Students Celebrate Respiratory Care Week, October 25-31, 2015

Laurel Business Institute - Respiratory Therapy graduates (May 2015) Ben D’Amico, Janelle Brangard, and Alyson Milan attended the American Association for Respiratory Care Congress 2015 in Tampa, Florida November 6th-10th. The team represented Pennsylvania in the national student Sputum Bowl competition after winning both regional and state competitions earlier this year. The conference hosted more than 250 lectures and symposiums, as well as an exhibit hall featuring all the key vendors in the business. Congratulations, team!

Laurel Business Institute, Sharon, PA - The RT students at Laurel Technical Institute celebrated Respiratory Care Week by teaming up with HOSA students and starting a smoking cessation program. The program is scheduled for four dates and hopes to help people stop smoking with their New Year’s resolution, as the last date is scheduled the first week in January.

Laurel Technical Institute, Meadville/Sharon, PA one of Pennsylvania’s leading career training institutions, is preparing students for success in the workforce of today and the future. An adopter of tablet technology in the classroom, LTI will be providing Microsoft Windows 2-in-1 hybrid tablets to students in fall 2015 as one of the primary tools. Students and faculty will use to facilitate the educational experience across all of its campuses.

The school recently began a pilot program at its Meadville, PA campus and is currently running another pilot program at the Sharon, PA campus. In each program, the students gained valuable skills that will seamlessly translate to their careers post-graduation. For example, students used their devices to do the following:

- Access the school’s Canvas Learning Management System, course materials and assignments online
- Submit assignments for classes and real-time peer review
- Use additional apps such as Flash Cards and Nurse Tabs

“The experience students receive with the enterprise-quality technology of the Acer Microsoft Windows devices and Microsoft productivity tools help us achieve our goal of preparing them with the skills and experiences they need to succeed in their career now and 20 years from now,” said Douglas Decker, Executive Director. “We need to provide students with the tools they will use when they graduate and the skills that will translate in the future as technology continues to evolve, so the Acer and Microsoft software was perfect for us.”

Connected to the Internet, and loaded with the Office 365 suite, including storage in the cloud, the Acer devices allow students to read, produce, share and store materials. The Windows 8.1 operating system enhances student productivity with the seamless ability to multitask among different applications, for example, simultaneously watch a video and take notes in the OneNote app. Students are also able to search across the operating system, the Web and the cloud at once, and with a USB and HD video out port, students can connect to dozens of peripheral devices such as printers and projectors.

The Acer offers a solution for a college that teaches a variety of disciplines. Healthcare students can use Windows 8 RT anatomy apps to study anatomy and physiology. Students in the business administrative and accounting programs can create reports, spreadsheets and presentations using the Office Suite. In addition to the students, administrators anticipate a number of benefits for faculty, including greater flexibility to interact with students and provide feedback within and outside the classroom.
LBI Announces Their Summer 2015 Graduating Class
September 17, 2015, Uniontown, PA.
Laurel Technical Institute held its 87th graduation on September 17, 2015, at the State Theatre Center for the Arts in Uniontown. Mary Miracle of Uniontown was the Degree Salutatorian. Lee E. Johnson of Grindstone was the Diploma Valedictorian. Ashley Weaver of Morgantown, WV was the Diploma Salutatorian. Filmmaker and Celebrity Makeup Artist Robert Hensley delivered the commencement address.

LBI Announces September 2015 Graduating Class
September 16, 2015, Sharon, PA.
Laurel Technical Institute celebrated the graduation of its summer 2015 graduating class at Hickory High School, Hermitage, PA. David Blanchett, Jr., and Diana R. Mah McCook were valedictorians.

Director Douglas Decker awarded the following students Specialized Associate Degrees, Associate in Specialized Technology Degrees and Diplomas:

Sharon Campus

Degree in Accounting & Business Administration
Felicia Delmonaco (Sharpsville, PA)

Degree in Cosmetology
Priscilla Hicks (Sharpsville, PA)

Degree in Health Administration
Tina Ray (Altoona, PA)

Degree in Medical Assistant
Diana McCracken (New Castle, PA)

Degree in Network Administration & Security
Angela Davis (Morgantown, WV)

Degree in Pharmacy Technician
James Brown (New Castle, PA)

Degree in Technology
Alexie Jones (Weston, WV)

 Administrative office Technology
Brittany Fae Angelo -- Point Marion, PA
Christina Fortunato -- Connellsville, PA
Amanda Haines -- Uniontown, PA
Lyndee M. Yanosky -- Fredericktown, PA

Computer Software
Jorge H. Lima -- Brownsville, PA

Early Childhood Education
Mary Miracle -- Uniontown, PA

Medical Assistant
Christa Angelo -- Uniontown, PA

Medical Billing & Coding
Lyndee M. Yanosky -- Fredericktown, PA

Medical Office Administration
Lyndee M. Yanosky -- Fredericktown, PA

Network Administration & Security
Dulton Belch -- Uniontown, PA

Cosmetology (Diploma)
Jessica Renee Davidson -- Waynesburg, PA

Phlebotomy Technician (Certificate)
Brooke James -- Uniontown, PA

Phlebotomy Technician (Certificate)
Stephanie Blaney -- Morgantown, WV

Welding & Fabrication with Pipeline Technology (Diploma)
Melanie L. Baker -- Masontown, PA
Matthew D. Bierer -- Chalk Hill, PA
Jarrid J. Meade -- Uniontown, PA
Timothy J. Rose -- Uniontown, PA
Joseph Thomas -- Carmichaels, PA

World Hair Styling (Diploma)
Jessica M. Smith -- Westover, WV
Ashley Weaver -- Morgantown, WV
LTI Health Occupation Students of America Receives Statewide Recognition for Community Service

(Sharon, PA) Laurel Technical Institute’s Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) student organization was the recipient of the 2015 PAPSA Community Service Award. The honor was presented at the annual PAPSA state conference held in Cranberry, PA. Faculty advisors, Tracy Schliep and Jan Hogue were on hand to accept the award.

The Pennsylvania Association of Private School Administrators or PAPSA, which represents hundreds of private career colleges and schools throughout Pennsylvania, created the award to bring attention to member schools’ student organizations who contribute to the community. HOSA students are advised by instructors Tracy Schliep, Paula Listopad, and Jan Hogue. The students in the Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) chapter at LTI have provided an ongoing community service program since it was chartered over five years ago. With the beginning of each semester, HOSA students present, discuss, and elect by majority vote a minimum of three community service projects. The first project of each semester addresses a national problem or concern; the second addresses a community problem or concern; and the third addresses a problem or concern within the school. Due to the students being of limited financial means, their service projects focus on donating time, applying knowledge and newly learned skills, and forming partnerships to address issues. During the past eighteen months the following was successfully accomplished.

HOSA responded to unrest in New York, Baltimore, and Ferguson by developing a mentoring program for children enrolled in a preschool which serves a large minority and underprivileged population. Working in pairs, HOSA students visited the New Light Christian Education Center on a weekly basis over the course of six weeks to lead the children in the pledge of allegiance and wellness-based activities, including making healthy snacks, exercising for cardiovascular health, hand washing, oral hygiene, positive self-image, and career planning. Their mentoring program has expanded to include a second daycare center and school-aged children during the current summer semester.

HOSA responded to national disaster including wildfires and tropical storms by collecting personal hygiene items and assembled over 100 comfort kits for the American Red Cross. They also collected over 200 gloves, mittens, scarves, and hats which are distributed by Red Cross workers to persons who are ejected from their homes in winter as a result of house fires. When the local Red Cross chapter requires representation at local events, HOSA students march in parades and man displays. They also organize, staff, and recruit donors for a blood drive at the school each semester.

Responding to illiteracy and its contributing to joblessness, HOSA students support the local free community library by serving as hosts and hostesses to 200-plus guests at the Wine and Dine at the Library Fundraiser and work at its annual book sale.

HOSA students participate in the annual American Heart Association Heart Walk.

HOSA supports local community economic revitalization by volunteering for WaterFire Sharon. Their primary responsibility was the development and staffing of the children’s activities for three daylong festivals. Applying WaterFire themes as their inspiration, the children’s tent became a family-friendly science lab in which children were guided through a number of experiments and STEM activities. Through their partnering with LTI Cosmetology, children were transformed into celebrities and given the opportunity to sing and be photographed on stage. All the activities and services were provided free of charge. HOSA students also volunteered on the grounds, safety, parking, and water crews.

HOSA addressed the issue of homelessness, hunger, and poverty by partnering with St. John’s Episcopal Church and a local photographer to provide participants in the Feed Your Neighbor program with a free holiday portrait. Prior to having their photos taken, participants received a free makeover in the LTI Cosmetology clinic. On the day the photos were distributed, HOSA students provided a holiday card and stamped envelope in hope that participants would reconnect with friends and family by sharing their photo in a holiday greeting.

After learning of the Beds for Little Heads program started by a local social service worker, HOSA students collected bedding and volunteered their time to deliver and set up new beds for children identified to be without them. In all 30 complete sets of bedding and 50 volunteer hours were donated to the charity.

HOSA has worked to improve student morale and relations by organizing and hosting many fun day activities, including Masquerade Madness Halloween party and costume contest, Outrageous Holiday Sweater contest, Children’s Easter Egg Hunt, and Cool after School program for children of students and employees. To support the students enrolled in the Respiratory Therapy program, HOSA volunteered for the ShamRock and Run. Proceeds from the run provide scholarships for respiratory students.

Lastly, when a beloved LTI employee died unexpectedly, HOSA students teamed up with Phi Beta Lambda to raise money to help defray funeral costs.

LTI Instructor, Tracy Schliep (center) is presented with community service plaque.

Laurel Business Institute

– Real Degrees for the Real World

Overview of employers at the Fayette County 8th Grade Career Fair at Penn Street Building at Laurel Business Institute.
Crawford County Career Awareness Fair a Success

October 26, 2015 [Meadville, PA] — The inaugural one Crawford County 8th Grade Career Awareness Fair, held October 21st at the Meadville Elks Club in Meadville, was a success. Over one thousand students from four area junior high and middle schools – including Seton Catholic Area School District, Central Area School District, Titusville Area School District, Penn Crest Area School District, and Conneaut Area School District—attended the event. The Career Fair was co-sponsored by Laurel Technical Institute (LTI) and the Meadville Western Crawford County Chamber of Commerce.

The career fair, part of an initiative by LTI and the Meadville Western Crawford County Chamber of Commerce, to grow career awareness and promote education and training after high school among area youth. The Career Awareness Fair engaged 85 professionals representing 125 different careers in various fields from agriculture, building trades, business, design/technology, social sciences, and transportation. Representatives from each business spoke with students about the education and skills required to work in each field, positives and negatives about their careers, and why they chose their professions. They also answered questions posed by the students. Area professionals now look forward to the career fair as a way to promote the goals of their field while helping youth find a career path.

Doug Decker and Debbie Anderson, LTI's High School Representative, with cooperation from the Meadville Western Crawford County Chamber members, coordinated the event. Preparations included finding representatives for different professions, developing their displays, visiting schools to talk with students about careers, scheduling schools on the day of the event, and finding a venue.

LBI celebrated National Pharmacy Week during October 19-23, 2015

Activities during the week included a Capsule Count Contest in which students, faculty & staff offered their best guesses. LBI's Pharmacy Technician students were celebrated on National Pharmacy Technician Day with some sweet treats that were shared with everyone. The Pharmacy Tech students also promoted their profession by creating and passing out flu kits to keep faculty and staff healthy during this year's Cold/Flu Season. Thanks to everyone who participated!

Roger Darke Scholarship

Laurel Business Institute is pleased to announce that the Roger Darke Scholarship will be an ongoing opportunity to any Senior at Uniontown Area School District. The scholarship grants $5000 to one Senior attending the Therapeutic Massage program upon graduation. Mrs. Patricia Darke Smith (Roger's sister and a teacher at Uniontown Area Senior High) and Leslie Darke (Roger's mother) have worked endlessly with the Uniontown Area School District to keep the scholarship alive in memory of Roger Darke. In memory of his love of teaching, LBI is honored to exclusively accept this scholarship at our Uniontown and Morgantown campuses. Roger Darke was a Uniontown native and graduate of Uniontown Area School District. He chose to further his education with his passion in Massage Therapy. Upon completing his education in Utah, Roger returned to Uniontown and began a career as an Instructor at Laurel Business Institute. The Massage Therapy program was in the beginning stages and LBI gave Roger the opportunity to share his vision in the art of Massage Therapy with many, many people. Many students credit Roger for their deep commitment and passion for being a Massage Therapist.