

# CPI CAREER CONNECTION

Central PA Institute of Science and Technology  
540 North Harrison Road, Pleasant Gap, PA 16823



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## Joint Operating Committee (JOC)

- Dr. Brian Griffith - Superintendent of Record, Penns Valley Area School District
- Kimberly Weaver - JOC Chairperson, Bellefonte Area School District
- Mary Ann Hamilton - JOC Vice-Chairperson, Bald Eagle Area School District
- Theresa Brickley - JOC Secretary, CPI
- Craig Livergood - JOC Treasurer, CPI
- Scott Etter - Solicitor, Etter Law Firm, LLC
- Tina Greene - Bald Eagle Area School District
- Karla Groy - Penns Valley Area School District
- Kristin Lyons - Bellefonte Area School District

## CPI Administration

- MaryAnn Volders - President / Executive Director
- Jessica Martin - Vice President of Secondary Education
- Todd Taylor - Vice President of Post Secondary Education

CPI will produce highly competent individuals who are prepared and motivated to pursue the high skill careers of the 21st century.

CPI MISSION



# A Message from the President

As summer comes to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on the accomplishments of the 2024–2025 school year and celebrate the success of our students and staff. It was a year filled with growth, achievement, and countless moments that reminded us why we do the work we do at CPI. From students earning certifications and excelling in their programs to teachers and staff going above and beyond to support every learner, the dedication and talent within our community continues to impress and inspire.

Looking ahead to the 2025–2026 school year, we are energized and ready to build on this momentum. Our theme for the year—“Let’s not settle for great. Let’s pursue excellence. And let’s make it a tone of grace”—reminds us that while we strive for the highest standards, we need to do so with empathy, patience, and kindness toward ourselves and each other. Excellence is not only about outcomes, but about the way we approach our work, our relationships, and our students’ journeys.

I am excited to see what this new year will bring. Let’s continue to create an environment where students thrive, staff feel supported, and our school community shines as a place of opportunity, inspiration, and excellence.

Here’s to a successful year ahead—let’s pursue excellence with grace!

MaryAnn E. Volders  
President/Executive Director

**“If you don’t like  
the road you’re  
walking, start  
paving another  
one.”**

DOLLY  
PARTON



# Post Secondary Update: CPI Joins SACA to Provide Students with Industry 4.0 Certifications

The Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology (CPI) has announced its membership in the Smart Automation Certification Alliance (SACA), a move that will allow its career and technical education (CTE) students to earn nationally recognized Industry 4.0 certifications.

Industry 4.0, often called the Fourth Industrial Revolution, is reshaping manufacturing and technology-driven industries through advanced robotics, artificial intelligence, machine learning, cloud-based analytics, cybersecurity, and the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT). These “connected” systems are reducing downtime and driving major gains in productivity, quality, and efficiency worldwide.

SACA certifications are designed to meet this reality by testing integrated, cross-technology skills rather than isolated competencies. Armed with these credentials, CPI students will be better prepared to compete in today’s job market and succeed in highly automated workplaces.

Students will be able to pursue certifications at the associate, specialist, and professional levels in areas including basic and advanced operations, robotics, IIoT and data analytics, automation, production systems, and IT operations. Depending on coursework and hands-on training, students may earn Silver-level certifications (written exam) or Gold-level certifications (written exam plus hands-on performance assessment).

Because SACA standards are developed with input from industry leaders, graduates can be confident that their credentials reflect the skills employers value most.

James Wall, Executive Director of SACA, welcomed CPI to the alliance: “Our vision is to provide highly affordable, accessible certifications that increase the number of students with Industry 4.0 skills. By doing so, we hope to ensure that companies have the highly skilled workers they need, and students are prepared to be successful in an Industry 4.0 world. This vision is not possible without member organizations, such as CPI, that provide these industry-driven certifications.”

With this partnership, CPI strengthens its mission to equip students with the advanced skills needed to thrive in a rapidly changing industrial landscape.

**For more information about obtaining SACA certifications, contact Kevin King, Mechatronics Coordinator, at (814) 359-2793 x 232 or [kking@cpi.edu](mailto:kking@cpi.edu).**



## Celebration of Success

The 2024–2025 school year was filled with growth, achievement, and hands-on learning for our students. They gained real-world experience through co-op programs, internships, job shadows, and field trips, with many earning industry-recognized certifications to strengthen their future opportunities.

Our learners also showcased their skills at community events like the CPI Car Show, Festival of Trees, Career Fairs, and the Home Builders Expo. A standout highlight was our Culinary Arts students' study abroad trip to Italy, where they trained alongside professional chefs, explored regional cuisines, and experienced new culinary traditions firsthand, an unforgettable opportunity that broadened both their skills and cultural perspectives.

As we begin a new school year, we're excited to build on these successes with a renewed focus on our student expectations:

**Be Safe, Be Ready to Learn, and Be Here.**

Together, these values will continue guiding our learners to become confident, skilled, and career-ready young professionals.

With gratitude,  
Jessica Martin  
Vice President of Secondary Education

**“Things may come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle.”**

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN**





## Student Scholarships

CPI partners with Commonwealth Charitable Management and the generous donor, Coterra Energy, to provide scholarships that help cover out-of-pocket expenses for students in CTE programs.

In the 2024-2025 school year, we received an overwhelming response, with 60 students applying for scholarships to assist with tools, boots, uniforms, certification tests, kits, and other essential expenses.

With funding from Coterra Energy, we were able to award scholarships that will alleviate the financial burdens these students face. Thanks to their commitment to supporting education and workforce development, these scholarships will help ensure that these aspiring professionals can focus on their studies, hands-on training, and career development without the added stress of financial challenges.

Thank you to Coterra Energy for their continued generosity and commitment to workforce development, and to all the students who applied for these scholarships. We look forward to celebrating their success as they move forward in their careers!

**“Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts.”**

WINSTON  
CHURCHILL



# Celebrating CTE Month at CPI



## CTE Month

At CPI, we're proud to celebrate the incredible impact of Career and Technical Education (CTE) on our students, community, and local industries. CTE equips learners with real-world skills and experiences that prepare them for success in high-demand fields, while also strengthening the future workforce.

To highlight the value of CTE, we hosted a variety of events and activities that engaged students, families, educators, and community members. These included hands-on demonstrations, family engagement days, professional learning opportunities, partnerships with local organizations, and special recognition events for school staff and community partners. Each event was designed to showcase the diverse, dynamic, and applied learning opportunities that CPI students experience every day.

One highlight was Bring a Family Member to CPI Day, where parents and guardians stepped into the classrooms and labs to see firsthand the hands-on training their students receive. Families participated in activities alongside learners, observed industry-based projects, and gained a deeper understanding of how CPI prepares students for both college and careers. The event strengthened connections between home and school while shining a light on the pride students take in their program areas.

From interactive classroom activities and community celebrations to student showcases and open house events, these initiatives reinforced the message that CTE is more than education, it's preparation for life and career.

**“Work ethic is important because, unlike intelligence, athleticism, charisma, or any other natural attribute, it’s a choice.**

MIKE ROWE





## Career Readiness Events

Our Financial Reality Fair gave students a hands-on introduction to personal finance. Each student selected a career with a corresponding salary and made real-life budgeting decisions around housing, transportation, childcare, and entertainment. By visiting different “expense stations,” students quickly realized the importance of planning, prioritizing, and living within their means. The event helped raise awareness of financial literacy and prepared students with skills they will use long after graduation.

We also hosted two highly successful career fairs, connecting learners with a wide range of industry professionals. These events gave students the chance to explore career paths, ask questions, and learn about skills and education needed for different fields. Many left with clearer goals, fresh inspiration, and even potential employer connections.

In addition, Mock Interviews provided students with realistic practice for one of the most important career-readiness skills: presenting themselves professionally. Local business and industry partners conducted interviews, offering constructive feedback on communication, body language, and responses. Students impressed interviewers with their effort and professionalism, while also gaining confidence and practical experience for the future.

Together, these opportunities helped CPI students grow as career-ready young adults with purpose and integrity. We look forward to building on this momentum with even more engaging experiences in the year ahead!

**"You can only  
become truly  
accomplished at  
something you  
love."**

MAYA  
ANGELOU





## SkillsUSA Success at CPI

SkillsUSA is a student-led organization that empowers learners to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders, and responsible community members. This past year, our students proudly represented CPI at the SkillsUSA District Competition in Altoona, where 30 students competed. An incredible 15 students earned first place in their events and 5 earned second place.

Those first-place winners advanced to the PA SkillsUSA State Competition in Hershey, where CPI competitors brought home five silver medals and one bronze medal! We couldn't be prouder of our students' hard work, determination, and professionalism. Their success is proof that CPI students can compete—and win—on some of the biggest stages in career and technical education.

As we look ahead to the new school year, we challenge all students to step up and get involved in SkillsUSA. Whether you're interested in showcasing your technical expertise, leadership skills, or teamwork, SkillsUSA is your opportunity to grow, compete, and shine. Who will represent CPI next year? Will it be you?

**"The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will."**

VINCE  
LOMBARDI





## CPI Seniors Excel on NOCTI Exams

The Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology is proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our seniors on this year's NOCTI (National Occupational Competency Testing Institute) exams. NOCTI assessments measure both technical knowledge and hands-on skills, providing a nationally recognized benchmark of career readiness for students in career and technical education.

This year, CPI seniors set a remarkable standard of excellence:

- 84 students earned Advanced scores
- 32 students earned Competent scores

Together, this means that 90% of testing seniors demonstrated Advanced or Competent performance, a milestone that reflects their hard work, dedication, and the high-quality instruction they receive in their programs.

We extend a special thank you to our incredible instructors, whose expertise, guidance, and support prepared students for this accomplishment. Their commitment to excellence continues to make a lasting impact on student success and career readiness. Congratulations to our seniors and their instructors on this milestone achievement! Your hard work, skill, and dedication have set the bar high and inspire future learners at CPI.

**"Great things  
come from hard  
work and  
perseverance.  
No excuses."**

KOBE BRYANT





## Senior Certificate & Awards Night

On May 29, the CPI Class of 2025 was recognized at their Senior Certificate and Awards Night at Penns Valley High School, where we proudly celebrated the achievements of 151 graduating seniors. Among them, 54 students were recognized as members of the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS), the highest honor in career and technical education. NTHS members maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher, demonstrate excellent attendance, and dedicate time to serving their community.

During the evening, students were awarded approximately \$20,000 in scholarships and tools, helping to support their next steps in both education and the workforce.

Congratulations to our 2025 CPI Outstanding Student, Emilie Grant! Emilie's dedication, leadership, and excellence have set a shining example for her peers and the entire CPI community. We are incredibly proud of Emilie's accomplishments and can't wait to see what she achieves next.

We are grateful to Penns Valley School District for helping make this celebration such a memorable event, and we look forward to recognizing the CPI Class of 2026 at Penns Valley next year.

**“What lies  
behind you and  
what lies in  
front of you,  
pales in  
comparison to  
what lies inside  
of you.”**

**RALPH WALDO  
EMERSON**



## 2025-2026 CPI Events

**October 4:** Car Show

**October 23:** Open House

**November 6:** Occupational Advisory Committee Meeting

**December 12 - 14:** Festival of Trees

**“Good jobs look  
a lot like kids  
playing and  
adults working.”**

MIKE ROWE



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CPI Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science  
and Technology

**# CPIProud**

