

PATHWAYS

Windham Regional Career Center Newsletter

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Dates to Remember for the remainder of 2021:

- 11/11: No School (Veteran's Day)
- 11/22-11/26: Thanksgiving Break
- 12/23: 1/2 Day
- 12/24-12/31 Christmas Vacation



From the Director's Desk

From the Director's Desk



I would like to start with a huge thank you to our students. The beginning of the year was challenging because of some major behavioral challenges on campus and while the Windham Regional Career Center was impacted by those challenges very few of our students were involved. We have an amazing group of students and they have made the first two months of school fun and interesting.

There are great things happening in each of our classrooms and labs and I would just like to highlight a few. The Forestry and Natural Resources Program attended the Soils Competition in October. Mr. Nelson was proud to report that students worked hard and had a great time. Our new Electrical Technology Program under the leadership of William Sevigny is a hit with the twenty-one students that are in the Level 1 and Level 2 programs. The students in the Construction Trades Program are working with the students in Electrical building walls to be wired. Students in the second year of the Early Childhood Education Program are about to start their apprenticeship program and are excited to finally have the opportunity to work with some of the youngest members of the community. Please look for more WRCC highlights as the year goes on.

The best part of the year so far has been the fact that students are back to in-person learning five days a week. Seeing students on a daily basis and being able to watch them engage in learning activities has made the planning and problem solving to have everyone back on campus worth it.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **What academic courses are offered?** *Applied Mathematics and Junior/ Senior level English courses can be taken in conjunction with a WRCC program.*
- **Are there job placement opportunities?** *Yes, check out our new Job Board on the WRCC website.*
- **Is there co-op (cooperative education)?** *Yes, safe/legal/related co-op opportunities are available. See the Co-op Coordinator for additional information.*
- **Could I earn college Credits at WRCC?** *Yes. College credits are available in the following classes: Health, Early Childhood Education, Manufacturing, Filmmaking, and Business.*
- **Could I join a student club at WRCC?** *Absolutely. The following clubs are offered at the Career Center: FBLA, STEM, HOSA, FFA, SKILLS USA*
- **Is there transportation from sending schools?** *Yes. The MOOver and local bus companies provide student transportation.*

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

WHAT ARE THE STUDENTS SAYING?



Magnus von Krusenstiern Second year Manufacturing student

“I was first drawn to the Career Center’s Manufacturing program as a STEM academy student. I was pleasantly surprised by how fun and interesting it was! I immediately started to learn more about my learning style and interests and what specific profession I want to pursue. I have definitely grown through the first year program and liked it so much I decided to continue on into the second level.

The best part of being a Career Center student is the resources you are given. Not only have I been working with top notch technology, machines and tools but my instructor has a great deal of experience working in the field and his wisdom is priceless. Mr. Thompson has a big impact on me as he is a natural when it comes to teaching manufacturing. The Career Center is lucky to have him.



Sidney Beasley BUHS graduate taking a post graduate year in Construction Trades

I was drawn to the Career Center Construction program for the chance to gain training and education that takes a different approach from my high school classes. I struggled in traditional classes and I have found in my Career Center program that I can learn better due to a different pace and new way of learning. I do more than just sit in a classroom and have been trained to think critically. I returned to the Construction program after graduating from high school in June and continue to



change and grow. I know I want to pursue this career for the rest of my life. My teacher, Mr. DiMatteo has been a mentor and role model for hard work. I now have a strong work ethic and a mindset that tells me a long day’s work is something to be proud of. My advice to a younger student is to try the Career Center because they will be surprised by how interesting things can be if given time and experience.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

WHAT ARE THE STUDENTS SAYING?

Reed Sargent

Second year Manufacturing student

I initially joined the Career Center's Manufacturing program because it was a STEM academy engineering class requirement. After just a couple of weeks I learned I really like manufacturing and loved the class. At the Career Center I learned not to doubt myself and to have confidence when doing something. I have been able to narrow my goals down to a small list of things and be more specific in what I want to major in at college. The instructor has had such a huge impact on



me. I find myself almost every day going home and talking with my parents about manufacturing and all I have learned from him. If I were giving advice to a younger student, I would tell that student not to be nervous about the idea of taking a Career Center class. I would tell them to explore as many career possibilities as they can before they leave high school.

Sophia Mikijanec

Health Services program student

During my freshman year I remember reading a flyer which said "sign up for Human Body Systems" From that flyer on, I have made it a priority to enroll in all of the excellent health classes offered through the Career Center. I have learned a great deal about myself and continue to learn. I owe much of my growth to the Career Center and the lovely staff who are the building blocks for the organization. I have learned that I am both a tactile learner and one who prefers to take rigorous notes. My goals over time have remained the same, however my love for medicine specifically



is ever growing. The best part of being a student in the Career Center is being with its other students. An average person on the street may not be as taken away by the complexities of the lymphatic system, but my fellow peers are more willing to dive into these medical topics that I love to learn about. My fellow students are determined and their grit and love for medicine has created an enthusiastic, supportive environment. As a result of my education, I enrolled in a summer Emergency Medical Technicians course. With the certification and my background I am one step closer to my goals becoming a reality. My hours of

hard work has given me a deep understanding of the world of medicine as well as myself.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

AN UPDATE ON THE BEGINNING OF THE 2021-2022 YEAR

Construction:

Hey folks, the Construction Architecture level 1 class has been working on practicing skills by making sawhorses for use all year and picnic tables (for sale lol). We are shifting into wall framing by building a lab set-up for Mr. S in the Electrical program. We will be starting the shed projects and the OSHA 10 training next week.

Level 2 has spent a lot of time preparing and executing the plans for constructing a memorial sitting area for Tom and Sue. Also delivering the several sheds that have been built over the past few years. Also learning and practicing skills with welding.



Manufacturing:

Manufacturing I Students are finishing up their DICE project where they learn the basic operations of a milling machine. Turning raw material into a project to specifications. They have already completed the sheet metal section and have made a tool tray where they can keep their belongings for the year, after that, as always, what you make you keep!

Then on to making a basic single cylinder model of a steam engine [we will be using pneumatic power]. In this project, the students will learn how to run a manual engine lathe and also be gaining additional more sophisticated skills on the manual milling machine. At the tail end of this project students will be introduced to writing G/M code for the CNC vertical machining center.

Manufacturing IIStudents are wrapping up the section on everything threads. Single pointing a thread on the manual and CNC lathe. Thread anatomy, gaging, and Quality control. Students have picked a project of their choice and demonstrated that they can cut threads to spec. Students will soon be working on a project using the brand new Heat treating oven that we acquired this year. Forged in fire here we come!

Man level II students completed a 5-day job shadow program at GS precision. There they spent their time following around a mentor in their daily work routine. The students had received a first-hand experience of what it is like to work in a manufacturing facility ... They all had a very good eye-opening experience and it turned them on even further to pursue a career in Engineering.

Business:

The Sophomore Summit is a day-long experience where regional high school sophomores get together and learn about local careers. This year, students will convene at Brattleboro's Latchis Theater as the "home base." Students spread out through town in small groups to visit different sites, enjoy workshops and workplace experiences based on their interests.

The event exposes students to career pathways in healthcare and the arts, law enforcement, and non-profit management. Students access real, local professionals who share their career journeys and provide insight, demonstrate skills and training opportunities. Students will also be introduced to programs designed to help them after graduation, including the Vermont Technical College and Vermont Department of Labor.

This is the fourth Sophomore Summit. It is part of the Pipelines and Pathways Program (P3), a high school career education program of the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation led by Christy Betit, P3 Coordinator.



ECE II Pre-Apprenticeship

This year ECE II students, Paige Neal, Kiran Tyler and Anna Duich, each applied to, and were accepted by, the Vermont Early Childhood Education Pre-Apprenticeship program. This ECE Pre-Apprenticeship opportunity is a statewide program that received funding to enroll 25 early childhood education students from Career and Technical Centers within Vermont. As part of this program students will be paid for their field work experience, be placed with an onsite mentor and track their on the job learning. Students who successfully complete this program can transition to the VT Apprenticeship Program ahead of the game to become high quality early childhood educators or, because of the collaboration between WRCC and the VT Pre-apprenticeship program, they may further their education bringing with them 6 transferable college credits. Here is what the students have to say about this honor.

"I feel overjoyed to be accepted into the pre-apprenticeship program! I will be able to further my knowledge in classrooms and get hands-on experience!" Paige N.

"This pre-apprentice program is absolutely a gift. The work that we are stepping further into has the ability to further extend my education of Early Childhood Development hands-on, in a classroom really putting my knowledge and understanding in a way I would not be able to do in our classroom". Anna D.



Filmmaking & Professional English/Communication:

The Filmmaking and Professional English/Communication classes are partnering with Brattleboro Museum and Art Center (BMAC), Vermont Folklife Center (VFC), and national artist Yvette Molina to assist in her touring installation art piece entitled “Big Bang Votive,” which will open March 11, 2022, at BMAC. The two classes will be taught interview skills by the trained professionals at VFC in an effort to collect stories of “Joy and Love.” After learning the art of the interview, the students will hone this newfound skill by interviewing their peers, local residents, and family and community members with the objective of submitting these recorded stories to Yvette Molina. Yvette will choose a selection of these interviews to use as her muse to paint objects set within a celestial background. It is Yvette’s hope that these paintings will help to create a connection between community members during a time of great divide.

Forestry:

The Forestry Natural Resources class recently participated in the Vermont Soil and Land Judging Competition at VTC. Students have to determine Specific characteristics of different soil types and determine the best land use for each (agriculture, forestry, or Housing). Students have to look at soil texture and drainage, depth, the slope of the land, and the position of the landscape. Everyone worked very hard and represented WRCC and the Forestry program very well.



NEW TEACHER

FEATURE

Jeannie Hodsden

For the past 22 years, I have been a school nurse in the WNESU school district. I worked with elementary and middle school students and staff to help provide for the safety and health of the school community. After my youngest of 5 children graduated from high school this past year, I felt that it was a good time to try something new. My next to youngest (who is also in college) completed a 2 year CTE program while in high school. The program was very beneficial to her and I would like to be able to provide those types of opportunities to my students here at WRCC.



The most exciting part of my new position is the opportunity to work with and teach the students here at WRCC. Coming back to full-time school from covid has been difficult for students and staff alike, but they come in day after day, and are working hard to get back into the routine of school. I plan to grow the Health and Nursing program's numbers. As most people know, there is a great need for almost any position in the healthcare sector. Through this program, I hope that students will consider filling these roles either in direct patient care or the many support services in healthcare. On the flip side, I hope that if someone in the program learns that healthcare isn't the right fit for them, they will find this out early on, so they can pursue a different career path.

My husband, Chris, and I raised 5 children, so I have a fair amount of experience with adolescents/young adults. In my free time, I like to flower garden, play with my 2 dogs, and jog.

Chris Hodsden

Hello. My name is **Chris Hodsden** and I am new to the WRCC staff, joining this fall as the new math teacher. I want to start by saying how excited I am to be working with the Career Center students as a math teacher. I am returning to the classroom after 22 years as a school administrator. Last year, I wrapped up my 16th year as the principal at the Bellows Falls Union High School just a few I-91 exits north of Brattleboro. Before that, I worked for six years as the assistant principal at the same school,...and before that, I was a math teacher at the same school for three years. This past year, my youngest child graduated from BFUHS, which seemed like a good reason for my transition back into the classroom. Currently, I teach three courses: Essential Math for College and Career, Essentials of Geometry, and a WRCC Algebra II course.



Before starting my career in education, I served for 8 years on active duty with the U.S. Navy as a pilot. My last assignment was as a flight instructor at NAS Pensacola in Florida. It was during that time that I built upon the Bachelor's degree in Mathematics that I earned at the U.S. Naval Academy by earning a Master's Degree in Teaching Mathematics. That degree served as my "launching off" point for my transition out of the Navy and into my 26 years in education.

I have been married to my wife, Jeannie (one of the Health Careers Teachers at WRCC), for the past 33 years. We have five kids and two grandchildren.

NEW TEACHER

FEATURE

Bill Sevigny

Before joining the faculty at WRCC, I taught Electrical Apprenticeship in Keene, NH for 16 years. Though the material was similar to what I will teach here, the students were all at least 21 years old. While relationship-building was important at my previous position, teaching younger students has placed a greater emphasis on getting to know the students, with an emphasis on safety within the class and school community, as well as serving as a mentor for them.

This role kind of fell into my lap, as a student of mine, saw the advertisement and brought it to me. Having fallen in love with teaching, I felt WRCC was a perfect fit. I had already established I wanted to keep teaching until I was no longer able to, so the WRCC was what I was looking for without knowing it.

Outside of creating the best program at WRCC, I have grand plans for the Electrical program, which includes building electrical pods (different residential “rooms”: bathroom, living room, kitchen) for students to simulate real-world scenarios. We are currently working with John Demateo’s construction class to see the pods become a reality. I am also organizing the course so students will be on a fast track towards an apprenticeship. With the lab and course work, the students could complete two of the five years necessary towards obtaining the title of a journeyman. Additionally, I feel my strong relationship with my Advisory Board will assist students in finding a job within the electrical field immediately following graduation.

My related experiences are many, as I have been an electrician since 1988. Including work at Keene State College, with Solar Energy, and wiring high-end homes in the Stratton community.

My interests or hobbies include the Grateful Dead & rock music and Boston Red Sox & New England Patriots. My wife and I are in the process of building our own house, including a cozy corner for our rescue dog, Baxter. If I can get away, I have a love of backpacking, rock climbing, and camping.



Becky Steele

Before joining WRCC, I was directing the Vermont Technical College Nursing Campus here in Brattleboro where I also took nursing students to clinical and taught in the classroom. I am a registered nurse and have worked on the medical/surgical floors at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, in the ER, in long-term care, and as an office nurse.

The late, great Tom Yahn is a major influence in joining WRCC. I worked with Tom for about 4 or 5 years while he worked on developing a pathway through the Health Sciences program at WRCC into the VTC Nursing Program. I would like to see his dream come to fruition. Knowing the goals for this program was what inspired me to make the transition.

During COVID the LNA program struggled so it has needed work to get back up and running again, and that’s what I plan to do. The Health Sciences program includes Human Growth and Development and Anatomy and Physiology I, both prerequisites for VTC and most nursing programs. It also includes Medical Terminology that many healthcare programs require. Tom’s dream was to offer all of the VTC prerequisites so that WRCC students could step into the nursing program the fall after graduation. I would love to see this happen.

This first year my goal is to get the LNA program back up and running fully. Also, to get the A&P I class put together and see students complete it. This year I would like to work with the sending schools to develop a “pipeline” of students into the Health Sciences program. The next few years would be continuing to develop the program, adding prerequisites, and encouraging students to join us.

Several years ago my husband and I went on a medical mission trip to Kenya to a school for deaf children. We also lived on the Greek Island of Crete for two years early in our marriage and learned a little Greek while there. We also spent this summer on a trip across the country to Nevada with our grandson and camped in six National Parks. In addition to my favorite “hobby”, traveling which includes camping around our beautiful country; I also love to sew and find myself doing a variety of crafts.



NEW TEACHER

FEATURE

Linda Alvarez

Before joining the faculty at WRCC, I was privileged to own, operate, and sell two successful restaurants. I have ten years of teaching experience in Social Studies, ELA, ELL, and Reading at Gainesville High School in Florida and three years at Bellows Falls Middle School. I graduated from the University of Florida with a BA in history. I am recently completing the MBA in Marketing and Communications Program at Fitchburg State University in Massachusetts.



When I saw the opening to teach business, I was very excited to combine two of my favorite things: teaching & business. It is my goal to evolve the business program here at the WRCC and the State level. Students will be concentrating on business management, entrepreneurship, and communication skills; as well as establishing and managing an e-store, which is coming soon.

As I mentioned above, I owned and operated two successful businesses; the first of which won Best Coffee Shop Florida by Florida Trend Magazine in 2000. I was also a founding member of the Windham Grows, Vermont Farm and Food Small Business Accelerator, and I worked with the Restaurant Apprenticeship program. Before that, I also worked in the Bridal Industry as a sales associate and a store buyer at the Atlanta Bridal Mart; quite obviously, business is in my blood.

You might have guessed by my former days as a restaurateur that I LOVE cooking, hosting dinner parties, and making excellent coffee. Unrelated, but equally enjoyable, my family and I love to camp.

STUDENTS IN ACTION

WRCC STUDENTS HAVE THEIR HANDS IN LOTS OF POTS!



STUDENTS IN ACTION

WRCC STUDENTS HAVE THEIR HANDS IN LOTS OF POTS!



Non-Discrimination

Windham Regional Career Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or age in its programs or activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Kate Margaitis, Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Brattleboro Union High School Campus, 131 Fairground Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301 (802) 451-