

Career and Technical Education Highlights for April 2023

Career Experiences:

Teen Job Fair

Chantilly Academy hosted a teen job fair open to all students in the surrounding area on March 25th. The event was sponsored by Pat Herrity, Springfield District Supervisor, Connection Newspapers, Fairfax County Public Schools as well as local Chambers and other organizations. The event welcomed over 250 students and parents who spoke with potential employers and learned about the trending jobs in the area. Students were able to submit resumes, speak to employers and even schedule job interviews. This pipeline for employment for the students is invaluable.

Academy Speaker Series

Once again guest speakers and industry demonstrations dominated the career experience activities in March of 2023. Visitors included The Fairfax County Police Department Gang Unit's visit to Criminal Justice. In Electrical Construction and Engineering, students got to hear about career opportunities from the US Marine Corps and US Army Recruiters, a great presentation with Q and A where students asked in-depth questions of Chris Corridon owner of Jim Corridon Electric. His presentation focused on what to look for in a quality electrical employer who will invest in you and your future. Edison Academy Electrical Program Alumnus, Owen Collins, visited in the Electrical classroom. Owen recently completed his journeyman's apprenticeship with Corridon electric and his presentation focused on strategies to successfully go from high school to start apprenticeship education and a career in the skilled trades.

Other visitors included Tim Cropp, owner of Cropp Metcalfe and his Cropp Academy training program management team visiting in the HVAC & Refrigeration program to observe student presentations, give feedback and share information about their apprenticeship training program with the HVAC program.

Fairfax Academy is hosting a "Career Speaker Series" for all classes at the academy. Guests have been scheduled to speak to students face-to-face or virtually throughout the month of March and into April. Speakers will visit classes in Fine Arts, CTE and World Languages. Guests include professional fashion designer and founder of Thikarul Designs, Creative Producer from Distant Moon, professional dance instruction to choreograph work for the dance classes, owner of the music studio Sweet Spot and instructors from American University. Having these professionals take the time to inspire and educate the students is priceless!

Four doctoral candidates and one of the professors from the Bernard J. Dunn School of Pharmacy at Shenandoah University presented to the Level 2 Pharmacy Technician students about the pharmacy program they offer. In addition, the presenters talked about the path they plan to take after receiving their doctorates and why they chose this career path. At the end of their visit the Shenandoah University guests tried to stump these students with what they thought was a challenging game of Pharmacy Jeopardy. What they found was that these Academy Pharmacy students were on top of their game and knew the material they were throwing out. Pretty impressive group of students ready to take on college level pharmacy!

Academy Events

Academy events will be held at multiple academies throughout April and May.

- Residential Construction Lot 12 Open House - April 12th 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Spring Village Site
- Fairfax Academy MCTfest - April 22nd 7:00 p.m. at Sherwood Center
- Edison Academy Electrical Program ECE Night and Induction Ceremony - April 26th 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Edison's Electrical classroom
- Fairfax Academy Fashion in Motion - April 29th 5:00 p.m. at the Shrevewood Center
- Fairfax Academy Dance Showcase - May 5th 7:00 p.m. and May 6th 1:00 p.m. at Fairfax High School Auditorium
- Edison Academy Awards - May 11th 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Edison High School Auditorium
- MTAS Showcase - May 12th at 7:00 p.m. Fairfax High School
- West Potomac Academy Awards - May 15th – 19th during class periods
- Chantilly Academy Awards - May 17th 6:30 p.m. Chantilly High School Auditorium
- Falls Church Academy Awards - May 22nd 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at Falls Church High School Auditorium
- Fairfax Academy Awards - May 23rd 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. at Fairfax High School Auditorium
- Marshall Academy Awards - May 26th 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. at Marshall High School auditorium

Business and Information Technology:

Commonwealth Cyber Cup

Students from several Fairfax County schools traveled to Spotsylvania HS on Saturday March 4th to compete in the first annual Commonwealth Cyber Cup. Students participated in a statewide Capture the Flag (CTF) cybersecurity competition with students from across the state. The competition focused on various cybersecurity topics including web application security, network traffic analysis, cryptography and more.

Cyber Security and Criminal Justice Career Fair

Marshall Academy hosted a “Criminal Justice and Cyber Security Career Fair” on March 28 for students at Marshall as well as surrounding school locations. Students engaged with career fair exhibitors and learned about career pathways, employment opportunities, summer camps, and enrichment program.

The following organizations participated: Armed Forces, Customs and Boarder Protection, FBI, TSA, Arlington Police, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, Fairfax County’s 911 Call Center, MC Dean, Marymount, NOVA, WVU and Year Up, just to name a few.

Health and Medical Science:

NOVA’s Cadaver Lab

The Health and Medical Science (HMS) students at Falls Church Academy were visited by NOVA’s Cadaver Lab. HMS students are able to visit the cadaver lab and learn more about body systems and positions of organs. In addition, students learn about NOVA’s simulation labs and the courses they offer.

Dental Screening

Falls Church Academy Dental Careers 2 students and their teacher Dr. Julie Jung hosted a Dental Screening event at Mason Crest ES on March 14 and 15. In addition to offering dental screenings to kindergarten students, the Dental Careers 2 students hosted informational stations on oral hygiene and good nutrition.

Career Prep Day

Students attending West Potomac Governor’s Health Sciences Academy recently were visited by a host of local businesses and organizations who shared information about health and medical careers and the educational requirements necessary to land them.

The Career Prep Day included a professional guest speakers conference and presentations on associate jobs and specific career pathways, resume writing, tips for interviewing, mock interviews, lessons about online applications, professional communication, dress, and more.

PATHS Mentor Program

West Potomac Academy in partnership with George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, PATHS Program, are piloting a Mentor Program. Students in Exploring Health Sciences and Language of Medicine and Biotech Foundations applied for a PATHS Mentor. The PATHS Mentor Program is a Virtual Model. Students participate with their Mentors in Monthly Career Prep Group Workshops and Mentors work individually with students on Career Exploration and Preparation, in addition to select students are participating in the API Research Project with their Mentor. During the

pilot year, we have been able to match 16 students with a PATHS Mentor. The PATHS Mentors volunteer from George Washington Hospital, NIH, and Johns Hopkins from the Health and Medical Sciences career fields.

Pharmacy Tech

West Potomac Pharmacy Tech students are completing 130 Pharmacy Hours in local Giant Pharmacies per the Virginia Board of Pharmacy to take the National Board Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam in May. Ten students elected to take the Internship for Credit Course and are completing an additional 280 hours in a Giant Pharmacy plus the required 130 hours. All these students have been hired as employees by Giant/Ahold Corp. through their Internship and West Potomac Academy Pharmacy Technician Program.

Inova Clinical Shadows

Medical Assisting Students are participating in Clinical Shadows with Inova Ambulatory Services Specialty Clinics. Students spend a day shadowing a Medical Assistant in an Inova Clinical Specialty of their choice. Participating Inova Clinics to include, Cardiology, Vascular and Cardiac Surgery, Primary Care, OBGYN, and Neurology.

Therapy Dogs Visit

Falls Church Academy health and medical science students had some furry visitors! Students met therapy dogs who are active and in training along with their handlers/trainers through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs organization. Students learned how this organization provides testing, certification, registration, support, and insurance for members who volunteer with dogs to visit hospitals, special needs centers, schools, nursing homes, and other facilities.

INOVA Blood Drive

Health and Medicine students from West Potomac Academy and Chantilly Academy hosted an Inova Blood Donor Service Bloodmobiles for a Blood Drive. Students managed the schedule, donor sign up, registration, canteen, and distributed T-shirts to donors. We are grateful to our school community for being a part of this lifesaving initiative.

Family and Consumer Sciences:

Food and Nutrition Month

Family and Consumer Science students from Poe MS helped their school celebrate Food and Nutrition Month! The classes came up with health food choices that also represented food from different ethnic backgrounds of their school. They also had a juice bar.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Culinary arts students at Mount Vernon HS along with their instructor Nabil Ibrahim celebrated St. Patrick's Day with the MVHS staff by offering them a potato bar with many different toppings!

STEAM and Computer Science:

STEAM in PreK

A huge shout out to our STEAM team for all their work on integrating STEAM in PreK!

As of this year, 100% of PreK and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) students now have the opportunity to engage in STEAM learning. This milestone has been achieved through collaboration across the Office of Early Childhood (OEC), Department of Special Services (DSS), and Instructional Services Department (ISD).

This [YouTube video](#) shows what STEAM learning looks like in early childhood – students are:

- Exploring, creating, and testing ideas in an environment where it is safe to make mistakes
- Asking questions and designing the problems they want to explore
- Developing POG skills and academic readiness goals like oral language development

Technology and Engineering Education:

Vertical Farming System

The vertical farming system run by engineering students at Luther Jackson Middle School is growing lettuce and publicity! FCPS News shared pictures and student feedback about the Aquaponics Lab in an article featured on the FCPS website. Way to go Mark Smith, TEE teacher at LJMS!

Robotics for the Win

The FIRST Robotics Competition is a national contest in which teams of students are challenged to raise funds, design a team "brand," hone teamwork skills, and build and program industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game against like-minded competitors. It's as close to real-world engineering as a student can get. We are so excited for our very own Chantilly Robotics, FRC 612, will be attending a FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC), Chesapeake District event at Deep Run High School in Glen Allen, VA, 25 – 26 March 2023. The team finished in 3rd place alliance in last week's regional qualifiers.

Trade and Industrial Education:

Auto Collision and HVAC Accreditation Process

A huge congratulations to the Auto Collision and HVAC programs at Edison Academy! They completed their accreditation process and received their new accreditation! Auto Collision is taught by Charles Cornwell and HVAC is taught by Robert Stringham.

CTE Basics: Program Advisory Committee Guidebook

Robert Stringham, HVAC instructor at Edison Academy has accomplished his goal of authoring a book titled "CTE Basics: Program Advisory Committee Guidebook". The book outlines the guidelines for setting up and running an effective program advisory committee for CTE, and it includes insights from his own experiences as a teacher and graduate of our high school.

Carpentry Shed Project

Carpentry students from Chantilly Academy are gaining real-world experiences by building a shed for the Chantilly HS Leadership Program.

JROTC:

FCPS JROTC Competition

Congratulations to the Hayfield SS JROTC "Hawkeyes" 3PAR Sporter air rifle team who earned 2nd place in the FCPS JROTC annual 3 PAR air rifle competition. The Hayfield JROTC program hosted the annual air rifle competition at the Arlington-Fairfax chapter Isaac Walton League with 50 participants. This is an annual event held in early Spring as the final match for the season. This event is unique in that the Cadets get to experience the same targeting and scoring technology use in the Olympics air rifle competition.

Outstanding New Teacher-Secondary School

Congratulations to Major Melvin Burch-Bynum, the MCJROTC instructor at Mount Vernon HS, for being selected as the pyramid award winner for Outstanding New Teacher-Secondary School!! Major Burch-Bynum was also selected as the Mount Vernon HS Outstanding New Teacher. Way to go!

Regional Director Visit

Chantilly Academy AFJROTC program hosted the Regional Director from HQ Air Force JROTC for unit evaluation. The evaluation has a four-tier rating system and the highest rating you can receive overall or in any category is Exceeds Standards. The cadets earned an overall rating of EXCEEDS STANDARDS! This

award qualifies them for earning the highest honor a Corps of Cadets can receive, a Distinguished Unit with Merit.

For a breakdown of the evaluation, there are seven sections on the checklist; the unit earned EXCEEDS STANDARDS IN ALL SEVEN SECTIONS! Overall, the cadets earned EXCEEDS STANDARDS in 21 different categories. The major portion of the evaluation is Cadet Operations. This section is the one that validates the program is a cadet-run operation. There are six categories in this section and the cadets earned EXCEEDS STANDARDS IN ALL SIX CATEGORIES! Congratulations to the instructors and cadets!

JROTC Regional Best of the Best Drill Competition

Congratulations to South Lakes HS Seahawk JROTC Battalion! The Drill Team finished 1st in the Armed Division at the Army's JROTC Regional Best of the Best Drill Competition held in North Carolina. The team will advance to the Army's National Drill Competition to be held in Daytona Beach, FL on May 5th.

JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl A Team (JLAB)

Lake Braddock SS Army JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl A Team (JLAB) made the National Championship again this year! The National Championship will be held at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. from 23-27 June 2023. LBSS Army JROTC is the ONLY Army JROTC in the state of Virginia to advance to the National Competition! Over 300,000 Cadets compete annually which compute to 75,000 Army teams. Only the top 32 teams are selected to attend the Nationals annually.

CTSO Celebrations:

HOSA

Congratulations is in order for our HOSA students who participated in the Virginia HOSA Student Leadership Conference! FCPS had 12 top three finishes! Way to go Health and Medical Science students!

Educators Rising

Centreville HS Teachers for Tomorrow students competed in the Educators Rising State Leadership Competition on March 4th at Deep Run HS in Glenn Allen, VA. Three students placed 1st in the Ethical Dilemma competition.

DECA

Our FCPS DECA teams did an amazing job at the Virginia DECA State Leadership Conference. We had 203 students compete and 98 top three finishes! We also had 4 students earn scholarships and equally as exciting Shyla Menon of Fairfax High School was elected as vice president of Region 2! You can read about all the winners in the [FCPS news article](#).

SkillsUSA

Congratulations to the winners from the SkillsUSA district competition! They will represent FCPS and District V at the Virginia State Competition! FCPS had 13 top three finishes!

TSA

FCPS hosted the Technology Student Association Northern Virginia Regional Fair at TJHSST. Students competed in 18 events at the high school level and 13 events at the middle school level. Our FCPS HS teams had 116 top 10 finishes (out of 172) and 14 of those were first place! Our FCPS MS teams swept the competition with 67 out of 68 top 10 finishes! Congratulations to all those who competed and good luck at states!

FBLA

On March 2, Westfield High School hosted the Future Business Leaders of America Northern Virginia Regional Conference. Over 600 FCPS students competed in the more than 60 events. The events range in subject from Accounting and Management Information Systems to Social Media Strategies and Networking Infrastructures. After the awards were presented, 203 FCPS students from 18 schools placed in the top 3 for their event and qualified to compete at the FBLA State Leadership Conference which will be held in Reston on March 31 and April 1.

FCCLA

Irving MS, Luther Jackson MS, and Katherine Johnson MS will be recognized at the upcoming Family, Career and Community Leaders of America State Leadership & Recognition Conference for their Community Service project connected to the FCCLA National Program. This was accomplished by the hard work of students and teachers; funding was provided by the Virginia FCCLA Leadership Foundation 22-23 mini grant.

James Madison HS will also be recognized at the Conference for their Families First and Student Body projects connected to the FCCLA National Programs. This was accomplished by the hard work of students and teachers.

Lake Braddock SS Family & Consumer Sciences teacher, Toshieba Ragland, received the 22-23 FCCLA Adviser Mentor Award. This award will be presented at the FCCLA State Leadership Conference in Virginia Beach.