

# Porter County Career and Technical Education

A Division of Porter County Educational Services

[www.pccte.org](http://www.pccte.org)

2012 Annual Report Accountability Report to the Public



A guy can be a nurse, and a girl can do heavy construction. Will Rospieski and Ashley Seigh are non-traditional students in their respective classes.

graduate. She took a year of Horticultural Science and lauded her teacher, Mrs. Angie Sutherlin, for helping prepare her for life at Purdue University.

Though the field is dominated by males, Ellie is studying plant breeding, genetics and biotechnology and minoring in agribusiness.

“The concept of a vocational class is much more like a college course than any high school class I ever took!” Ellie emphasized.

PCCTE welcomes males and females to all of its programs.

PCCTE served 960 half-day students in 2011-12 from its 10 high schools. Students earned 3,200 dual college credits at no cost to their parents.

Sarah Jackett, a 2012 Chesterton High School graduate, accepted the state’s Award for Excellence for her work in Video Production & Media Studies. She is a freshman broadcasting student at Ball State University.

## ‘Non-traditional’ Students Sought CTE Classes Serve Both Genders

Career and Tech Education breaks some of the stereotypes associated with gender. Yes, girls take Welding. Of course, boys sign up for Health Occupations and Dental Careers.

“Being a male in a female dominated career has never discouraged me from entering this field of study,” said Kris Springman, a 2012 Portage High School graduate who took Medical Terminology/Anatomy & Physiology and then Health Occupations. He is pursuing a degree in the radiology field at Indiana University Northwest.

Vincent Grahovac, a 2012 graduate of Hobart High School, is looking forward to clinical placements at the wide range of hospitals available on the IUPUI campus. He is studying nursing, having taken Emergency Medical Services and Health Occupations while in high school.

“I would recommend a vocational class to anybody planning on going to college,” advised Ellie Gorski, a 2012 Valparaiso High School



Jessica Klopfer, Chesterton High School, learns how to do a uniform cut from Ms. Janet at Don Roberts Beauty School. Men and women can be highly successful in the business.

*“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”*

– Thomas A. Edison

The Porter County  
Career & Technical Education  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

is a yearly communication tool to  
area businesses and to the taxpayers.

We welcome comments and  
questions about this report.

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Please visit our website:  
[www.pccte.org](http://www.pccte.org)

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*Participating High Schools  
Porter County Career and Technical  
Education is proud to be supported by  
the following high schools:*

Boone Grove  
Chesterton  
Hebron  
Hobart  
Kouts  
Morgan Township  
Portage  
Valparaiso  
Washington Township  
Wheeler

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# Director's Report

*"The number one predictor of  
post-secondary success is having a  
mature and realistic career goal."*

-- Kenneth Gray, author, *Getting Real*



*Welcome* to the Porter County Career and  
Technical Education Annual Report for 2012!

Career and Technical Education is rigorous, cutting edge  
technical instruction. CTE is where students discover the  
relevance of their general education. Good math skills and  
workplace behaviors are expected.

We help students prepare for life after high school. Since our programs are a collaboration  
among 10 high school partners, we are able to significantly expand each school's curriculum  
with many additional career options.

Indiana has embarked on the development of a comprehensive Career Pathways Project that  
will coordinate the high school and post-secondary curriculum into a single six year program  
of study. The model will include the opportunity for dual credit, a broad career curriculum  
framework, and statewide curriculum standards, along with a dependable state assessment  
or national certification program. The end result of this work will be a consistent set of state  
standards that will be linked to national certification. Our students will leave high school with  
an identified level of technical skill, a college transcript, and some kind of state or national  
certification.

New jobs and jobs of the future will continue to require technical skills in addition to  
the important workplace competencies of punctuality, quality, and teamwork. Students in our  
programs will learn **leadership** skills through collective projects, be **mentored** by knowledgeable  
teachers, and they will gain the powerful technical **experience** that is in such high demand today  
by employers. Seventy per cent of the skilled workforce of today will be retiring in the next ten  
years. Our students will be prepared to fill these jobs.

Our Career and Technical Education program has grown to be one of the largest vocational  
programs in the state. We also boast about having the **best CTE faculty** in Indiana. Many  
programs meet **state and national certification** criteria. Nearly all of our classes also are approved  
for **college credit**, so students can get their college transcript started while still in high school.

CTE programs are **good for all kids**. It helps them learn about and decide upon a career  
before running up against the high expense of college tuition. *The best college students are the  
ones who have well-developed career goals.* For other students, the ability to go to work at a  
competitive technical salary right out of high school is a very attractive option. Please visit our  
website for more information [www.pccte.org](http://www.pccte.org)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Groth". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jon Groth,  
Director of Career and Technical Education  
Principal, Porter County Career and Technical Center  
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# Striving To Be *The Best*

*PCCTE teachers annually nominate their top students for consideration in the Indiana Awards for Excellence program. A local advisory board along with PCCTE Director Jon Groth reviews these nominations and selects the very best students to represent the PCCTE in the state competition.*

*Congratulations to the following Award for Excellence nominees.*

## ***A unique partnership in Indiana has led to an award nomination.***

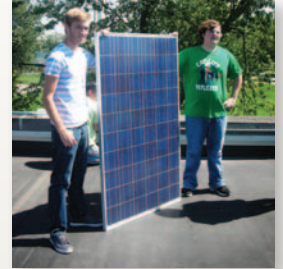
The Career Center's Wind & Solar Development Project shows off the use of alternative sources of power and takes advantage of space available on the career center's roof.

Students from Electronics & Computer Technology and Modern Machining Technology have worked together to install a windmill, a robotic solar tracker, solar panels and more. The latest acquisition is 32 more solar panels.

They are learning through trial and error and expect to sell energy to NIPSCO at some point.

They are supported by not only PCCTE but also the Valparaiso Community Schools Maintenance Department, the Valparaiso Development Commission and Midwest Wind and Solar LLC.

Students get a chance to study energy creation and conservation.



A solar panel gets the attention of Riley VanEerd and Dave Matthys, both Electronics 2 students.

## **On some days you will find Benjamin Brubaker out on the roof.**



He's one of the regular students from Electronics & Computer Technology working on an alternative energy project at the Career Center.

An interest in electronics did not come to Ben in just the last few years. In fact, since seventh grade, he has worked with circuit boards and other such items.

His interest is appreciated by his teacher, Mr. David Kenning.

"Ben is an instructor's dream. He attends class each day well prepared and ready to learn. His self-motivation is so great that a little technical guidance is all that is required from me. Ben is extremely helpful in guiding other students who need extra help. He is a true pleasure to work with," Kenning added.

Ben hopes to pursue a degree in electrical engineering at Purdue University Calumet.

He carries a 3.143 grade point average at VHS.

A previous Kouts High School student, Ben has participated in 4-H for nine years and in the Rube Goldberg contest for three years.

## **Matthew Mues has been interested in law enforcement for as long as he can remember.**



The Valparaiso High School senior is taking Criminal Investigations this year, having completed Criminal Justice last year.

His cumulative grade point average is 3.84. Last year he earned certifications in CPR, first aid and a DNR Hunter Safety Certificate.

His goal is to attend Indiana University and the cadet officer program. He would love to return to Northwest Indiana and become part of a SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) team.

He gets accolades from his current instructor.

"Occasionally a student comes along that you just know is going to succeed. Matthew is one of them. I am confident that he will someday be an attribute to the citizens of the community he serves," offered Mr. Curt Hawkins, criminal investigations teacher.

Besides career and tech class, Matt has played the trombone at Valparaiso schools for seven years in a wide variety of bands.

## **South Dakota State University is the chosen school of Alexander Schreier.**



The Portage High School senior would like to study pre-medicine or nursing. Presently in Health Occupations, he took Medical Terminology/Anatomy & Physiology last year.

At PHS, Schreier was instrumental in raising \$9,000 to provide automated external defibrillators. The AED's help save lives.

He enjoys his activities in Health Occupations Students of America, having served as president in his class last year.

Alex works at the Hobart Animal Clinic and has also helped provide 2,000 pounds of supplies to the Hobart Humane Society.

He carries a GPA of 4.07, which has caught the eye of his instructor.

"Alex is an academically strong student. He is also a leader in the classroom and in the community. He captures the essence of this award. He consistently goes above and beyond to help others and promote positive health practices," noted Mrs. Lorna Marcus, health occupations and health careers teacher.

# Success Stories

*The articles below represent just a few of the hundreds of successful graduates from PCCTE.  
Please read and enjoy the success our graduates are experiencing.*

## Future teacher benefits from two-year program



Hands-on experience. A true understanding of what it means to be a teacher. New friendships.

These are a few benefits from Early Childhood Education (ECE) for **Amanda Heflin**.

The Chesterton High School graduate has been a fourth grade teacher for about three years at Bailey Elementary in Lake Station. She took the ECE class located at SELF School in Valparaiso.

“I cannot say enough on how it helped me,” she added. “I was ahead of all the other students in my education courses. I was able to use my experience in our class discussions, class work and class projects.”

Heflin earned her teaching degree from Indiana University Northwest. She works with regular and special education students.

“My time at SELF provided me with techniques that I still use today. I recommend this career/technical class to all high school students.”

**PCCTE will host  
open houses  
Jan. 24 and Feb. 6  
at most locations.  
See our website,  
[www.pccte.org](http://www.pccte.org),  
for details.**

## Printing class leads to career, romance



All the sponsor decals on the jazzy new Valparaiso High School scoreboard were installed by **Brandon Starr**.

The 2009 Portage High School graduate has continued in the field of printing. He presently does screen printing at Star Sports Apparel in Portage and makes vinyl decals on the side.

“He really knows his stuff,” said Bridgette Marshall, store manager. Starr does everything from screen printing to graphic design to customer service.

He spent every possible moment in the print shop during high school and worked there for three summers. He even met his girlfriend of four years, Breanna, through Printing Technology—now known as Graphic Imaging Technology.

Instructor Mark Fischer described Starr as a “down to earth kid”, talented designer and very hard worker.

Starr said his career-technical program helped a lot. “I came in the first day at my current job and knew everything I was doing.”

He encouraged others to consider programs. “They will help you out for the future,” he said.

## Marketing class prompts entrepreneurial career



“An outstanding entrepreneur”—that’s how marketing instructor Judy Commers describes former student **James Tudor**.

The 1986 Valparaiso High School graduate owns Tudor Services, Inc., which specializes in air duct cleaning, carpet cleaning and water damage renovation. Tile and grout cleaning are growing in popularity.

Tudor serves as a guest speaker at the Career Center. “I like the energy the students have. They seem to be more engaged than we were in high school,” he noted.

He added, “Mrs. Commers is quite amazing for the things she offers. She is a great asset to the community.”

He has helped raise about \$100,000 over the past nine years for Hoosier Burn Camp, primarily through an annual golf outing.

James has a family connection at the Career Center this year. Niece Jenna Wong, VHS senior, is in the Entrepreneurship/Sports & Entertainment Marketing class.

She plans to pursue a business degree at Valparaiso University and start a gluten-free bakery business in the future.

*There are no secrets to success. It is the result of  
preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.*

- Colin Powell