

TCD is the advanced career and technical education (CTE) elective for DuPage County and Lyons Township high school students.



Get Ready for College -- Ready for a Career

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February is



Center Points

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Know the Facts About CTE

The simple facts, upfront: Career and Technical Education (CTE) improves graduation rates in high school and college while providing a solid preparation for high-skill, high-demand, high-wage careers.

FACT: The average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs is 90.18 percent compared to an average national freshman graduation rate of 74.9 percent. Nationwide, some 14 million students are enrolled in CTE programs. Offering a wide range of career options for students, CTE helps pinpoint interests and optimal educational pathways to future success. Across the country, CTE programs are evolving and innovating to create an engaging environment of relevance and opportunity within our schools.

FACT: Seventy percent of students concentrating in CTE areas stayed in postsecondary education or transferred to a four-year degree program, compared to an average state target of only 58 percent.

CTE combines skills, technical knowledge, and a rigorous academic foundation with real-world experiences that facilitate the transition to postsecondary education, making the college experience more productive.

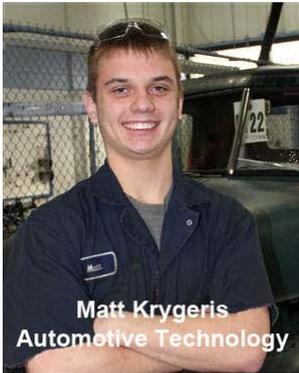
FACT: Experts project 47 million job openings in the decade ending 2018. About one-third will require an associate's degree or certificate, and nearly all will require real-world skills that can be mastered through CTE.

CTE partners with employers to design high-quality programs founded in standards critical to survival in a competitive, global job market. Through advisory committees, internships, teacher externships, workplace experiences, and other interactions, employers share the needs and expectations that drive innovation and world-class performance in their respective industries.

Bottom line: CTE is helping our nation meet the very real and immediate challenges of student achievement, postsecondary success, and economic development.

Dr. Jim Thorne
DAOES / TCD Director

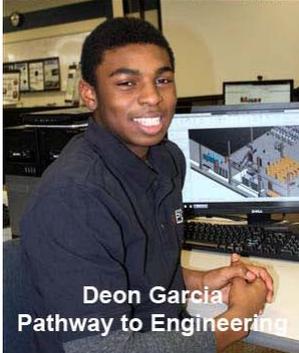
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Matt Krygeris
Automotive Technology



Stewart Avdich
Multimedia



Deon Garcia
Pathway to Engineering

2nd Quarter DAOES Honorees



Top: State Champ ProStart Culinary Team

Bottom: SkillsUSA winners Jeff Heffernan 1st, and Stacey Valentin 2nd, in Criminal Justice

DAOES Board: TCD Students of the Month

Each month, the Board of Directors of the DuPage Area Occupational Education System (DAOES) honors a TCD student nominated by an instructor for excellence.

November: Matthew Krygeris

Downers Grove North senior and second year student in Automotive Technology. TCD A-Team Honor Roll. SkillsUSA and Ford-AAA competitor. Postsecondary plans: earn bachelor's degree in Automotive Technology at Southern Illinois University; work in industry.

December: Stewart Avdich

Downers Grove North senior and second year student in Multimedia & Television Production. TCD A-Team Honor Roll. Part of TCD's first place video team in the county-wide "Be A Hero-In DuPage" video contest. National Veterans History Project (interviewing and videotaping veterans' stories). TCD marketing intern. Postsecondary plans: earn bachelor's degree through Columbia College; work in video editing/production.

January: Deon Garcia

Lake Park senior and second year student in Pathway to Engineering. A-Team Honor Roll. Completing his fourth and capstone course in the Pathway to Engineering sequence (Engineering Design & Development). Postsecondary plans: Begin in engineering at College of DuPage and transfer later to a four-year university; work as a civil engineer.

CENTER NEWS

TCD Culinary Wins 3rd Straight State Title

A sea bass appetizer, stuffed chicken breast entree, and an almond mousse donut comprised TCD's [winning menu](#) at the 2014 Illinois ProStart Student Invitational, sponsored by the Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation and SYSCO. This was the third straight Illinois ProStart win for TCD Culinary. Now the team advances to represent Illinois at the National ProStart competition in Minneapolis, May 3-5. Team members include **Kristy Fogle** and alternate **Jacob Stellmach** (both seniors from Waubonsie Valley); **Mary Hoare**, Wheaton North junior; **Courtney O'Neal**, Glenbard West senior; and **Julio Valeriano**, Fenton senior. [Link to photos and more!](#)

TCD A-Team Honor Roll: 359

TCD staff, member school guests, and proud parents honored the students who earned an "A" in their respective TCD programs first semester. This year, each student received a "Why TCD Rocks!" shirt in honor of their achievement.

NCRC Testing begins

All TCD seniors have begun taking the National Career Readiness Certificate exams. Watch this space for TCD's bronze, silver, gold, and platinum certificate recipients. The NCRC assesses a person's skill level in three areas considered critical for employability: Reading for Information, Locating Information, and Applied Mathematics. [Learn more about the NCRC.](#)

SkillsUSA: knowledge, skill, and nerves

Over 110 competitors from five northeastern Illinois SkillsUSA chapters put their skills to the test at the Region 1 SkillsUSA competition, held at the end of January at TCD. ([Winners & Pix](#))

Role of the TCD Core Subject Specialists

Through co-teaching experiences and on-going academic alignment, TCD's core subject specialists (**Christine Bending**, mathematics; and **Vicky Georgacopoulos**, language arts) focus on connecting academics to the CTE classroom. Employer surveys consistently confirm that academic skills are critical for workplace success. The core subject specialists work closely with TCD program area instructors to identify the academic components within the CTE curricula, develop new academically-infused program specific lessons, and align lessons appropriately. Although each program area's curriculum was previously aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards, it is now being updated to reflect the new Common Core State Standards. Rigorous professional development opportunities for instructors help them in this process. Understanding the connection between academic skills and their chosen career is key to students' postsecondary success.



Above: Marty Slevin, HR Director for Reinhart Foodservice, interviews a culinary student during the program's mock interviews.

This event allows students to learn what to expect at the state competition coming up in April. Students qualify to compete at the state level via written exam, which took place February 6. **Forty TCD students qualified for State SkillsUSA! Watch for the spring newsletter for competition results.**

TCD video spot wins countywide contest

A team of TCD Multimedia students produced the winning public service announcement in a county-wide heroin awareness contest sponsored by the DuPage Coalition Against Heroin. The TCD team of seniors included **Amy Szabo** (Lake Park); **Stewart Avdich** and **Lexi Johnson** (both Downers North); and **David Herwaldt** and **Kevin Williamson** (both Glenbard West). [See their video](#)

Cool Event! TCD Winter Open House

Despite subzero temperatures, over 600 people came to TCD's Winter Open House on January 22. For two-thirds of visitors, it was the first time they had seen the advanced career and technical education elective for DuPage area high school students. [Photos](#)

PARTNERSHIPS: Making CTE Work

Business partners, alumni, and community supporters help make career and technical education a win-win-win.

Fire Service Community

Training Vehicles for Fire Science

The Wood Dale Fire Department has purchased new vehicles, loaning an older ambulance and pumper engine to TCD's Fire Science program. TCD may use these new arrivals for training until Wood Dale sells them. The EMT students use the ambulance for loading and unloading "patients" and making radio reports, providing greater realism during scenarios. Fire Science students use the engine to learn about hose loads and proper maintenance. The engine will also be hooked up to the hydrant on TCD's property for pumping water during live fire exercises.

Culinary Business Partners:

Mock Interviews, Real Networking

Advisory committee members and business partners served as prospective employers during Culinary's mock interviews for seniors. Students prepared their résumés and portfolios, dressed for success, then took their turns being interviewed by representatives of the foodservice and hospitality industry. Great experience and a great opportunity to start networking with influential industry professionals!

Medical-Health Alum:

Evolution of a Career Pathway

Medical & Health Care Careers alum Ben Sylejmani (DGSHS '05) returns almost every year to tell current students about his TCD experience and current career path. As a senior, Ben got a 4-month internship with an Osco pharmacy. After graduation, Osco helped him become a pharmacy technician and he worked there for 8 years. Through Northern Illinois University, Ben earned a bachelor's degree in Public Health and now works as an environmental health technician for the Kane County Health Department. He plans on a master's degree to advance in the field. Alumni make it real for students; through them, students can see the possibilities.



Top:

Addison Mayor Rich Veenstra and Carol Stream Mayor Frank Saverino toured TCD.

Center:

Medical & Health Career Careers students in a recent dissection lab.

Bottom:

Residential Wiring students compare the energy consumption of new lighting sources.

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**Supportive Communities:
Mayors Visit TCD**

Addison Mayor Rich Veenstra, Carol Stream Mayor Frank Saverino, and several chamber of commerce members toured TCD in December -- some for the first time, others for the first time in decades. On hand was a crew from Addison Community Television, capturing the mayors' impressions of TCD and views about career and technical education. Those comments are part of "Future Ready at TCD," the 5-hour series broadcast on ACTV and Carol Stream's community cable station. Thank you to these communities for shining a light on 'the best kept secret in DuPage.'" Various segments air throughout the week; see the Village website for the [program schedule](#). TCD will post all segments on its website before the end of February.

PROGRAM NEWS

**Pathway to Engineering
Let the Brainstorming Begin**

Students in the capstone course Engineering Design & Development are working in small teams to narrow down their ideas for a project. Next comes research and partnering with industry mentors as they develop a solution to their chosen engineering problem.

**Medical & Health Care Careers
Words and Actions**

This program offers four college level courses (total: 9 hours of dual credit) in one year: CPR, First Aid, Biomedical Terminology, and Survey of Health Care Careers. The terminology course is tough, so instructor Deb Sharifi helps set the terms in students' minds through engaging software on the Smart Board and related hands-on activities. Recently, as students studied respiratory and circulatory system terms, they followed it up with a dissection of a sheep "pluck" (trachea, heart, lungs).

**Residential Wiring
Change is Good**

Federal legislation has mandated the end of production of household incandescent bulbs. Wiring students set up a display that measures the energy and cost saving benefits of newer lighting technology. Three bulbs -- one incandescent, one CFL, and one LED -- were each connected to an energy consumption meter. The results? The incandescent bulb costs over \$127 a year to use and gives off quite a bit of wasted heat. The cooler CFL bulb costs \$28 per year and the LED only \$20. The students were impressed to the point of using the results to convince their parents to switch out bulbs at home.

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