

# PORTER COUNTY

## Career and Technical Education

A Division of Porter County Education Services

2019 End of Year Report Accountability Statement to the Public

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

## CTE district continues to expand, excel

More and more opportunities for area teens--that is what we observe for Porter County Career and Technical Education as we look back on 2019.

The newest program started in fall, 2019. Construction Trades: Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) offers hands-on experience in a potentially very lucrative career.

The 14 juniors and seniors in the class said they are having fun and learning a lot in a field they hope to pursue.

Juniors will have a chance to continue in HVAC 2 for 2020-21 if there is enough demand.

Another program, Early Childhood Education at South Haven Elementary, will experience a change for 2020-21. The class will change its focus to Education

Professions and will move to Aylesworth Elementary School, Portage. Students will get a chance to work with both elementary and middle school students because of the proximity to Willowcreek Middle School.

Like the opportunities in most CTE programs, the students will have a chance to earn free dual college credits.

CTE programs welcomed new teachers Craig DeMeo, HVAC, with fellow instructor George Dvojacki; and Steve Hundt, Auto Services Technology. Hundt is a product of the Valpo Auto Services Technology program himself.

The 1,093 students in half-day classes in 2018-19 managed to earn 4,729 dual college credits to get a head start on post-secondary accomplishments. The dual credits represent a savings of more than \$600,000 to students' families.

Individual students had a chance to excel. Peter Stocker, a Valparaiso High School senior currently in CAD & Animation 2, won the Indiana Skills USA 3D animation competition in 2019. He then placed fifth in the U.S. at nationals.

Doug McKiddy, Welding instructor at Ivy Tech, was



Senior Kaitlyn "Lynn" Rocchi gets tips on safely brazing with a torch from instructor Craig DeMeo in the new HVAC program based at Ivy Tech Community College.

also proud of the pass rate for his students in industry-recognized certifications.

Current sophomores and juniors in the 10 high schools served by District 5 are invited to apply for CTE spots for 2020-21 by Feb. 7, 2020. The final open house of the year will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 4 for most programs. Visit [pccte.org](http://pccte.org) for the complete visit schedule.

We consider a visit vital for a good match between student and program.

Applications and 2020-21 program booklets are available from school counselors at Boone Grove, Chesterton, Hebron, Hobart, Kouts, Morgan, Portage, Valparaiso, Washington and Wheeler High Schools.



Safe techniques for stabilizing and transporting a patient are emphasized in the Emergency Medical Services class based at Hobart High. Senior year is the best time to take this class.

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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*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



## Welcome to the 2019 Porter County Career and Technical Education Annual Report!

We proudly announce that Career and  
Technical Education is rigorous, cutting edge  
technical instruction. CTE is where students  
discover the relevance of their general education.

We help students prepare for life after high  
school. Our programs are a collaboration among  
eight school corporation partners that expands

each school's curriculum with many additional career options. Our programs  
help students decide on a career and their future after high school.

Many things are new in Porter County Career and Technical Education. Our  
enrollment is high, and we are always working to expand our capacity. New  
programs include an HVAC program in collaboration with Ivy Tech, a very  
successful Firefighting program in partnership with the MAAC (Multi-Agency  
Academic Cooperative) and area fire departments, as well as our Cosmetology  
program, which is just in its second year in our on-site restored train depot.

We have completed our facility enhancements which added 7,500 sq  
ft to our Precision Machining program. We will also have new, improved  
facilities for our Electronics, Video Productions, Marketing, Health Science  
Education, Cosmetology, and CAD & Animation programs. Additionally,  
improved building security, parking lot, and traffic flow improvements will also  
be finished.

Our Career and Technical Education program has grown to be one of the  
largest vocational programs in the state. We boast 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 transcripts started while still in high school.

CTE programs are good for all kids. They help 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 is  
very attractive.

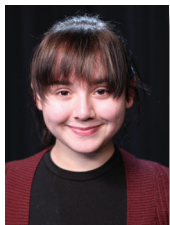
We look forward to meeting you at our final open house on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

**Jon Groth**  
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## Excellence Award Nominees Identified

*Five seniors selected to represent Career & Tech Ed District 5*



The best decision I ever made.

Ask an outstanding senior about his or her career and tech class--and that is the answer you will get.

Taking two years of CAD Design & Animation has led **Marissa Carlson**, left, to pursue a degree related to animation at Purdue University.

The Valparaiso High School senior likes to draw and participate in retreats and volunteer work with her youth group.

Taking a career and tech ed class, she said, opens opportunities for one to get ahead by saving money and potentially getting excused from classes in college.

Two years of Health Science Education has led **Leiana Lara**, also of Valparaiso High School, right, to pursue a future as a nurse anesthetist or a nurse practitioner in the emergency room.

"You're not going to regret coming here," said the 18-year-old. "If you do get the chance to come here, come here."



She likes to draw, work out and volunteer in the community. She plans to attend Indiana University Bloomington.

Even though **Brianna Merritt**, left, senior at Hobart High School, plans a different college major, she is glad to have studied Cosmetology for two years.

The 17-year-old plans to study nursing at Indiana University Northwest and use her skills and Indiana Cosmetology license to earn good pay while attending college.

She described Cosmetology as fun and a great learning experience. She likes being treated more like an adult in CTE class and learning to communicate while working on clients.

Two years in Video Production and Media Studies have given that extra edge to **Logan Ozdyck**, right, Valparaiso High School senior.



The 18-year-old plans to study communications at Valparaiso University. He already works for VU as a crew member

for their ESPN broadcasts and has a radio show at VU.

He enjoys writing and music--anything related to media. An eighth grade visit to the Career Center and specifically the video production classroom led him to his leadership in sports production these past two years. He has loved creating with music and video since about age 6.

Visits to all different programs and classrooms helped

**Jordan Rongstad**, right, senior at Hobart High, determine that she especially likes first grade as a potential teaching assignment.



The 17-year old has spent two years in Early Childhood Education at South Haven Elementary, but she does some additional work at the Brickie Kidz Early Learning Center in Hobart.

"Go for it," she said, "when you find a program you really enjoy."

She has spent time as an athletic training aide at Hobart High and enjoys tutoring nieces and nephews. She plans to get a degree in elementary education at Purdue Northwest.

### Future career firefighter

#### Vale guiding younger students

A 2019 graduate is already at work helping fellow students excel in their CTE class.

Caila Vale, a Hebron High School graduate, was hired by the MAAC Foundation, to assist the juniors and seniors in the Fire and Rescue program, now in its second year.

Besides attending Ivy Tech for fire science and paramedicine, Caila leads study sessions about the state's four skills and four written tests, reviews new skills and helps in any other way.

Examples of new skills so far are following a hose line in a smoky environment, rescuing a down firefighter, drags and hazmat skills. Students are working on 12 free college credits and multiple nationally recognized certifications.

Lt. Robert Schulte, one of the two instructors, said Vale also serves as a mentor to her students.

"She exemplifies what a successful student firefighter should be," added the Valparaiso firefighter.

The 19-year-old hopes to be a career firefighter once she completes her own classes and turns 21.



**In full firefighting gear, 2019 graduate Caila Vale demonstrates proper technique at the Multi Academic Agency Cooperative in Valparaiso.**

## Sophomores and juniors:

Looking for interesting  
electives that lead to a  
good career?

Apply to join our Career and Tech Ed  
family. Visit our programs

**Feb. 4**

See the full schedule at [pccte.org](http://pccte.org)  
(select Enrollment tab)

## Former students build on positive CTE exposure



**Bailey Bristley enjoys the view in Italy as part of her college experience.**

In five years, expect to see **Bailey Bristley** teaching first or second grade.

The Hobart High School graduate said she frequently shares in her college classes at Purdue Northwest at Westville examples of what she learned under Mrs. Cheryl Bunch in Brickie Kidz Preschool.

She is majoring in Early Childhood Education and even got to visit Italy in May, 2019, to visit various primary schools and the University of Bologna.

The 19-year-old urged everyone to consider a career and tech ed class. "It was such a good experience that truly helped me decide my career," she noted.

"Without a doubt, the two years of electronics at PCCTC set me ahead first off in college, as well as

in the working field," commented **Harrison Draves**.

The Washington Twp. High School graduate said many of the valuable hands-on tasks through which he learned in Electronics class were not done in college.

Draves, 25, currently works at Johnson Controls as a lead systems specialist and has a goal to become a systems engineer.

His responsibilities include maintaining project budget, customer satisfaction, and performing high level technical tasks such as programming, building automation device checkout, and commissioning.



**Harrison and Aubrey Draves married in September.**

Early Childhood Education has forged a career for **Nicole Thalmann**, Hebron High School.

While finishing up her associate degree at Ivy Tech in Lafayette, the 19-year-old is also working with 3-year-olds full-time at Brookshire Learning Center, Lafayette.

She credits teacher Danielle Zeceovich with helping her to be organized in work and classroom. She describes being in the career and tech ed program at SELF Building and then

Cooks Corners Elementary as the happiest two years of her life. She said she always looked forward to going to the class.



**Nicole Thalmann, former Early Childhood Ed student, supervises her class at a learning center in Lafayette.**