



December 2025

# News Flash

CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER



## AT A GLANCE

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- Veterans Day Assembly
- 10th Grade Exploration Visits
- SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference
- Cosmetology Students Spread Holiday Joy at Santa Brunch
- Dental Assisting Students Volunteer at MedWish
- Students Participate in Hands of Gratitude Project
- Digital Design Students Visit Bullseye Activewear
- New Power Equipment Technology Training Truck
- Students Attend Passport to Careers Hosted by GCP
- Education Professions Students Visit MAGNET
- Media Arts Program Updates Classroom Studio for Podcasting
- CVCC Spreads Holiday Cheer at Shop with a First Responder
- Brecksville Fire Department Engages CVCC EMT Students
- CVCC Attends Nuts & Bolts Bash

## IMPORTANT!



## Student & Parent Information Night

Your chance to explore the programs at CVCC, meet instructors, and ask questions.

Join Us



Thursday, January 15, 2026  
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm



Cuyahoga Valley Career Center  
8001 Brecksville Rd  
Brecksville, OH 44141



## Upcoming Student and Parent Information Night at CVCC

Cuyahoga Valley Career Center (CVCC) will hold its annual Student and Parent Information Night on Thursday, January 15, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for high school students and their families to learn more about the specialized career and college preparation opportunities available through the nearly 30 career-technical programs offered at CVCC. Attendees will have the opportunity to view programs, meet instructors, and ask questions. The Student and Parent Information Night helps with the decision-making process in choosing to enroll at the career center. Many CVCC programs offer industry certification opportunities and have career-technical credit transfer options, enabling students to earn college credit while at CVCC. Visit [www.cvccworks.edu](http://www.cvccworks.edu), or contact Kelli Casini, CVCC Admissions Counselor, at 440-746-8286 or [kcasini@cvccworks.edu](mailto:kcasini@cvccworks.edu) with any questions.

## Veterans Day Assembly

CVCC held a memorable Veterans Day Assembly on November 11. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the students and staff who helped plan this meaningful event. A special thank you to Becky Clark from the Ohio Army National Guard for sharing her story with us. CVCC expresses its gratitude to Becky, our staff members who have served, and all who have dedicated themselves to our country.



## 10th Grade Exploration Visits

The 10th grade Exploration visits to CVCC are in full swing! 10th graders from all eight of CVCC's associate districts will tour CVCC and receive information on each program. All of CVCC's programs had current students or instructors speak to the groups, as well as had displays in the hallway for the groups to see. Visiting students now have the information needed to prepare for CVCC's Student and Parent Information Night that will be held on Thursday, January 15, from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. for anyone interested in learning more about the current offerings. Thank you to the entire CVCC staff for helping with these visits, specifically CVCC's Admissions Counselor Kelli Casini, Administrative Assistant, Mackenzie Hance, and the Career and Community Resources staff.





## SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference

On November 20 and 21, CVCC's SkillsUSA Ohio students traveled to Columbus for the SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference and elections. During the event, delegates, local officers, and regional officer candidates spent their time building leadership skills and strengthening their chapters.

We're excited to share that CVCC returned with two new regional officers:

- **Ella McCabe** – Power Equipment Technology, Nordon High School
- **Dontae Wilkerson** – Construction Trades, Garfield Heights High School

These standout leaders will continue their journey this January at the Regional Officer Training Institute in Columbus. Congratulations, Ella and Dontae!



Dontae Wilkerson



Ella McCabe



## Cosmetology Students Spread Holiday Joy at Santa Brunch

A few of our high school Cosmetology students helped add a touch of holiday sparkle to a festive brunch hosted by the Brecksville–Broadview Heights Preschool Moms Club recently, offering hair tinsel and nail painting for attendees. The cheerful event provided a wonderful experience for families and an excellent fundraising opportunity for the program. A special thank you goes to Ms. Fox, Cosmetology instructor, for organizing this engaging activity for both her students and the community.



## Dental Assisting Students Volunteer at MedWish

On Friday, November 21, our senior Dental Assisting students spent time volunteering at the MedWish Dental Clinic gaining hands-on experience while supporting an amazing community resource! MedWish provides free preventative and restorative dental care to individuals in need, and our students were proud to play a part in that mission. Throughout the day, they assisted chairside, helped with sterilization, organized supplies, and worked directly with patients and providers. Their professionalism, compassion, and dedication truly represented CVCC at its best. This meaningful experience not only gave them a chance to give back, but also strengthened their clinical skills. Our students showed impressive technical ability, teamwork, and confidence in a real-world setting. Way to go, Dental Assisting!



## TTW Students Volunteer at Cleveland Food Bank

Our afternoon students from Transition-to-Work (TTW) B, instructed by Ms. Wracher, took a field trip to the Cleveland Food Bank last month, where they spent two hours volunteering in the repackaging section. Working together on an assembly line, our class helped pack boxes of food for families in need. Special shout-out to Kevon, Elizabeth, Soph, and Nolan for all of their hard work, along with Ms. Wazny, who kept things running smoothly by taping and loading all the completed boxes!

### Results of their effort:

- 11 pallets
- 440 boxes
- 13,200 pounds of food packed!





## Students Participate in Hands of Gratitude Project

Last month, CVCC students had the incredible opportunity to participate in a hands-on workshop led by Matt Campana and his organization, Hands of Gratitude. This inspiring program engages participants in building 3D-printed prosthetic hands that are distributed to recipients around the world. Working in small groups, students collaborated to assemble the prosthetics and added personal letters and artwork for the recipients. A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated staff for organizing this meaningful experience and to Hands of Gratitude for empowering our students to make a global impact!

**Learn more about Hands of Gratitude at:**  
[www.hands-of-gratitude.com](http://www.hands-of-gratitude.com)





## Hospitality & Food Preparation Students Volunteer at Innovation Food Services

CVCC's Hospitality & Food Preparation students teamed up with Innovation Food Services last month, located in Twinsburg, and prepared 722 meals in just under an hour. What a fantastic display of teamwork and hard work!



## Digital Design Students Visit Bullseye Activewear

CVCC's Digital Design students took a field trip to Bullseye Activewear and Promotions, located in Brunswick, last month for some hands-on learning. Our students got hands-on experience with screen printing and embroidery, and explored how creative ideas come to life through custom apparel. Thank you, Bullseye Activewear and Promotions, for hosting our students and for the awesome apparel!



## BPM Students Volunteer at Cornerstone Christian Assembly

Our Building & Property Maintenance (BPM) students visited Cornerstone Christian Assembly last month to help provide meals for 20 families in need. After distributing food, they also volunteered by cleaning the church, changing light bulbs, and installing new shelving in the food bank. Great work, BPM!





## New Power Equipment Technology Training Truck

Exciting news for our Power Equipment Technology program! CVCC's new training truck from Ohio Peterbilt arrived last month for a short stay before heading out for its final upfitting. It features a 350HP Cummins engine, an Allison 3000RDS transmission, and a hydraulic hook lift system for maximum versatility. From diesel systems and air brakes to load securement, this truck is built to teach it all. Students even chose the gray color to match our school colors! With the current truck dating back to 1994, this new addition marks a major step forward and will serve as an outstanding learning resource for years to come.



## Students Attend Passport to Careers Hosted by GCP

On November 5, our Networking & Cybersecurity and Programming & Software Development students attended Passport to Careers hosted by Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP). During this event, our students, along with hundreds of other Northeast Ohio high-school students, gathered for a hands-on exploration of future opportunities in both technology and finance. Through career conversations with industry professionals, breakout sessions, and games, our students gained real-world insight into careers, education pathways, and the endless opportunities available right here in our region. It was an inspiring day of discovery, connection, and future-planning for our students!



## Education Professions Students Visit MAGNET

CVCC's Education Professions students had an awesome visit to MAGNET on Friday, December 5! They toured the facility and learned about all the incredible services MAGNET provides for students across Northeast Ohio. Thank you to Michelle Hasman, CVCC Career Specialist for Garfield Heights City Schools, for making this fun and informative afternoon happen!

**Learn more about MAGNET here:**

<https://www.manufacturingsuccess.org>



## Media Arts Program Updates Classroom Studio for Podcasting

With podcasts continuing to rise in popularity, CVCC's Media Arts program recently upgraded its former broadcast-style studio into a polished podcast space, and it looks amazing! The program was thrilled when local realtor Nicole Garcia (from eXp Realty) reached out to partner with our students on podcast projects, social media content, and other media opportunities. Our seniors have been hard at work producing episodes of Real Talk with Realtors—coming soon! Keep up the great work, Media Arts!





## CVCC Spreads Holiday Cheer at Shop with a First Responder

On Saturday, December 6, several of our students joined our School Resource Officer, Officer Max, along with the Brecksville Police and Fire Departments, to take part in the annual Shop with a First Responder! Students were paired with children from Brecksville–Broadview Heights City Schools. The day kicked off with donuts at the Brecksville Community Center, followed by a festive shopping trip to Target—sirens blaring, lights flashing, and holiday excitement all around! Each child received \$200 to pick out gifts, then everyone returned to wrap presents and enjoy a pizza lunch together. We're incredibly proud of our students for their generosity, kindness, and holiday spirit. A huge thank you to Brecksville's amazing First Responders for making this day truly special!

### Shout-out to our amazing student volunteers:

- **Jaismine Dhesi** (Health Careers, Twinsburg High School)
- **Melissa Preseren** (Health Careers, North Royalton High School)
- **Samantha Simonitis** (Health Careers, Nordonia High School)
- **Melody Nguyen** (Health Careers, Twinsburg High School)
- **Rozmen Sidhu** (Dental Assisting, Twinsburg High School)
- **Arianna Cocroft** (Health Careers, Twinsburg High School)
- **Addison Huffman** (Health Careers, Brecksville–Broadview Heights High School)
- **Sam Gerbasich** (Health Careers, Brecksville–Broadview Heights High School)
- **Trinity Crouch** (Health Careers, Brecksville–Broadview Heights High School)

Special thanks to everyone, including CVCC staff members Leah Bierman, Educational Aide, and Claudette Knestrick, Student Support Services, for dedicating your time and spreading holiday cheer!



## **Hands-On Inspiration: Brecksville Fire Department Engages CVCC EMT Students**

CVCC extends a huge thank-you to Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Packard of the Brecksville Fire Department for his outstanding engagement with our Adult Education Emergency Medical Technician–Basic students during their station visit last month. Mike generously spent nearly two hours with our group, sharing the history of Brecksville Fire, explaining the essential role EMTs play within the fire service, and guiding students through the medical equipment used in daily operations. From demonstrating tools like the LUCAS CPR device and CPAP machine to showcasing Brecksville’s state-of-the-art cot system (something our students had never seen). He also reviewed expectations for internship and ride time and led an in-depth tour of the station, giving students a true look into life at the fire department.

We also want to recognize Chief Bender for the exceptional facilities at the Brecksville Fire Education Center. The recent upgrades, including impressive new large-format monitors, greatly enhanced our students' session on immunological emergencies and elevated the overall learning environment. Our students were fully engaged and excited throughout their visit. Professional role models like Mike make a tremendous impact on career exploration and inspire the next generation of EMTs, strengthening our community in the process. Thank you, Mike and Chief Bender, for welcoming us into the Brecksville Fire Department and providing such an incredible educational experience!



## **CVCC Attends Nuts & Bolts Bash**

CVCC was proud to join Manufacturing Works at the Nuts & Bolts Bash on October 16 at Truss Cleveland, celebrating Northeast Ohio’s thriving manufacturing community! Representing CVCC were Joe Lupia, Adult Education Coordinator, and Diane Duryea, Business Liaison. The evening was filled with networking, celebration, and collaboration, as industry leaders, innovators, and sponsors gathered to raise funds and awareness for programs that drive solutions for people, production, and prosperity. CVCC is honored to support the Northeast Ohio manufacturing community and the programs that help them succeed.



## A Future-Focused Fall: STEM Technology and Career Exploration at Brecksville-Broadview Heights Middle School

This fall, seventh-grade students in Ms. Roderick's STEM classes at Brecksville-Broadview Heights Middle School immersed themselves in the exciting world of emerging technologies. Students had the opportunity to explore a range of cutting-edge tools, including Meta Ray-Ban display glasses, the Apple Vision Pro, and X-Real augmented reality headsets. They also experimented with AI-powered robotics and participated in an engaging discussion about the future of artificial intelligence, led by Ray Mack, Innovation Enablement Consultant at Progressive Insurance. A special thank-you goes to Randi Boorish, CVCC Career Specialist for the district, for her exceptional work in organizing this experience. The event offered a highly interactive learning opportunity that connected classroom concepts with real-world innovation.

Further, students in sixth-grade classes taught by Mrs. Bason and Mr. MacRaidl, along with students in seventh-grade STEM classes taught by Mrs. Roderick, explored a variety of career-focused learning kits on loan from CVCC with Ms. Borosh. These hands-on activities allowed students to explore different career fields—building circuit boards, designing structures, experimenting with culinary arts, exploring cosmetology, and trying their hand at landscape design. They even investigated human anatomy using body and muscle models. The classrooms remain energized with curiosity, creativity, and excitement for future careers!



## Building Career Readiness at Nordonia High School

During the week of November 3, students in the Career-Based Intervention class at Nordonia High School worked with Deb Monaco, the district's CVCC Career Specialist, to prepare résumés and cover letters and to develop essential interviewing skills. Throughout the week, students learned effective résumé-writing techniques, interview do's and don'ts, professional etiquette, tips for appropriate attire, and the importance of sending thank-you notes. The week concluded with on-site, one-on-one mock interviews with industry professionals, giving students a valuable chance to put their new skills into practice in a real-world setting. What a wonderful opportunity for our students!



## Nordonia High School Hosts Career Spotlight Event

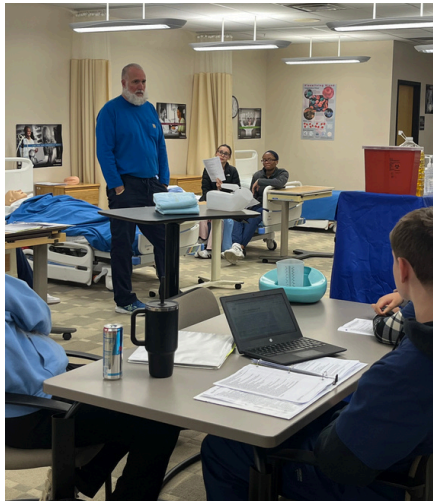
On November 13, Nordonia High School hosted a Career Spotlight event, supported by Career Specialist Deb Monaco. The guest speaker, Stefanie Scali-Smith, Human Resources Generalist at Cleveland Clinic Akron General Hospital, shared valuable insights into managing employee relations in a large healthcare organization. Students learned about her role in addressing workplace challenges such as theft, misconduct, social media use, performance management, harassment, bullying, and substance abuse. The presentation provided an informative look at the business and human resources side of hospital operations.





## Experiencing Health Careers Firsthand at CVCC

On November 17, students in the Health Careers class at Nordon High School visited Cuyahoga Valley Career Center (CVCC) with support from Career Specialist, Deb Monaco. During their visit, they learned about CVCC's Health Careers program from Mr. Zana's senior students, who shared insights into coursework, clinical experiences, and potential career paths. Students participated in a hands-on nail care simulation, practicing sanitizing, soaking, cleaning, and filing nails to gain a better understanding of the skills required for a Certified Nursing Assistant. They also explored the Sports Medicine Exercise Science program through a sprained-ankle rehabilitation activity. Working in teams, students researched techniques to improve stability and mobility and presented their strategies to classmates. The field trip offered an immersive, real-world look at health careers, allowing students to practice professional skills and gain valuable career insights.





## November Brought Exciting Career Exploration to Richfield Elementary and Revere High School

In November, there was much career exploration and engagement at Richfield Elementary School and Revere High School! Kindergarteners celebrated their first-ever Career Week, hearing from parents about their fascinating jobs. Students learned how civil engineers are helping construct the new Cleveland Browns stadium, how detectives work to keep communities safe, and how an ER doctor and nurse collaborate to treat patients. They even had fun practicing dance steps with a Ballroom Dance teacher and children's program coordinator, all while exploring a variety of exciting careers. First graders also enjoyed Career Day highlights, including learning about life as a published author, exploring the many careers working with animals through the Humane Society of Summit County, and discovering how a neonatal nurse practitioner cares for newborns and their moms.

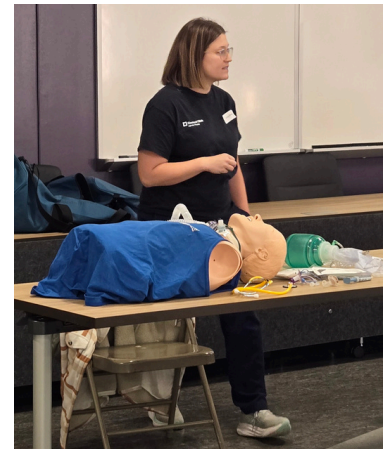
On November 25, 21 high school students attended the Cleveland Clinic's virtual in-school field trip, "Heroes of the Hospital: Nursing Careers," to learn about the diverse opportunities in nursing. Live speakers included a Nurse Midwife, an Operating Room RN, a Nurse Practitioner, and a Nurse's Aide. CVCC Career Specialist for the Revere School District, Nancy Vondrak, noted that this virtual field trip had the largest student participation since Revere High School began participating in the Cleveland Clinic's Connected Career Rounds programs several years ago. Way to go, Revere!





## Exploring Medical Careers: North Royalton Students Learn from Healthcare Professionals

North Royalton AP Anatomy and Biology students recently had the chance to learn directly from a variety of medical professionals who visited to share their expertise and experiences. Coordinated by the CVCC Career Specialist for the district, Jill Larson, the guest speakers included a cardiac nurse, a pediatric radiologist, a scrub nurse on a liver transplant team, a respiratory therapist, a registered nurse, an occupational therapist, and a pharmacist. Each professional discussed their daily responsibilities, the challenges and rewards of their work, and the educational paths that led them to their careers. The presentations provided a meaningful learning experience, sparking curiosity and giving students a clearer picture of potential future careers in the medical field. This event not only broadened students' knowledge but also inspired many to explore opportunities in health sciences.



## Twinsburg School District Building Foundation for Career Exploration

In Twinsburg, career development took center stage last month as sixth graders at Dodge Intermediate School were introduced to the Holland Personality Codes (RIASEC model). CVCC Career Specialist for the district, Toni Cluse, led the lesson, helping students understand how their personal interests and strengths can connect to potential career paths. As part of Career Week activities, students explored a variety of unique careers during morning presentations, expanding their awareness of the many professional opportunities available. Twinsburg juniors and seniors (also enrolled at CVCC) also visited to share their own career journeys and future goals. These interactions not only inspired younger students but also gave high school students a chance to practice public speaking and showcase their experiences. By introducing the Holland Codes and providing career spotlights, the district is laying a strong foundation for students to begin thinking about their futures and preparing to engage with professionals at career fairs and more.



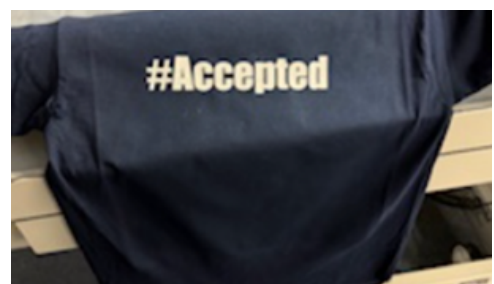
## Twinsburg High School Celebrates Career Week with Hands-On Experiences and College Opportunities

From November 10–14, Twinsburg High School (THS) hosted its annual Career Week, offering a variety of engaging activities to help students explore future pathways and connect classroom learning to real-world possibilities. Organized by the THS Counseling Team and CVCC Career Specialist for the district, Toni Cluse, the week encouraged students to think intentionally about their postsecondary plans.

Students enjoyed interactive trivia contests, daily video spotlights on in-demand careers (such as Construction Manager, Landscape Architect, Actuary, Intelligence Officer, and Systems Analyst) and teaser announcements that kept interest and conversation high throughout the week.

One of the major highlights was Instant Decision Day. Representatives from Youngstown State University, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, The University of Akron, and Eastern Michigan University met with students on-site to provide same-day admission decisions. The first 15 students accepted also received commemorative T-shirts produced by the Print Production program at Cuyahoga Valley Career Center. #Accepted

Career Week reflects Twinsburg High School's strong commitment to career and college readiness—a mission shared by both Twinsburg High School and Cuyahoga Valley Career Center. Thanks to the leadership of the counseling team and CVCC Career Specialist, Toni Cluse, THS continues to help students identify their interests, explore meaningful opportunities, and prepare for success beyond graduation.





## Veterans Day Panel Creates Meaningful Connections for RBC Students

R.B. Chamberlin (RBC) Middle School hosted its annual Veterans Day Panel on November 13, giving seventh and eighth-grade students the chance to engage in small group conversations with local Veterans. Organized by CVCC Career Specialist for the Twinsburg School District, Toni Cluse, and the RBC Career Readiness Team, the event welcomed representatives from the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Space Force, with support from VFW Post 4929 and Retired U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Joe Jasany. Students asked insightful questions about military service, pathways within the armed forces, and post-service careers, creating an engaging and meaningful learning experience. The Veterans Day Panel is part of RBC's Career Passport Program, which encourages students to participate in career-focused activities throughout the year. The event not only honors the service of our Veterans but also broadens students' awareness of the diverse career opportunities connected to military service. RBC is proud to continue this tradition—one that blends career readiness with gratitude, respect, and genuine connection.



## *Important Dates*



CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

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

### Upcoming Events:

- Monday, December 22 – Friday, January 2: Winter Break
- Wednesday, December 24 – Friday, December 26: Building Closed
- Thursday, January 1: Building Closed
- Monday, January 5: Classes Resume
- Thursday, January 8: Board of Education Meeting