

TechLife

Your Award Winning News Publication

GRADUATION EDITION

CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATES!

PCTVS GRADUATES 1,000+ IN RECORD-SETTING CELEBRATION

Three ceremonies across two days mark a milestone for NJ's largest high school.

Passaic County Technical-Vocational Schools (PCTVS) celebrated the Class of 2025 with two memorable days of graduation ceremonies held on June 24 and 25, 2025. Over 1,000 students were honored for their hard work and achievements, marking the end of a journey characterized by growth, resilience, and dedication.

The celebration was a vibrant reflection of the hard work, determination, and passion that each student has shown throughout their journey. As the graduates crossed the stage,

it became clear that these students are not just ready for the next chapter—they are prepared to lead, innovate, and make a meaningful impact in their communities and beyond.

Family members, friends, and staff gathered to celebrate these accomplishments, with distinguished guests from the PCTVS Board of Education, the Passaic County Board of County Commissioners, and other local leaders in attendance.

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JOHN MAIELLO RETIRES AFTER 50 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

After nearly five decades of service in public education, PCTVS Superintendent John Maiello has retired. His leadership has been instrumental in the growth and success of our district, guiding PCTVS through significant advancements in both academic and career-focused programs. Under his steady and focused direction, the district has flourished. We congratulate John on his remarkable career and thank him for his dedication and service. Wishing him a fulfilling and well-deserved retirement as he embarks on this exciting new chapter!

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ACADEMY OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDENTS EXPERIENCE REAL-WORLD FORENSIC SCIENCE

Juniors from the Academy of Criminal Justice engaged in a practical autopsy lab led by Adriell Mercado, a crime scene investigator from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of NYC. This hands-on experience provided students with a unique, in-depth look at forensic science and criminal justice, allowing them to gain valuable insights into the real-world application of these fields.



PCTI STUDENTS SHINE AT NJAC COOKOFF WITH MAJOR WINS!

PCTI students recently competed in the NJAC Cookoff in Atlantic City, bringing home impressive victories! The Construction Team secured 1st place in Setting & Design, while the Culinary Team earned 2nd place overall and 2nd place in Plating. These remarkable achievements highlight the talent and dedication of PCTI's students, showcasing their skills in both construction and culinary arts. Congratulations to all the participants for their hard work and success!



MARKETING STUDENTS IN SHARK TANK-STYLE COMPETITION

Marketing students from the School of Business Careers recently participated in a Shark Tank-style event sponsored by Rt 23 Auto Mall and Ford Motor Company. Students had the opportunity to tour the facility and develop a business enhancement strategy. The event culminated in the awarding of prizes to the first and second place teams. Special thanks to our partners for providing this incredible opportunity, allowing students to showcase their skills in a real-world business setting.





JOSH COOPER - VALEDICTORIAN

Josh Cooper, the Class of 2025 PCTI Valedictorian, has demonstrated academic excellence, artistic passion, and leadership. With a GPA of 4.43, Josh has excelled in the School of Performing Arts Theater Program, embracing every opportunity to grow as both a performer and scholar. He is president of the National Thespian Society and involved in community theater. Josh will attend Syracuse University's Musical Theater Program, aiming for a Broadway career. He advises incoming freshmen to pursue their goals while appreciating life's small joys. Congratulations, Josh, on your remarkable achievements!

SALMAN CHOWDHURY - VALEDICTORIAN

Salman Chowdhury, the Class of 2025 PCTI STEM Academy Valedictorian, has excelled in academics, leadership, and community service. With a 4.5 GPA, Salman has been recognized as one of the top scholars in his class. His passion for engineering, sparked by a love for math, led him to the Academy of Engineering. Outside academics, Salman has served as a varsity fencer, FBLA president, and STEM vice president. Accepted to five Ivy League schools, Salman will attend Harvard University to pursue applied math and engineering. He encourages incoming freshmen to stay true to themselves and strive for their goals.



FATMA IBRAHIM - SALUTATORIAN

Fatma Ibrahim, the Class of 2025 Salutatorian at PCTI, has demonstrated academic excellence with a GPA of 4.4. A student in the Advertising Art and Design program, Fatma's passion for drawing has driven her to hone her creative skills. She serves as president of multiple honor societies and is a varsity starter on the flag football team. Fatma plans to attend Harvard University to study engineering and later pursue law to become an intellectual property lawyer. Her advice to underclassmen: "You miss every shot you don't take." Congratulations, Fatma, on your outstanding achievements!

VALENCIA LOWHUR - SALUTATORIAN

Valencia Lowhur, the Class of 2025 PCTI STEM Academy Salutatorian, has excelled with a 4.48 GPA. A student in the Academy of Computer Science, her passion for technology began in middle school and led her to pursue a rigorous course of study at PCTI STEM. Valencia is active in multiple leadership and academic organizations and has a strong artistic side, performing piano at Carnegie Hall. She will attend Northeastern University to major in Cell and Molecular Biology. Valencia encourages freshmen to embrace growth and follow their passions. Congratulations, Valencia, on your outstanding achievements!



STEM ROBOTICS TEAMS SHINE AT 21ST PCCC ROBOTICS COMPETITION

Two PCTI STEM robotics teams excelled at the 21st PCCC Robotics Competition, bringing home several prestigious awards. The teams secured 1st place in the Jenga Challenge and the Science & Technology Presentation. In addition to their top performances, they were recognized for their enthusiasm and teamwork, earning the Best School Spirit award. This impressive showing highlights the dedication, talent, and school pride of the PCTI STEM robotics teams. Congratulations to all!



PCTI BIOMED TEAMS SHINE AT STEAM TANK CHALLENGE FINALS

Congratulations to the two outstanding Biomed teams from the PCTI-STEM Academy for their impressive performance at the NJSBA/U.S. Army STEAM Tank Challenge Finals! Your innovative solutions and dedication to addressing real-world challenges in sustainability, health, equity, and safety truly stood out. A special congratulations to the team that earned 1st place – your hard work and creativity have earned you well-deserved recognition.

STEM EXPO HIGHLIGHTS EXCELLENT INNOVATION

The STEM Expo highlighted the impressive yearlong research of PCTI STEM Academy students across the Biomedical, Computer Science, and Engineering pathways. Students presented capstone projects and independent studies, judged by a panel, with winners selected in each category and one standout overall. Congratulations to the winners:

- Computer Science: Wafeeqa H., Jennifer T., Raneen M.
- Biomedical Science: Elizabeth F., Arjun S., Tanishi P.
- General Research: Alex D.
- STEM Best in Show: Ahnaf A., Liam B., Salman C., Jason L.

A celebration of curiosity, creativity, and STEM excellence!



2025 ALUMNI PANEL INSPIRES COMMUNICATION ARTS STUDENTS

The School of Communication Arts proudly hosted the 2025 Alumni Panel, where former Bulldogs returned to share their career journeys and reflect on how PCTI shaped their paths. Alumni from various creative industries and professional fields provided valuable insights, offering inspiration to current students. The event highlighted the lasting impact of a PCTI education and gave students the opportunity to connect with successful alumni who once walked the same halls.



SENIOR ACHIEVEMENTS SPOTLIGHTED AT AWARDS CEREMONIES

PCTI and the STEM Academy each hosted their own Senior Awards ceremonies to recognize students who have made significant achievements in their academics and CTE programs, with awards presented by various business, educational, and community organizations. These special nights celebrated the remarkable accomplishments of our dedicated students. Congratulations to all!



PCTVS STUDENTS SHOWCASE IMPRESSIVE NASA HUNCH PROJECTS

Congratulations to all NASA HUNCH finalists! Students from PCTVS showcased their impressive NASA HUNCH projects, highlighting real-world innovation, teamwork, and creative problem-solving. The finalists also participated in a school-wide presentation day, where they proudly presented their accomplishments to administrators, staff, and students. Additionally, three PCTI Video Production students—Lucas Fortunato (3rd), Matthew Olaya (4th), and Damian Diaz (5th)—were national finalists in the NASA HUNCH Student Video Challenge, demonstrating the importance of CTE courses in supporting NASA missions.



SOPHIA ORTIZ NAMED 2025–2026 SKILLSUSA STATE OFFICER TEAM MEMBER

We proudly recognize PCTI STEM Academy student Sophia Ortiz, selected as a 2025–2026 SkillsUSA State Officer Team Member. Sophia delivered impressive speeches and represented both PCTI STEM Academy and the State Association with excellence. Her outstanding performance makes us incredibly proud. This recognition not only celebrates her achievements but also serves as an inspiration for other students to strive for excellence in their own endeavors.



Congratulations CLASS OF 2025!



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The festivities kicked off on Tuesday evening, as 256 seniors from the prestigious PCTI STEM Academy crossed the stage. Ranked among the top 5% of high schools in New Jersey and #1 in Passaic County, the STEM Academy is known for its academic rigor and innovative approach. Students in this program completed four years of advanced coursework in science, technology, engineering, and math, equipping them with the skills to become leaders in their fields.

The following day, 825 graduates from 13 specialized career and technical education programs were recognized. From health and medical sciences to construction

technology, PCTI offers a wide range of programs that prepare students for success in diverse industries. As New Jersey's largest high school, PCTI stands out for its commitment to diversity and its exceptional career and technical education offerings. PCTI proudly ranks in the top 8% of all New Jersey high schools.

As the Class of 2025 embarks on their next chapter, many will attend prestigious universities like Harvard, Princeton, and MIT, while others will join the workforce or serve in the military. Their success is a testament to the value of career and technical education in shaping future leaders.



PCTVS HONORS ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE

PCTVS recognized our Bulldog athletes for their exceptional dedication and athletic excellence. The athletic awards not only celebrate the athletes' achievements in their respective sports but also highlight the values of sportsmanship, teamwork, and commitment. By honoring these outstanding athletes, PCTVS fosters a culture of athletic excellence and promotes values that resonate far beyond the playing field.



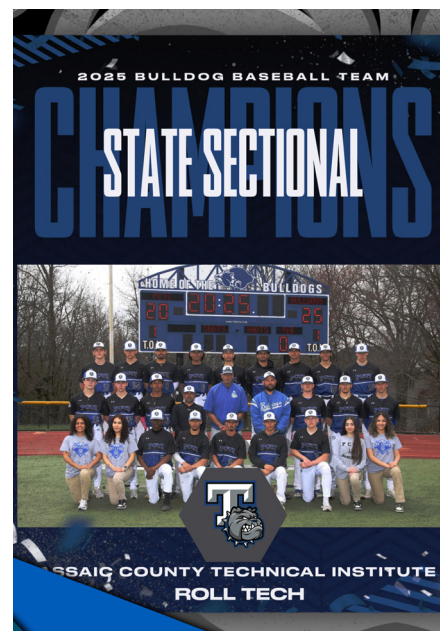
FUTURE COLLEGE ATHLETES HONORED AT SIGNING DAY

Student-athletes advancing to college to pursue both academic and athletic careers were celebrated at the exciting Athletic Signing Day event! Each student-athlete had their signing photo taken and was surrounded by teammates, coaches, family, and friends in a joyous celebration. The event highlighted remarkable athletic achievements and gave athletes the chance to proudly represent their future schools, donning t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and other school apparel. The Bulldogs left their mark in an unforgettable way!



BULLDOG BASEBALL WINS FIRST STATE SECTIONAL TITLE

Congratulations to our varsity baseball team for making Bulldog Baseball history by becoming State Sectional Champions for the first time ever! Their hard work, dedication, and teamwork led to this remarkable achievement. This victory marks a historic moment for the team and PCTI, showcasing their skill and determination on the field. We are incredibly proud of their success and look forward to future accomplishments!



GIRLS GOLF MAKES HISTORY WITH WIN

The Girls Golf team made history by winning the Big North Conference Cup at Valley Brook Golf Course. This marks the first time the team has claimed the title, awarded based on an adjusted score that rewards the team playing best relative to their season-long average on the day of the tournament. Sofia Myka Pangan led the Bulldogs, shooting a 72 and finishing in 2nd place, just one shot behind the overall winner. Sophia Volpe, Dailisa Robles-Hernandez, and Morgan Lee each set career-low rounds to secure the win for the team.



Creativity comes to life at PCTI's Dimensions Art Show, presented by the School of Communication Arts in collaboration with the School of Culinary Arts, Construction Technology, and Performing Arts. Held on Wednesday, May 28th at the PCTVS Athletic Center, the event showcased bold expression, vibrant colors, and imaginative storytelling through the incredible artwork of our talented students. The evening was a true celebration of creativity, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended. Congratulations to all the young artists who made the event unforgettable!



PCTVS celebrated the heritage and contributions of Asian Pacific Americans during the annual AAPI Heritage Month Assembly. The event provided students with a platform to showcase their talents while honoring the diverse cultures and achievements of Asian Pacific Americans. Through captivating performances, music, and cultural presentations, the assembly highlighted the vibrant traditions and contributions of this community, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of their heritage and the diversity within our school.

PCIT hosted a special "Meet the Greeks" event to introduce students to college fraternities and sororities before they graduate and head to college. Representatives from various organizations presented their missions, shared insights into their values, and performed traditional salutes, steps, and strolls. This event provided students with an exciting opportunity to learn about Greek life and the positive impact these organizations have on both personal growth and the community.



PCTI STUDENTS HONOR VETERANS AT PASSAIC COUNTY VIETNAM MEMORIAL

PCTI recently held a moving celebration of patriotism, as US II History students visited the Passaic County Vietnam Memorial by the Passaic County Fire Academy. The students participated in small group tours led by Vietnam Veterans, who shared powerful personal stories and insights. This was the first event of its kind at the Memorial, offering a deeply meaningful experience that brought history to life and provided students with a profound connection to the sacrifices made by our veterans.



PCTI CULINARY PROSTART TEAM FEATURED ON "FOX & FRIENDS"

Our Culinary ProStart Team was featured live on Fox & Friends, where they showcased their award-winning dish before heading to the National ProStart Invitational in Baltimore, where they will represent New Jersey. Congratulations to Nelly Beato, Arabelle Fernandez, Galo Mariano, Sadie Matthews, and Leslie Minaya, along with Chef Advisors Ron Ossi, Michael Matthews, and Charles Gurnari. This exciting opportunity highlights the talent and hard work of our students and their dedicated mentors!



PCTI CELEBRATES EMT CERTIFICATION ACHIEVEMENT

PCTI is proud to congratulate the students who have successfully passed the EMT certification exam. Becoming an EMT requires the ability to operate under pressure and, often, save lives. Having our students now certified as EMTs and serving the community is a remarkable achievement. We celebrate their hard work and dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of others.



A CELEBRATION OF TALENT: PCTI'S EXCEPTIONAL VOCAL, INSTRUMENTAL, AND DANCE SHOWCASES!

The School of Performing Arts recently hosted a series of showcases that celebrated the exceptional talent and dedication of its students. The PCTI Vocal Technique group impressed the audience with their remarkable vocal and musical abilities. The instrumental program presented a captivating Spring Band Concert, featuring a diverse selection that highlighted the musicians' skill and technical expertise. The dance program left a lasting impression with their vibrant and graceful performances during the spring dance concert, allowing students to express their creativity. These events were truly unforgettable, celebrating the power and beauty of the performing arts!



PCTVS JAZZ BAND EARNS TOP HONORS AT NEW JERSEY STATE TEEN ARTS FESTIVAL

The PCTVS Jazz Band recently participated in the prestigious New Jersey State Teen Arts Festival, showcasing top student performers from across the state. Nominated by their county, the band was awarded Top Large Instrumental Group and received a Gold rating for their exceptional performance. Sophomore Cesar Miranda also earned 2nd place in the Small Instrumental category for his solo performance of Debussy's *La plus que lente*. This recognition highlights the band's remarkable musicianship and talent.



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Fernando Colon / Manager of Communications
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Jessica Diaz / Writer
Keven Mallqui / Photographer
Maria Palomino / Design & Layout
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Passaic County Technical-Vocational Schools

Passaic County's National Award-Winning Public High Schools
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45 Reinhardt Road, Wayne NJ 07470
973-790-6000 www.pctvs.org

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Meet the Athletes of the Month!

MAY



Elliot Rivera
Boys Volleyball



Brianna Bellome
Girls Lacrosse