



# CareerTEC Chronicle

Partnering to Prepare Students from Dakota, Durand, Freeport, Orangeville,  
Pearl City, Pecatonica and Aquin for Tomorrow's Careers

## Outstanding!

### IMPORTANT DATES

- \*\*\*MAY 20: Last day of CareerTEC classes at St. John UCC & Construction
- MAY 21: HOYA 1 Pinning Ceremony (6:30 p.m., St. John UCC)
- \*\*\*MAY 28: Last day of CareerTEC classes at Freeport High School
- ^^AUG. 13: Orientation for CareerTEC classes at Highland College (6 p.m., HCC Student Center, 2nd floor)
- ^^AUG. 14: Orientation for Careers in Auto Tech (6 p.m., Freeport H.S.)
- ^^AUG. 19: Orientation for CareerTEC classes at St. John UCC & Construction (6 p.m., St. John, Freeport)
- AUG. 19: First day of CareerTEC classes at Highland College
- AUG. 21: First day of CareerTEC classes at St. John, Freeport High School, and Construction

\*\*\* — *Students do not need to return to CareerTEC after school semester exams.*

^^^ - *Orientation & other key information will be mailed to students during the summer.*

### CareerTEC

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See us at:  
[www.careertec-il.org](http://www.careertec-il.org)

### OVERALL OUTSTANDING STUDENT WINNER

Cole Weber	12	Dakota	Industrial Tech - Welding
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### OUTSTANDING STUDENT PROGRAM WINNERS

NAME	GRADE	SCHOOL	PROGRAM
Noah Goeke	12	Dakota	Criminal Justice 2
Aidan Meier	11	Dakota	Careers in Auto Technology 1
Cole Weber	12	Dakota	Industrial Tech - Welding
Alyssa Huber	11	Durand	Nail Tech
Ryan Coon	12	Freeport	Careers in Business 1
Meanna Luy	11	Freeport	Early Childhood Education 1
Elise Sturtevant	11	Freeport	Health Occupations 1
Serenity Tuell	11	Freeport	NJROTC
Kiersten Vick	12	Freeport	Cosmetology 2
Kyleigh Gentz	12	Pearl City	Digital Design
Natalie Lotz	11	Pearl City	Culinary Arts 1
Jared Runkle	11	Pearl City	Industrial Tech - CAD
Sylvia Schnoor	11	Pearl City	Criminal Justice 1
Talia Stewart	11	Pearl City	Computer Information Systems 1
Ethan Baker	12	Pecatonica	Careers in Business 2
Ashton Beaves Lewis	12	Pecatonica	Computer Information Systems 2
Zachary Leahr	12	Pecatonica	Construction Trades 2
Emily Miller	11	Pecatonica	Cosmetology 1
Joshua Salamon	12	Pecatonica	Construction Trades 1
Brooklynn Windnagle	12	Pecatonica	Early Childhood Education 2

### KAREN JOHNSON SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Ryan Coon	12	Freeport	Careers in Business 1
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Outstanding Student winners are chosen by their program instructors. Each Outstanding Student receives a certificate and a \$25 check.

The Overall Outstanding Student winner is selected by

CareerTEC System Director Brian Greene after interviewing each Outstanding Student. Interviewees were judged based on interview responses, delivery, and etiquette. Students are also scored based on their teacher's

nomination letter and grade in the class. The Overall Outstanding student receives a certificate and check for \$200.

**To learn more about our Outstanding Students, please go to Page 6.**

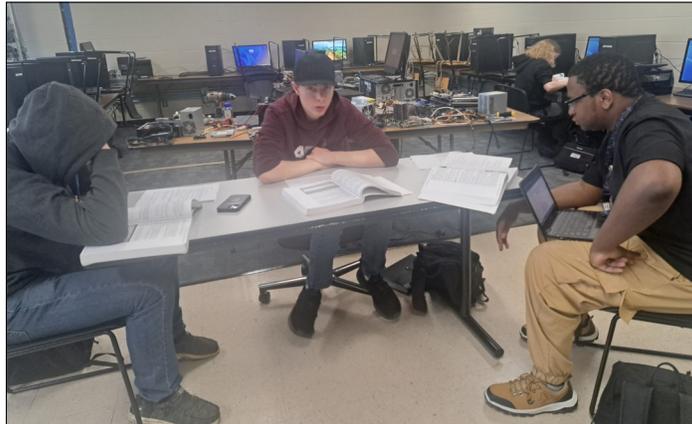
## Looking Back at the Spring Months ...

### COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS (CIS) 1 & 2

#### April

CIS1 students are developing a deeper understanding of software as the students are now installing Windows and Linux operating systems on the computers they have been building. This also helps them to differentiate between primary and secondary storage. The students continue to learn how to apply their troubleshooting algorithms (abstraction) to real world experiences. We will be spending more time this month utilizing abstractions to solve hardware problems with the different tools that come with the OS software.

CIS2 continues on with the IP camera project; they have received and updated the new switch. They have gone through the application layer of the OSI model and done a basic review of the initial switching configurations. This month we are going deeper into switching concepts. The students will become more familiar with the frame structure and how to tag



the frames to control the flow of the packet switched network at layer 2 of the OSI model.

#### May

CIS1 did great going through a mock interview with the heads of IT hiring for Highland Community College, Freeport Health Network, and University of Wisconsin-Health. They also got into the Linux- and Unix-type operating systems. This month they are preparing for their A+ certifications. They are also going to be working on scripting tools for automation and management. Finally they will finish up the semester with best practices for data handling.

CIS2 students are getting ready for their Network+ final and for OCED290 final. This past month they ran five ceiling drops for the new IP camera architecture they took part in designing for the St. John Church's 360-degree coverage. Last week they did well going through a mock interview with the heads of IT hiring for HCC, FHN, and UW-Health. They are in the process of setting up summer internships.

— Doug Meyers,  
Computer Information Systems instructor



#### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Due to financial reasons relating to low enrollment, the CareerTEC Board of Directors voted to discontinue the Computer Information Systems (CIS) program for the 2024-25 school year.

We apologize to those students who were affected by this decision and assure you this difficult decision was made with considerable discussion and thought.

We also wish to thank Doug Meyers for his time and work in building the CIS program over the past seven school years and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

### CULINARY ARTS 1

#### April

In the second half of March, students focused on cooking with fruit as well as other advanced baking concepts. Recipes included banana cream pie and strawberry shortcake. Students also began attending job shadows in March, providing them a valuable opportunity to learn from individuals and businesses in the food service industry.

In April, students have practiced appetizer and hors d'oeuvres preparation, including recipes such as crab rangoons and teriyaki meatballs.

Additionally, students have begun preparing for the Mock Restaurant event, which will take place in the second week of May. Each student will be encouraged to invite two family members to attend the Mock Restaurant and



will be served a three-course meal, prepared to order entirely by our students.

#### May

It's been a wonderful school year for Culinary Arts! Students have become proficient in culinary skills and a variety of cooking techniques.

For the past few weeks, students have been preparing for the Mock Restaurant event.



During this event, students transform our classroom into a functioning restaurant. They develop a menu, hone and refine the recipes, and practice different roles, such as servers, line cooks, and expeditor. Parents and CareerTEC staff are invited to attend the event, during which

they are served an appetizer, entree, and dessert. This provides students a real-world example of how a restaurant truly functions.

— Steve Konefes,  
Culinary Arts instructor



## Looking Back at the Spring Months ...

### CAREERS IN BUSINESS (CIB)

#### 1 & 2

#### April

The first-year students have been job shadowing on Fridays and will continue until the end of the school year. Students have been welcomed by the community in the following areas: accounting, finance, entrepreneurship, real estate, project management, banking, investing, and marketing just to name a handful.

The goal of shadowing is to help students learn about various career paths in an effort to solidify their choice or perhaps remove it as an option, therefore, saving them time and money in the future. The academic end of job shadowing includes students polishing their communication skills in a variety of ways: using proper email etiquette with their mentors, researching and writing pre-job shadowing memos, post job shadow thank you letters, and making PowerPoint presentations to share with the class about each experience.

It is my sincere belief that having an internship elevates the student from other students; in particular, when “selling” yourself to colleges and trying to obtain scholarships. The internship is also dual credit which is an added plus!

Students are still competing in the Stock Market Game, which concludes mid-May with the completion of team portfolios, presentations, and evaluations.

Lastly, thank you to the area businesses for supporting our CIB program! This is an immeasurable experience for the students and we are always very appreciative.

#### May

As we wrap up the school year, I'd like to take a moment to recognize a few students in the Careers In Business program for outstanding achievements:

- ⇒ Outstanding Student Year 1: Ryan Coon, Freeport High School
- ⇒ Outstanding Student Year 2: Ethan Baker, Pecatonica High School
- ⇒ Karen Johnson Scholarship Winner: Ryan Coon, Freeport High School



This month we are focusing on soft skills such as résumés, interviewing skills, guest speakers, and job shadowing in addition to the Stock Market Game presentations. We also have an end-of-year party to celebrate the hard work and student accomplishments!

Thank you to the CIB II students for a great job working in year-long internships. Please stay in touch Ben, Daneli, Ethan, and Jordan. I will miss each of you and wish you the best of luck going forward.

Below is a list of their future college and career plans:

- | Student          | High School               | Future Plans   |
|------------------|---------------------------|--|
| • Daneli Ayala,  | Pearl City, Army          | (Military Occupational Specialties: Electrician & college) |
| • Ben Briggs,    | Orangeville, Madison Area | Technical College (Diesel Mechanic)                        |
| • Ethan Baker,   | Pecatonica, UW-           | Whitewater (Finance)                                       |
| • Jordan DoBran, | Pecatonica, UW-           | Whitewater (Finance)                                       |

The Stock Market Game results were fantastic! Of the 10 CIB teams participating in a pool of 1,486 teams, four finished in the top 10 percent and two finished in the top

2.4 percent, which is amazing!

Congratulations to Liam Swiss and Samuel Weitzel-Lopez (Pecatonica) for finishing first in class and to Cooper Hathaway and Reid Pierson (Freeport) for their second-place finish. Well done!

Also, great job to all 10 teams on their end-of-game presentations!

We have 14 first-year students returning for year two and their own internship, which is the highest number we've had. They must be a glutton for punishment! ☺

I can't wait to see where they will intern and am so thrilled for them! They've learned so much the past year and it's exciting for them to apply what they've learned.

Lastly, thank you to all of the parents for allowing me to teach your son or daughter. It has been an honor to get to know them and watch them grow during the past one or two years. It is so rewarding for me and one of the many reasons I love what I do.

Have a wonderful summer!

— Elizabeth Hazzard,  
Careers in Business  
instructor



# CAREERTEC

### New Regional Program in 2024-25!

Agricultural Science and Industry Capstone at Highland Community College! All class fees are paid by a grant for the upcoming year!!

## 2024-25 Apps Still Being Accepted

1. Go to [www.careertec-il.org](http://www.careertec-il.org)
2. On bottom of the home page, choose Quick Links, 2024-25 Course Offerings for complete information about each CareerTEC program.
3. Please talk to your school counselor about your interest in a program.
4. When ready to apply, either in Course Offerings or in the Student Application at the top of the home page, select the application link.
5. Applications should be done with a parent/guardian in order for proper consents and information to be received.

## Looking Back at the Spring Months ...

### CONSTRUCTION TRADES 1 & 2

#### April

We have been working on the deck project when the weather permits. The project has challenged our students in keeping uniform deck board spacing around the pool, pool columns, and all the angles.

The second-year students have assumed more of a leadership role in this project, as there are lots of steps to the process. This has been helpful to me and a valuable learning experience for them.

We hope to have enough good weather to finish this phase of the project before the school year ends.

When in the shop we have worked on plumbing, electrical, and HVAC lessons.

#### May

The end of the school year is coming fast. Although we did not cover everything I had hoped, I believe the students received a good introduction into carpentry, plumbing, electric, and drywall. Being at our deck project most of the year, students had a realistic environment to apply what they learned. It also gave us lots of opportunities to solve and avoid problems. We also were able to practice teamwork and see the results.

The following seniors are going to pursue jobs in the trades after graduation: Jack Stone, Jonathan Hartline, Joshua Salamon, Jackson Ege, Zachary Lehr, and Chayton Williams. It has been a successful season!



— Jim Shaw,  
Construction Trades  
instructor



### CRIMINAL JUSTICE 1 & 2

#### Criminal Justice Year 1

This semester students in the first year of the Criminal Justice program are learning about the historical development of the correctional system in the United States. They explored the evolution and philosophy of punishment, relevant matters of constitutional law, the death penalty, community corrections, and rehabilitation practices in both institutional and non-institutional environments. We continue to explore current events that impact the criminal justice system and society.

In addition, students took an in-depth look at cyber security focusing on security needs, network systems, recommended safeguard solutions, management of security devices, and procedures. They explored topics of computer forensics, cryptography; applicable law and regulations; risk assessment and policy analysis; investigation techniques; issues related to privacy; terrorism; hacktivism; the dark web; and more. This semester we were able to complete some hands-on learning activities, process a correctional-inspired mock crime scene, and apply skills with the Use-of-Force Simulator.

*Criminal Justice 1 Outstanding Student Award: Sylvia Schnoor*  
Sylvia is simply a remarkable student who is full of energy and



truly applies herself in every class activity. Sylvia is often the first student in the classroom and is quick to engage in conversation about criminal justice topics. Sylvia brings a realistic perspective to class discussions and does not shy away from challenging topics. Sylvia attains a motivational fire within her, as she motivates those around her with positive leadership and encouragement. Most of all, Sylvia is an all-around great person, she is full of integrity, caring, dedicated, optimistic, and has a bright future ahead of her.

#### Criminal Justice Year 2

Dual credit students in the second year of Criminal Justice are examining juvenile delinquency. They explored the



history of the juvenile justice system, frequency of juvenile crime, substance abuse, peers and gangs, education, family dynamics, school violence, police practices, juvenile correctional practices, and more. Students also took an in-depth look at school shootings in America.

CareerTEC second-year students also completed courses in First Aid and Physical Fitness as a part of the program this

year. Students also took part in numerous hands-on activities, processed some crimes scenes, applied skills on the Use-of-Force simulator, and discussed current events regularly.

#### Criminal Justice 2 Outstanding Student Award: Noah Goeke

There are those school years as an instructor where I am grateful to have such fantastic future leaders in the program. Noah has been simply an exemplary student in Criminal Justice for both years of the program.

Simply put, Noah is a fantastic human being, and I am honored to be his instructor guiding him into his career path in conservation policing. Noah can critically think on his feet, resolves issues with ingenuity, is civil service-minded, personable, full of integrity, and always willing to help his other classmates and even the instructor in class. Noah is completely engaged in class, completes all expected tasks, and executes hands-on activities very well. Noah can articulate suggestions on how to improve things and is consistently analyzing topics in class from various perspectives.

Bottom line: Noah attains the qualities we look for in community service and will be an excellent law enforcement officer. Noah is headed for a bright future.

— Jennifer Roser,  
Criminal Justice  
instructor



# Looking Back at the Spring Months ...

## HEALTH OCCUPATIONS YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP 1

April

The students are halfway through clinicals and practicing their hands-on skills with residents. In the past month they learned about dementia and Alzheimer's disease. They also made fake urine and stool samples using food ingredients as part of the elimination chapter.

Doug Toepfer from FHN finished up his presentations for emergency preparedness and management. Jose Hernandez got the opportunity to fully experience what wearing a hazmat suit feels like.

The students are currently learning about mental illness and preparing skits and videos

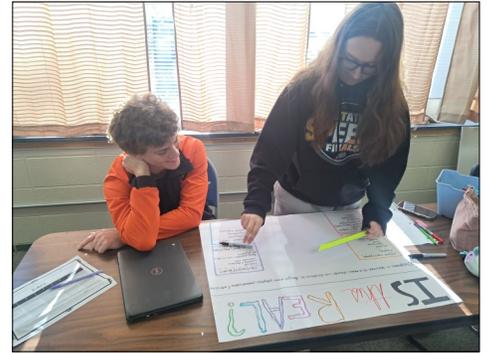
of various mental disorders. The next topics will be death and dying followed by self care.

May

The students have finished up clinicals and are checking off the last few skills in the lab.

Students are currently working on the "world of work" unit, in which they are learning how to apply for a job and completing an application, writing a résumé, cover letter, and thank you for an interview letter. They will be asking each other interview questions and practice shaking hands and greeting interviewers. Mock interviews with local facilities took place May 10.

The students will be signing up for their state CNA test May 13. Our Pinning Ceremony will start at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 21 at St.



John UCC (1010 S. Park Blvd, Freeport).

— Renee Boshela-Siegner, Health Occupations I instructor



## HEALTH OCCUPATIONS YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP 2

April

The HOYA 2 students are on the downhill slide before they reach the ultimate goal post of high school graduation!! They are keeping extremely busy and avoiding the plague of "senioritis." I am confident that these young adults will maintain their focus even as the weather gets warmer and graduation creeps closer.

HOYA 2 will continue to use their critical thinking skills by doing situational assignments where they interact as CNAs and potential healthcare professionals via their online workbook. This allows a much more accurate illustration of what they can expect as they progress through their career paths.

A few of the student group have completed their Leadership/Teaching assignments. They worked with local elementary teachers and educated students in the fifth grade or lower on a healthcare subject (below right).

So far, students have taught proper teeth brushing and cardiovascular system. The younger generation of future HOYA students were taught where their radial pulse was located. They were also taught how exercise affects their heart rate by completing 30 seconds of jumping jacks and measuring



their heart rate via their radial pulse. The remaining groups will complete the Leadership/Teaching assignment this month.

As teaching others is extremely important in any healthcare provider's profession, our students are working diligently on their team teaching projects to encompass the Medical Terminology of body systems this semester. These lessons include the pathology of specific disease processes, medical specialties and diagnostic tools that deal with those processes, as well as looking into some rare diseases they may encounter. The



students have found some interactive games to help with these teaching projects.

May

The students are down to the last hours of their senior year. It has been such a delight to watch each of them grow this year.

They have battled with their next steps in life; choosing a

college isn't the easiest thing to do as a senior. The College Choice research project opened their eyes to the pros and cons of each university. I believe they have made amazing choices for their next career step.

They have worked diligently at their internships while maintaining their school life as well as their social life. While each student is required 288 hours per year for this course, several students have over 500 hours! Some have changed their career choice as they undertook their internships, finding a passion that will lead them into the next step of their lives.

Students did a fantastic job during our integumentary system unit. They utilized common household items and made phenomenal simulated wounds (above and below left). HOYA 1 and CIB 1 students assisted in voting for the most realistic wounds. Day one winners were Oneal Josiah, Payton DeBord, and Madison Wilson. Day 2 winners were Adrian Salgado and Xzander Bennett.

Their comprehensive exam was scheduled for May 6 as the majority of the students will be finished on May 8 and prepping for their 2024 high school graduation ceremonies.

— Lori Steele, Health Occupations Coordinator and Year 2 instructor



## Looking Back at the Spring Months ...

# 2023-24 CareerTEC Outstanding Students

## Weber attains top award

CareerTEC is proud to announce Cole Weber as the 2023-24 CareerTEC Overall Outstanding Student.

In addition to utilizing information provided by instructors, CareerTEC director Brian Greene interviewed the 20 outstanding students in order to select the overall winner.

Weber was a student in the Industrial Technologies 1 program. A Dakota High School senior, Weber was nominated by Highland Community College and CareerTEC welding instructor Todd Vacek.

In addition to being active as the FFA chapter president and playing football and basketball for Dakota, Cole is a proud third-generation farmer and volunteers for the Dakota fire and EMT departments.

In April, Cole took first in

welding at the Section 1 FFA Career Development Experience competition at Lena-Winslow High School.

Cole plans to attend Western Welding Academy in Gillette, Wyoming, in the fall, and eventually become a welder.

According to Mr. Vacek, “(Cole) is always looking for ways to improve his welds and actually asked me to show him more advanced welding-TIG, which he worked and worked at until he could grasp the concepts (even though it’s not part of the class).

“He is always in his weld booth! Cole’s attendance is near perfect. Cole has a positive attitude and is willing to help anyone.”

Weber was awarded a \$200 cash award and a certificate for being named the top student. He and all outstanding students



Cole Weber (right), a senior, is awarded the CareerTEC Overall Outstanding Student Award by Highland Community College and CareerTEC welding instructor Todd Vacek on May 8 at Dakota High School.

## Coon secures scholarship

CareerTEC is proud to announce Ryan Coon as the 2023-24 Karen Johnson Scholarship winner.

Coon is a Freeport High School senior in the Careers in Business 1 program. Coon will receive a \$300 scholarship upon submission of his first semester grades from Augustana College, where Coon is attending this fall to major in business administration and minor in finance.



**Ryan Coon,** Karen Johnson Award winner

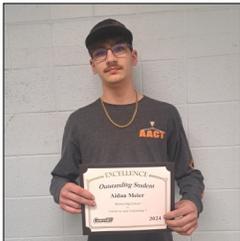
Coon will receive his scholarship certificate Thursday, May 16 at Freeport’s Convocation Program in the Jeannette Lloyd Theatre in Freeport.

The Karen Johnson Scholarship is awarded each year to a student who demonstrates determination in the pursuit of career goals initiated through a CareerTEC program. It was always Johnson’s hope that the student receiving this award would be as successful in the career path they have chosen as they had been at CareerTEC. Johnson was a past director of CareerTEC.

In addition to applying for the Karen Johnson Scholarship, Coon was nominated as the Outstanding CIB 1 student by CareerTEC instructor Elizabeth Hazzard. He and all outstanding students earned a \$25 cash award and certificate for being honored by their instructors.

At the time of his application, Coon had a 4.053 GPA on a 4.0 scale and ranked 16th in his class of 207 seniors. He has received the Presidential Scholarship from Augustana College.

Coon is an Illinois State Scholar, was named NIC-10 Academic All-Conference, and was a member of the National Honor Society and student council. In addition to playing football for three years, Coon was a talented baseball player over the past four years for the Pretzels.



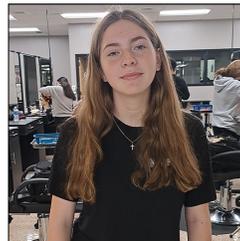
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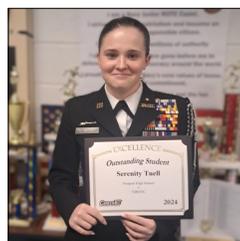
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