCC) is proud to announce it has been selected as a recipient of the DEWALT Grow the Trades Grant, in recognition of its ongoing commitment to preparing students for careers in the skilled trades.

With approximately 500,000 construction jobs currently unfilled across the U.S., DEWALT's Grow the Trades initiative supports organizations dedicated to training and empowering the next generation of tradespeople. The grant program includes financial support and tool donations as part of DEWALT's \$30 million, five-year investment aimed at closing the skilled labor gap.

CVCC is one of just 166 organizations nationwide chosen for its work in expanding access to hands-on training and workforce development in the trades. As part of the award, 14 students from CVCC's Construction Cluster programs received tool kits through a scholarship selection process.

"DEWALT is immensely proud to support CVCC as they work to skill and reskill the tradespeople of tomorrow, moving us closer to our shared goal of closing the trade skills gap," said Frank Mannarino, President and General Manager of DEWALT.

"Funding educational programs and nonprofits like CVCC connects more people to the training, resources, and opportunities needed for successful careers in the trades."

To learn more about the DEWALT Grow the Trades Grant program and future application opportunities, visit [DEWALT Grow the Trades](#).





## CVCC Wraps Up the School Year

On Tuesday, June 4, CVCC marked the last day of school for our high school juniors with our beloved annual picnic. It was a joyful day full of celebration and camaraderie. We wish all members of the CVCC community a safe, restful, and happy summer! A special highlight for our Power Equipment Technology juniors: their final class was a surprise session led by Mr. Koenig, the longtime leader of the program for over 30 years. What a meaningful and memorable way to end the year! Thank you to all our students and staff for making the 2024–2025 school year such a success. We're already looking forward to what's ahead!

### Celebrating Our Retirees

We extend our heartfelt appreciation and best wishes to our wonderful retirees:

- **Laurie Robusto**, School Nurse
- **Bernie Bodnar**, External Transition Coordinator
- **Mike Marcinko**, School Counselor
- **Kathy McCafferty**, Administrative Assistant

Your dedication and contributions have left a lasting mark on the CVCC community. Thank you for everything—you will be greatly missed!

### Congratulations to Our Staff Member of the Year

A very special congratulations to **Michele Nakonieczny**, Executive Assistant of HR/Payroll, who has been named CVCC's 2024–2025 Staff Member of the Year! Michele continually goes above and beyond in support of her colleagues and our entire organization. We are so fortunate to have her on our team. Congratulations!



## CVCC Attends Tough Tower

CVCC had an amazing time at Tough Tower this month! It was an action-packed week celebrating the best in the telecom industry. Watching competitors show off their skills and agility in head-to-head challenges was a blast!

Think you've got what it takes to compete next year? Let CVCC help you climb to the top through our Telecommunication Tower Technician (TTT) program!

Contact Joe Lupia, Adult Education Coordinator, at [jlupia@cvccworks.edu](mailto:jlupia@cvccworks.edu)

Learn more at: [www.cvccworks.edu](http://www.cvccworks.edu)

Huge congrats to everyone who competed — especially shoutouts to Elevated Services LLC (a proud CVCC advisory member). You crushed it! Special thanks also goes to Tough Tower, STG Communications, Tri County Tower, and Youngstown State University (YSU) for having us be part of this incredible event.

*Pictured: CVCC Telecommunication Tower Technician (TTT) students with Rob Luckey from Fall Tech, testing out their new carbon fiber harness!*





## Practical Nursing Candlelighting Ceremony

On Thursday, June 5, CVCC held a heartfelt Candlelighting Ceremony to honor the Adult Education Practical Nursing Part-Time Class of 2026. This meaningful tradition celebrates the completion of the Basic Nursing Program and marks the halfway point of the students' journey toward becoming licensed practical nurses. Inspired by Florence Nightingale—the founder of modern nursing and the originator of this tradition—the ceremony brought together students, families, and friends for an evening of recognition and reflection. A special thank you to the entire nursing faculty and staff for their dedication and support. It was a memorable and inspiring event.



## Practical Nursing Graduation Ceremony

On Thursday, June 12, CVCC proudly celebrated the graduation of the Adult Education Practical Nursing Full-Time Class of 2025. After successfully completing the rigorous Practical Nursing Program, graduates should be eligible to sit for the State of Ohio Board of Nursing NCLEX Licensure Exam. The ceremony was a joyful occasion attended by students, faculty, family, and friends—all gathered to honor this significant milestone. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported these students throughout their journey. Your encouragement played a vital role in their success. Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

Thinking about a future in nursing? Learn more about our program here:

<https://cvccworks.edu/adult-education/adult-education-programs/nursing/>



## Machining Technology Students Receive Tools

We're incredibly grateful to the Lozick Family Foundation for their generous support in providing our Adult Education Machining Technology students with high-quality tool kits that will serve them well in their careers. A special congratulations to Greg Slone, who was also awarded a scholarship from the foundation—way to go, Greg!

Thinking about a future in machining? Learn more about our program here:

<https://cvccworks.edu/.../adult.../machining-technology/>



## Redwood Living Visits CVCC HVAC Program

CVCC recently had the pleasure of welcoming Redwood Living to campus, where representatives connected with students enrolled in our Adult Education Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning program. During their visit, Redwood Living shared valuable insights into the wide range of career opportunities available within their organization. They highlighted the many benefits of working in rental property maintenance, emphasizing how it can serve as a strong starting point for an HVAC career. Students learned how this pathway allows technicians to develop a well-rounded skill set across various maintenance areas—while still putting their HVAC certification to practical use. Our students asked thoughtful questions and left with a deeper understanding of how their skills can translate into real-world success. A big thank you to Redwood Living for taking the time to visit and inspire our future HVAC professionals!

Thinking about a future in HVAC? Learn more about our program here:

<https://cvccworks.edu/adult-education/adult-education-programs/hvac/>



## Coming Soon: Bulldogs Closet at Garfield Heights High School

We're excited to share an exciting partnership between Garfield Heights High School and our CVCC SkillsUSA students: the launch of Bulldogs Closet—a professional clothing resource located right at Garfield Heights High School! Bulldogs Closet will offer students access to business-appropriate attire for interviews, job shadowing, and other career-related events. This meaningful project is being planned and brought to life by our dedicated and creative SkillsUSA students, who are turning a powerful idea into a valuable resource for their peers.

A big thank you goes to Michelle Hasman, CVCC Career Specialist for the Garfield Heights School District, for her leadership, coordination, and support in guiding our students through this initiative. We're also incredibly grateful to the CVCC staff whose generous donations have laid a strong foundation. Donations will continue to be accepted this September. Your generosity helps empower students to look and feel their best as they step into their futures with confidence. If you'd like to contribute gently used professional clothing, clothing racks, or hangers, please reach out to Michelle at [mhasman@cvccworks.edu](mailto:mhasman@cvccworks.edu).

**Bulldogs Closet is set to open in October 2025!**



## IMS Students Visit CVCC Construction Trades Program

On May 21, Independence fourth grade students had a great time building birdhouses with CVCC's Construction Trades students. We might have some future construction enthusiasts in the making! A big thank you to Amanda Jaronowski, CVCC Career Specialist for the Independence School District, for organizing this enjoyable event. Everyone involved had a fantastic time!





## Career Exploration in Action at Nordonia Middle School

Nordonia seventh grade students recently participated in an exciting three-day career exploration event using our brand-new career kits. Students rotated through eight interactive career stations, gaining hands-on experience and insights into a variety of professions. Thank you to Deb Monaco, CVCC Career Specialist for the Nordonia School District, for organizing this fun and educational event.





## Spring Brings Exciting Career Education Opportunities for Revere Students

This spring, Revere students across multiple grade levels explored a wide range of career paths through hands-on learning and community engagement. In April, sixth graders at Revere Middle School participated in the school's inaugural Careers in the Arts program. Students had the chance to meet professionals from various creative fields, including a children's book author, a dance studio owner and instructor, and a Digital Design student from CVCC. Through interactive workshops in dance, storytelling, and digital art, students were inspired to tap into their own creativity and consider future careers in the arts.

Seventh graders explored "green" careers as part of an annual program sponsored by the Holden Foundation. With support from Revere's Career Specialist Nancy Vondrak, students learned about careers such as Biologist and Ecologist through engaging activities at the Cleveland Botanical Gardens and Holden Arboretum. They practiced extracting DNA, identifying plant species, and gained insight into the educational paths, salaries, and responsibilities associated with these environmental careers. This marks the third successful year of this partnership.

In May, first graders at Richfield Elementary enjoyed the ever-popular Vehicle Day, which introduced them to a variety of "careers on wheels." Students met community members who work as firefighters, food truck owners, bookmobile librarians, arborists, construction workers, farmers, electric bus drivers, postal workers, and more. A big hit this year was the addition of the Summit County Sheriff's Bomb Squad vehicle! Ms. Vondrak expressed her gratitude to all the community volunteers who made this event both fun and educational for the young learners.





# *Important Dates*



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For questions, feedback, or news ideas, email [mrobertson@cvccworks.edu](mailto:mrobertson@cvccworks.edu).

## **Upcoming Events:**

- Friday, July 4 – Independence Day (Building Closed)
- Thursday, July 24 – CVCC Special Board of Education Meeting – 8:30 a.m.
- Monday, August 18 & Tuesday, August 19 – CVCC Staff In-Service (No Students)
- Wednesday, August 20 – First Day of School for High School Students
- Thursday, August 28 – CVCC Board of Education Meeting – 6:00 p.m.