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Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School



Volume 7 Issue 1 - Fall 2017

From the Principal's Desk

Hello to the Monty Tech Community,

We are now into October with the craziness of school opening in our rear view mirror and I am happy to say that we have had a wonderfully successful launch into the 2017-2018 academic year.

I, first, want to thank all the hard work and attention to detail of our school secretaries, custodians, staff, teachers and administrators for all the work that we completed to help us to be prepared for the return of our students and families. Next, of course, I want to thank our students, parents and guardians for their efforts to return essential documentation to the school, complete summer assignments and maintain their patience as we deal with the normal frenzy that comes in late August and through September.

As I reminded the community in our Welcome Back to School letters, we are very excited about a number of initiatives that we are launching this year. Those include –

- We are very excited to launch our newest Chapter 74 vocational offering – Animal Science. This program will be available as part of the Freshmen exploratory offerings and classes will be held throughout the year in the main building in our “Green Room”. Meanwhile, each of our construction trades will continue to make progress in the construction of our on-campus Veterinary Clinic that will open to the public in 2018.
- Our Machine Technology program has gone through a nearly \$500,000 renovation this summer which includes new equipment and the addition of a precision measuring lab. We expect that this facility will become a model for such instruction across the state.
- In an effort to support the talents and interests of our students beyond the core academic requirements, Monty Tech has launched a new Fine Arts elective called Visual Arts. This semester long course is available to all students and is instructed by Bethany Botto.



Similar to many other schools, Monty Tech has seen the recent growth of students who may experience long-term hospitalizations due to physical and mental health disabilities. One of the greatest difficulties of these situations is when the student tries to transition back into the routines of school. In order to support such students, Monty Tech has developed a new program called Supporting Transitional At-Risk Students or S.T.A.Y. This program's goal is to help students ease back into the rigors of school at a pace that encourages the greatest amount of student achievement.

Everyone at Monty Tech has been very excited to introduce our school community to these new efforts to support our students' needs, interests and growth. Of course, we also have some upcoming activities that are long traditions at Monty Tech. Such events are –

- Oct. 13th – Monty Tech administrators and members of our Student Services Dept. will welcome representatives from our sending middle schools to ensure that we are working towards providing a smooth application process for incoming students in the Class of 2022.
- Oct. 16th – During the day, the entire Monty Tech staff will welcome potential members of the Class of 2022 during our Tour Day events. Later on, that evening, families are welcome to tour our shops and meet with our instructors during Career Awareness Night.
- Oct. 26th – Military Awareness Night will be held in an effort to provide information and guidance to those students who are considering a career in the military service.
- Nov. 3rd – The first quarter comes to an end with report cards going out the following week.

As always, there is always something going on at Monty Tech, and we look forward to providing more opportunities for parents, families and community partners to work together to support the overall growth of our students!!

Best regards,

Tom Browne
Principal



New Faces



Desirée Accomando

Special Education Paraprofessional

Most recently a substitute teacher in Torrance, California, Desirée is excited to be back on the east coast where she grew up. She has a Bachelor's from Hofstra University and 5 years experience in non-profit youth development. She is excited to put down roots as part of the Monty Tech family.



Merissa Blaisdell

Speech-Language Pathologist

Merissa started at Monty Tech in December of 2016. Prior to that she worked as a SLP in the Ayer Shirley Regional School District. She received her BA in Spanish from Assumption College; and an MA in Speech Language Pathology & Audiology from New York University. She is really looking forward to her first full year at Monty Tech.



Natalie Chase

English Teacher

Natalie is a recent graduate of Fitchburg State University. She completed her student teaching and was a long term substitute at Leominster High School. She has a Bachelor's in English with a concentration in Secondary Education. Natalie is excited to kick off her teaching career at Monty Tech.



Stephanie Delphia

Cosmetology Teacher

Stephanie is the owner of Shear Envy Hair Salon in Westminster and has over 15 years experience as a Cosmetologist. She attended Henri's School of Hair Design and worked at Cost Cutters immediately following her graduation. From there, she opened The Hair Lounge in Fitchburg, then Shear Envy. She is excited to be a part of the Cosmetology program at Monty Tech.



Rebecca Fluet

Special Education Paraprofessional

Prior to coming to Monty Tech, Rebecca was a Paraprofessional at Fitchburg High School. She graduated from Fitchburg State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics. She is very excited to start her new journey here at Monty Tech.



Francis Freel

English Teacher

Francis has spent the last 5 years at Leominster High School teaching Title I Reading and ESL. He has a Bachelor's Degree in English from Bridgewater State University, a Master's Degree in Journalism from Syracuse University and advanced graduate experience in English as a Second Language and Sheltered English Instruction. Francis is hoping that his gut feeling is correct and that he has found a new home here at Monty Tech.



Ellen Gammel

Technology/Instructional Technologist

Ellen spent 15 years teaching English at Fitchburg High School. She was a presenter at the MassCUE Annual Conference and the Right Question Institute International Conference. Ellen has a Bachelor's Degree in English from Worcester State University and a Master's of Arts in Teaching from Fitchburg State University. Ellen did not start teaching until she turned 37. She is very excited to be able to help with technology intergration.



Andrew Giese

Chemistry/Physics Teacher

Before coming to Monty Tech, Andrew taught Chemistry at Shrewsbury High School; Biology and Anatomy & Physiology at Worcester Public Schools. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry and Biology from Assumption College, with a concentration in Biotechnology. He has a Master's Degree in Public Health (MPH) from UMASS Amherst. Andrew is eager to help students achieve their full potential as they prepare for college and careers.



Samantha Harding

Engineering Technology Teacher

Samantha joins Monty Tech after working in the engineering field at RDK Engineers. She graduated from Western New England University in 2014 and went to work in the construction engineering field. Samantha was raised in the community and is looking forward to working in a school that has done so much for the area.



Lauren Hatfield

Physical Education Teacher

Former head softball coach at Dean College, current Field Hockey and Softball Coach at Leominster High School, and owner of Strike Zone Softball, Lauren is excited to be part of the Monty Tech team. Lauren is a graduate of Franklin Pierce, and, after graduation, continued on as the softball coach there. She has been coaching at the college and high school level for over 20 years.



Kelsey McCarthy

Guidance Counselor

Kelsey recently completed a 2-year internship in the guidance department at Hudson High School. She has a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Worcester State University and a Master of Arts in School Counseling from Assumption College. Kelsey loves what she does and is looking forward to her first of many years at Monty Tech.



Benjamin Robinson

Vocational Specialist

Since graduating from college, Ben has been working for Kiwi Chimney Service, doing all aspects of chimney repair and maintenance. Ben graduated from Fitchburg State University with a Bachelor's Degree in History. He is excited for the opportunity to work along side a terrific group of educators to help prepare students for their future.



Christine Schlupf, DVM

Veterinary Science Lead Teacher

Most recently, Christine was a veterinarian at the Humane Society of Greater Nashua. Prior to that, she was in private practice. She has a BSC in Zoology and Paleontology from the University of Toronto, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Ontario Veterinary College, and 20 years of experience working as a veterinarian in New England. Christine is looking forward to welcoming students to the newest vocational program.

Kasey Wozniak

English Teacher

Before coming to Monty Tech, Kasey was a long term substitute at Marlborough High School and Douglas High School. Over the summer, she worked as the assistant coordinator of the CIT program at Southborough Recreation. In 2016, she graduated from Worcester State University, where she majored in English, minored in Secondary Education, with a concentration in Women's Studies. She started her Master's program at Boston University this fall.





House carpentry teacher Floyd Morrison demonstrates how to install a roof for a group of freshmen exploring the program recently

Freshmen Learn About Careers Through Exploratory Program

From now until the end of the first semester, freshmen will be learning firsthand about the 21 career and technical programs offered at Monty Tech by participating in the Freshman Exploratory Program.

During the first vocational week, all incoming freshmen rotate through a pre-exploratory program that consists of spending two periods in each career program.

At the conclusion of the week, students select 12 career programs they would like to explore, i.e., spend more time in, during the first semester. Freshman guidance counselors will then place students in a nine-week rotation, exploring nine of their 12 choices.

After completing the nine-week rotation, and discussing their options with their parents, all freshmen will select their top six choices for their final vocational placement.

One important question asked by many parents is “how are students selected for their permanent placement?” Selection is based on three key factors: students’ choices, assessment score, and available space. In other words, vocational placement is determined by students’ ranking of the vocational areas (1 to 6); the grade the students receive during their time in the shop, and space availability.

Students are graded on conduct, effort, cooperation, willingness to follow instructions, completion of daily tasks, personal safety and care of equipment. “It is very important that students work to the best of their abilities in all their exploratories. We don’t want them to jeopardize their chance of getting their top choice by putting in less effort in any area,” said Counselor Shelley Reyes.

She added that the Guidance Department makes every effort to place students in one of their top choices.

Students will be placed in their permanent trade areas by the end of January 2018.

Senior Wins Laptop at College & Career Fair



Senior Courtney Rivard of Fitchburg was recently presented with a HP laptop, complete with software and total security package. Courtney had the winning ticket for the raffle held as part of the 11th annual College and Career Fair. Held recently in the school, the event featured representatives from close to 100 college, universities, technical schools and labor organizations. A total of 300 area high-school students and their parents attended. A Health Occupations major, Courtney will be continuing her studies in nursing in college next fall. With her are Principal Thomas R. Browne and Student Support Services Director Victoria Zarozinski.

Machine Technology Gets Major Facelift Thanks to Grant



Thanks to a major grant, Monty Tech's Machine Technology program received a major facelift this summer.

The FY17 Skills Capital grant from the Baker-Polito Administration totaling \$435,856 has made it possible to bring cutting-edge technology and equipment to the program that will benefit both day and evening students.

It is also enabling instructors to implement industry-standard, enhanced instruction designed to prepare students for highly skilled jobs in Machine Technology/Manufacturing.

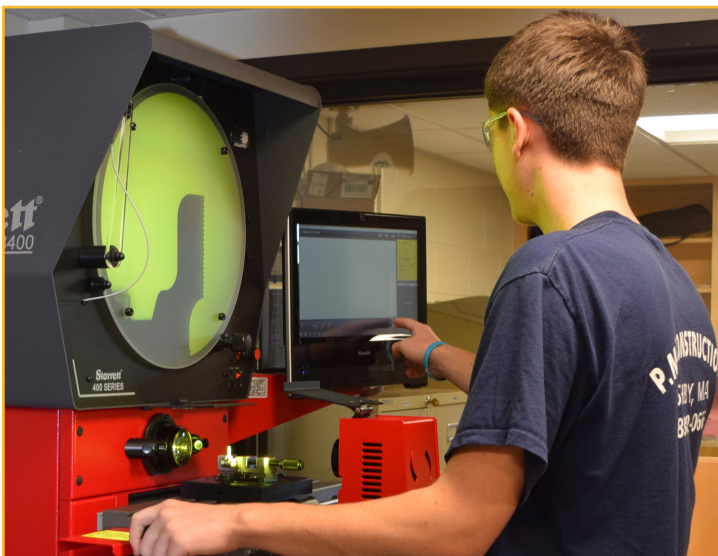
The funds have also made it possible for the establishment of an evening program targeting unemployed and/or underemployed workers with an interest in Machining/Manufacturing.

The shop area has been completely renovated to include a Clean Room environment, which replicates a new, modern and clean industry setting, where students can train for entry-level careers in quality control and other related career fields. It also features a newly renovated metrology lab fully outfitted with the latest metrology tools from the Starrett Co. in Athol.

Funds also purchased new milling machines, precision measure equipment and a variety of hand tools that will enable our students to earn new credentials through a unique partnership with Starrett Tool and Snap-On.

Snap-On has joined forces with Starrett Co. to create the newest addition to Snap-On's series of technical education certification courses, known in the industry as the PMI (precision measuring instruments) certification. Monty Tech is now a national leader in providing this unique certification, along with one in advanced measuring instruments (AMI).

Teachers from a number of shops assisted with the renovations.



Golfers Defy the Odds, Not Once, But Twice!

For some golfers, a hole-in-one is a once-in-a-lifetime achievement. Recently, the Monty Tech golf team accomplished that feat twice in one match.

Senior Damon Gunsalus of Westminster (right) and sophomore Alex Diaz of Barre each posted an ace at Chelmsford Country Club to lead the Bulldogs (2-2) to a 162-189 victory over Nashoba Tech. Gunsalus drained a pitching wedge from 100 yards out, while Diaz holed a 3-wood from 200 yards.

Watch out for these two on the pro tour in the not-too-distant future!



New Veterinary Science Program Is Accepting Students

What was once merely a dream and a sketch on paper, is fast becoming a reality. Monty Tech's new, 21st vocational-technical program is officially operational and temporarily housed in a converted classroom until the new Veterinary Science Training Center and Community Clinic is completed and ready for students and teachers.

Recently hired veterinarian and lead instructor Dr. Christine Schlupf is currently introducing freshmen to the basics of Veterinary Science through Monty Tech's Freshman Exploratory Program. Freshmen will rotate through the curriculum until a permanent class of approximately 20 students is placed in the program at the start of the second semester.

Since last fall, students and teachers in the Building Trades spend their trade weeks building the new, 7,500 square-foot-structure, located on school grounds, which will house the new program and a community pet clinic. The site will serve as the educational setting for the program, as well as housing a state-of-the-art veterinary clinic, where area pets will receive affordable health care.

Construction of the building is progressing on schedule, according to school officials. To help expedite the project, teachers in a number of building trades spent the summer working on the site. They completed about 50 percent of the roof and installed the exterior siding.

Now that the students are back on site, they are finishing the roof and tackling interior work, such as electrical wiring, plumbing hook ups, and HVAC installation. They will also start work on the boiler room.



SkillsUSA Students Shine At National Competition

It was a banner year for Monty Tech this summer at the 53rd annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference held in June in Louisville, KY.

Senior Grace Kirrane of Fitchburg, Health Occupations major, captured the position of National Region 1 Vice President. She is also a member of the SkillsUSA-Massachusetts State Executive Council for 2017-2018.

Kristyn Gordon of Fitchburg, a recent graduate, won the gold medal in the dental assisting competition. David Fors of Lunenburg, another recent graduate, brought home a silver medal in the Collision Repair Technology: Auto Body contest. Senior Kayla Gerry of Athol, won the bronze medal in nurse assisting.

All Monty Tech competitors finished in the top 10. Teamworks members, all recent graduates, placed fourth. They include: Sean Paul Tomer of Leominster (carpentry), Nicholas Couture of Phillipston (electrical), Brian Gallant of Templeton (plumber), and Nathan Kay of Athol (masonry). Senior Allison Lind of Ashburnham finished 9th in masonry.

More than 6,000 outstanding career and technical education students---all state contest winners---competed in 100 different hands-on trade, technical and leadership fields. Students work against the clock and each other, proving their expertise in career fields such as, electronics, computer-aided drafting, precision machining, medical assisting and culinary arts.

Industry leaders from 600 businesses, corporations, trade associations and unions develop the contests, and evaluate the contestants against industry standards for entry-level workers.

Nearly 50,000 students from across the Commonwealth currently participate in SkillsUSA-Massachusetts.



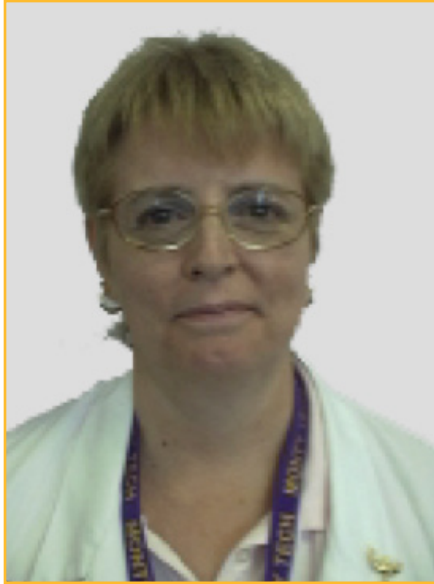
SkillsUSA®

Senior Grace Kirrane of Fitchburg is the new SkillsUSA National Region1 Vice President.



SkillsUSA national medal winners are, from left, graduates Kristyn Gordon (gold) and David Fors (silver) and senior Kayla Gerry (bronze).

Director of Practical Nursing Program Has Article Published



S. Holly LaFrance

Congratulations to S. Holly LaFrance, MSN, RN, Director of Monty Tech's Practical Nursing Program, who was recently published in the September/October 2017 issue of "Nurse Educator."

Co-author of the article entitled, "Actualization of a Seamless Nursing program," Ms. LaFrance encourages people to consider a LPN-BSN model when seeking a nursing education program. This bridge model is not only a cost-effective option, but is also an avenue to enter a high quality-nursing program often without a wait list or numerous prerequisite courses.

Appointed to the director's position in July 2003, Ms. LaFrance holds a master's degree in nursing, with a major in Leadership and Management. She currently serves as co-chair of the Massachusetts/Rhode Island League in Nursing (MARILN) Practical Nursing Council and MARILN Board of Directors. The organization is a constituency league of the National League in Nursing (NLN).

For more information about Monty Tech's very successful PN program, visit Monty Tech's website at www.montytech.net. and go to the Practical Nursing Program link.

23rd Annual Golf Tourney Nets Funds for Scholarships

The weather might have felt more like August than September, but that didn't deter more than 100 golfers from enjoying a day on the links recently at the beautiful Oak Hill Country Club in Fitchburg. The 23rd annual Monty Tech Golf Tournament featured a round of golf, raffle prizes, attendance gifts, dinner and awards ceremony. Sponsored by the Monty Tech Foundation, this year's event netted a record amount of funds, which will be used for student scholarships.

