

PENTA PERSPECTIVES

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A NEW BACK-TO-SCHOOL MODEL

As the new school year begins, Penta Career Center remains committed to providing a safe environment for students and staff. We also believe career-technical students and teachers must have access to our labs and one another, because relying solely on remote learning is not an effective delivery model for students.

Penta is pleased to announce that we have developed a new four-day model to maximize the career-technical experience for students while remaining compliant with governmental and community health guidelines. In this model, students will be on campus four days a week, with the fifth day set aside for work-based learning initiatives such as internships, paid work experiences, and community service activities.

“We were studying this new four-day model prior to COVID-19,” says Edward Ewers, superintendent. “After much research and conversations about how this model works for other career centers and how it benefits students, we felt the timing was right to modify our schedule.”

Penta has also developed two possible schedule adjustments, if needed, to be responsive to any community health crises. Details are available in Penta’s Restart Planning Guide at pentacareercenter.org.

Our New Model

- **Schedule 1** - Students on campus 4 days a week (Tues – Fri) with Monday as a remote learning day.

Schedule Adjustments *(if needed)*

- **Schedule 2** - Building capacity reduced to 50%
- **Schedule 3** - Full remote learning.

SOLAR ARRAY SAVES ELECTRICITY

Students Benefit From Project-Based Learning



Construction is complete on a \$2 million solar array on the south side of the Penta campus. The project will produce 1.76 million kilowatt hours of power, equal to the energy needed to power 142 average homes each year.

“This is a win-win for all involved,” says Edward Ewers, superintendent. “We worked with local companies like GEM Energy as the designer/building contractor as well as First Solar who manufactured the solar panels. We are excited for the many project-based learning opportunities that the solar array will provide for our students.”

The fixed-tilt, ground-mount array is located on six acres and is visible from I-75. First Solar has provided about 3,100 of their newest generation solar panels called Series 6. GEM Energy will provide preventive maintenance, monitor daily power output, and perform regular inspections. Penta students will benefit through remote monitoring activities for the classrooms.

The solar array project is expected to be operational this summer. A special ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place on September 18.



ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES AT PENTA

Within the past half-year, a few personnel changes have taken place with Penta Career Center's administration. Edward Ewers, who previously served as the Assistant Superintendent, became Superintendent January 1.

In addition, Robert Falkenstein, Ed.D. who previously served as the Principal of the North Baltimore Middle and High School, was appointed by the Penta Board of Education as the new Assistant Superintendent effective April, 2020. The high school also had some changes with the appointment of Ryan Lee as the new Director. Lee replaced Jeffrey Kurtz, who left in June as the Director. Lee was previously the Assistant Director and took on his new role July 1.

Superintendent's Message



I am honored to be the new superintendent of Penta Career Center, and to work with our students, staff, member schools, community, and industry partners in fulfilling our mission of providing the highest quality career-technical educational experience. Penta has a rich history of being a leader in providing educational options for both high school and adult post-secondary students, and this is more important now as we adjust to an ever-changing societal landscape.

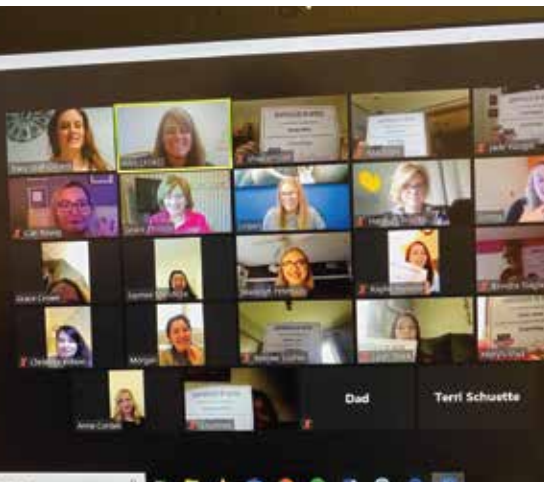
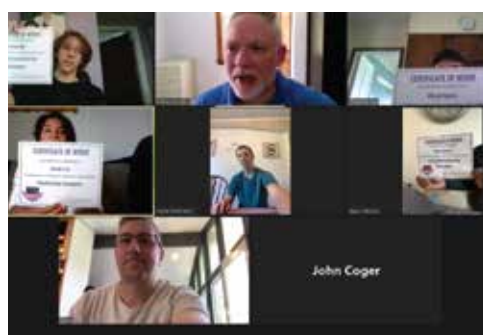
Since arriving at Penta in 2015, I have been listening and learning about Penta's role in developing the workforce needs of the Northwest Ohio region. This is a central focus of our mission. I am committed to giving all of our students a strong foundation that allows them to make purposeful decisions about their future – a future that looks very different than it did even a few short months ago. Our students need to be flexible, adaptable, and to be able to rely on the foundation provided by Penta to carry them into the world of work and to further post-secondary educational options. Our students' future is not one of an "either/or" proposition. Their future is an "all of the above" option, and our duty is to help prepare them for those pathways.

I look forward to the opportunity to continue to listen, learn and lead with all of our partners. Together we can achieve our mission of helping students become successful and productive citizens.

Sincerely,
Edward Ewers
Superintendent

VIRTUAL SIGNING DAY A HIT

Although we could not hold our normal Signing Day event in May for new Penta students, our career-technical teachers invited students to participate in a Virtual Signing Day through Zoom Meeting activities. Students were mailed Signing Day certificates, which they signed and posted on social media with the hashtag #IChosePenta.



PENTA IS A 2020 PACESETTER AWARD WINNER

For the second time in two years, Penta Career Center is the recipient of the Gene Bottoms Pacesetter School Award from the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). Penta previously received this award in 2018. The school district will receive the award in 2021 at the SREB's Making Schools Work Conference in Nashville, Tennessee because the 2020 conference was cancelled. Penta earned the award for its implementation of *Technology Centers That Work*, SREB's school improvement design for career-technical high schools.

SREB | Southern Regional Education Board

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2020!

The 55th senior class at Penta Career Center was honored June 2-3, 2020 during unique Drive-Thru recognition activities on the Penta campus. Due to an unusual ending of the school year because of the COVID-19 situation, the Drive-Thru recognition was planned for all on-campus seniors. During the event, members of the Class of 2020 accepted their Career Passports from Superintendent Edward Ewers and Director Jeffrey Kurtz and received professional photos as a keepsake. This year, 785 seniors from the main campus and satellite programs completed career-technical programs and received Career Passports through Penta.

In addition, 49 seniors were recognized with the Outstanding Student Award based on performance and excellence in their individual career-technical program. They are:

Ross Batdorff (Northwood), Marketing Education
Krystal Blodgett (Maumee), Culinary Arts
Bailey Blunt (Oak Harbor), Marketing Education
Evan Bode (Swanton), Construction Concepts
Garrett Bradish (Swanton), Culinary Arts
Joshua Bruce (Springfield), Welding
Hadin Clark (North Baltimore), Automotive Technology
Jarod Clifford (Springfield), Horticulture - Floral
Matthew Coates (Rossford), Advanced Manufacturing Technologies
Jazmine Collignon (Bowling Green), Business Office Technologies
Grace Crowe (Swanton), Cosmetology
Chloe DeVerna (Perrysburg), Teaching Professions
Diamond Diaz-Marbury (Springfield), Medical Office Management
Madison Dorobek (Anthony Wayne), Marketing Education
Jeffery Flory Jr. (Anthony Wayne), Construction Carpentry
Aaron Futch (Swanton), Automotive Collision Repair
Garrett Germann (Bowling Green), Medical Technologies
Julianna Hanson (Maumee), Marketing Education
Noah Henline (Eastwood), Construction Electricity
River Hoiles (Rossford), Project SEARCH
Carter Jacobs (Anthony Wayne), Welding

Christopher Jordan (Elmwood), Horticulture - Landscape
Jay Klinger (Bowling Green), Digital Arts & Design
Abby Lawson (Genoa), Cosmetology
Jordan Leisor (Maumee), Digital Video Production
Sabrina Leininger (Springfield), Construction Trades
Megan Loomis-Davenport (Genoa), Small Animal Care
Jesse Lopez (Eastwood), Heating & Air Conditioning Technology
Alexis Mayo (Springfield), Computer-Aided Design
Catalina Mendoza (Anthony Wayne), Medical Technologies
Samuel Merritt (Woodmore), Information Technologies Academy
Alyssa Morris (Rossford), Marketing Education
Alyson Nightingale (Anthony Wayne), Teaching Professions
Morgan Perkins (Genoa), Criminal Justice
Connor Potts (Springfield), Powersports & Engine Systems
Abbigael Poulin (Otsego), Dental Assistant
Zoe Ramirez (Maumee), Firefighter
Joshua Redford (Bowling Green), Marketing Education
Duncan Russell (Perrysburg), Information Technologies Academy

Jasmine Shepherd (Elmwood), Small Animal Care
Analese Smith (Maumee), Exercise Science & Sports Medicine
Michael Sparks (Lake), Culinary & Hospitality Services
Nicole Stepp (Perrysburg), Marketing Education
Akyra Thompson (Springfield), Early Childhood Education
Rosendo Vasquez (Genoa), Automotive Technology
Dan Wilson (Perrysburg), Medical Technologies
Austin Wolfe (Woodmore), Construction Remodeling
Logan Wolph (Woodmore), Construction Masonry
Dalton Yost (Anthony Wayne), Welding



Kaylyn Hornbeak (Springfield), from the Computer-Aided Design/Industrial Automation Systems program, at the Class of 2020 Drive-Thru recognition in June with **Edward Ewers**, superintendent and **Jeffrey Kurtz**, director.

2020 Outstanding Alumni Award

Penta Career Center is seeking nominations for the 2020 Outstanding Alumni Awards. Since 1993, Penta has recognized 164 former students with this award. Potential candidates should demonstrate excellence and success in their careers with evidence of professional accomplishments and community involvement.

Nominees must have completed a high school or adult education program at Penta prior to 2010. Applications will be available beginning August 17 by calling 419-661-6351 or by visiting www.pentacareercenter.org (click on "Alumni"). Completed applications are due September 30, 2020. Further information will be announced later regarding how and when recipients will be honored.

2019 Penta Outstanding Alumni recipients included (L-R): **Ryan Smith**, Class of 1997; **Elmer Dunberger**, Class of 1973; **Jessica (Arnold) Spilker**, Class of 1996; **April (Zitzman) Rietzke**, Class of 1997; **Diana (Escobar) Rodriguez**, Class of 1999; **Ivan "Jake" Lee Smith, Jr.**, Class of 1997; and **Matthew Harvey**, Class of 1991.



Instructors celebrated the Penta Class of 2020 as they drove through the parking lot.

New Options In Bowling Green

During the past several months, empty space in Penta Career Center's building at 760 West Newton Road in Bowling Green was converted into a lab for Welding, Forklift training and more for Adult Post-Secondary students. The work was done through a grant from JobsOhio. The new lab will have eight welding booths and offers flexibility to accommodate other types of adult training.



Welding booths to be installed inside Penta's Bowling Green building.

Classes Forming Now for Adult Post-Secondary

Penta Adult Post-Secondary offers fast, in-demand training in skilled trades along with Aspire/High School Equivalency classes. Penta also offers customized workforce development training for business and industry.

Adults interested in a Welding course at the Bowling Green site or for any Adult Post-Secondary program should contact Penta at 419-661-6554 or visit pentacareercenter.org.



Thank You Retirees!

Congratulations to the following Penta staff members and administrators who retired this past school year. We thank them for their dedication and commitment to our students and to career-technical education.

Lynda Windom (39 years at Penta), served in several administrative assistant roles during her entire career at Penta.

Tim Crawford (32 years at Penta), instructor of Social Studies

Mark Smith (37 years at Penta), instructor of Social Studies and English and RESA coordinator

Mary Schultz (19 years at Penta), school counselor

Jean Humason-Adams (6 years at Penta), VOSE instructional aide

In addition, we thank **Ronald Matter** (15 years at Penta), who completed his tenure as Superintendent in December. Matter served as the Superintendent since 2009 and also as the Assistant Superintendent from 2005 – 2009. Matter had retired in 2015 and was rehired by the Board of Education.

We also recognize **Jeffrey Kurtz** (14 years at Penta), who left Penta this summer as the High School Director. Kurtz, who previously retired from Sylvania Schools, took on the role of Director in 2006 and ended his 45-year career at Penta on June 30.

Students & Staff Enjoy Helping Others

Penta Career Center students and staff are generous and enjoy giving back to help others in need. This past school year activities included donation drives to support our own Penta Pantry, blood drives for the American Red Cross, a fund-raiser for Cops & Kids, and a Cut-A-Thon fund-raiser for a former student.

The Penta Pantry provides non-perishable food items and toiletries to on-campus students in need. This year, donations from our annual Cruise-In Car Show helped generate hundreds of items for the pantry thanks to the generosity of vehicle owners who participated in the event. In December, Penta's Power of Positivity (P.O.P.) club organized a drive for the pantry which generated a large amount of items donated by our students and staff.

Penta's Medical Technologies and Medical Office Management programs helped organize two American Red Cross Blood Drives. Students volunteered to donate blood, and organizers helped the Red Cross with the operation of the drives.

In the fall, the Criminal Justice program hosted a breakfast to raise money for the Wood County F.O.P.'s Cops & Kids program. Over \$800 was raised so that the F.O.P. could take area needy children on a holiday shopping trip to Meijer.

In February, the Cosmetology program organized a Cut-A-Thon fund-raiser for Danielle Pearson. An alumnus of Penta and the Cosmetology program, Pearson was hospitalized for weeks and needed help with her medical costs. Penta's Cosmetology students, along with alumni, donated their time to provide haircuts and manicures to 200 clients. Thanks to the generosity of the public, \$7,000 was raised to help Pearson and her family.



STUDENTS EARN AWARDS

Many Penta students on campus and through satellite programs participated in Career-Technical Student Organization (CTSO) competitions this past school year. Below are highlights about some of the contest winners.



2020 BPA Regional contestants

Business Professionals of America (BPA)

Seven students earned top awards at the Virtual Ohio BPA competition held this past spring and they included: **Brady Brunson** (Rossford), **Brayden Hoiles** (Rossford), **Abigail Lee** (Elmwood), and **Elizabeth Smith** (Bowling Green), second place for the Broadcast News Production Team contest; **Jonathan Schramm** (Perrysburg), second place for the PC Servicing & Troubleshooting contest; **Duncan Russell** (Perrysburg), fourth place in the Linux Operating System Fundamentals contest; and **Diamond Diaz-Marbury** (Springfield), fifth place in the Advanced Office Systems & Procedures contest. In addition, the following students from Penta's satellite Business programs at Swanton earned top Ohio BPA awards: **Brady Lemons**, **Xavier Wiemken**, **Ean Comstock**, and **Mason Sullivan**. **Natnicha Vayavong**, from the Northwood Business program, earned first place in Ohio for the Entrepreneurship contest. Two students competed in a Virtual BPA competition on the national level and earned awards. They included: **Anthony Helle** (Genoa), sixth place for the Cybersecurity/Digital Forensics contest and **Kaidon Woodbury** (Perrysburg), 10th place for the Promotional Photography contest.

DECA

Dozens of Marketing Education students both on campus and through our satellite programs qualified for the Ohio DECA Conference in Columbus. Although the state conference was not held in person, many students took tests and submitted documents.



Maddie Kontak, Penta-Maumee DECA chapter, was elected Executive Vice President of Leadership for Ohio DECA.

Congratulations to the following students who received first place awards at Ohio DECA: **Jayden Flagg**, **Yamik Patel** and **Brody Stultz** (all from Anthony Wayne) for the Integrated Marketing Campaign-Product contest; **Kelsey Schling**, **Katelyn Schling** and **Hope Sievert** (all from Oak Harbor) for the Business Solutions Project contest; **Chayah Keller**, **Hannah Kachenmeister** and **Sydney Phillips** (all from Maumee) for the Business Services Research contest; and **Sidney Hazard**, **Brayden Franklin** and **Jessica Perrault** (all from Maumee) for the Sports & Entertainment Research contest.



Paige Wilson



Violet Lowe

FCCLA

Several students competed this summer in the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Virtual National Leadership Conference. Gold award winners included: **Paige Wilson** (Swanton), from the Early Childhood Education program for the Early Childhood Education contest; **Violet Lowe** (Anthony Wayne Junior High), for the Food Innovations Project; **Courtney Slee** (Otsego), for the Repurpose and Redesign contest; and **Haley Reid** (Anthony Wayne), for the Teach and Train contest. Silver award winners were: **Keylan Brown** and **Parker Camp** (both from Otsego Junior High), for the Entrepreneurship contest. **Sophie Kepling** (Otsego) earned a bronze award for the Promote and Publicize FCCLA contest.

FFA

Students in Penta's satellite FFA programs at Bowling Green, Oak Harbor, Otsego, Anthony Wayne, Woodmore, and Genoa earned several recognitions and awards this school year. Among the chapters, 16 students earned the State FFA Degree and eight students earned the American FFA Degree. Recognized as Gold-Rated Chapters were: Penta-Bowling Green FFA and Penta-Otsego FFA.



Jake Zajkowski, from the Penta-Anthony Wayne FFA chapter, was elected as the 2020-2021 State FFA Vice-President at Large.



Jaylynn Greer



Destinque Conley

HOSA

Two Medical Technologies students earned top awards at the Virtual HOSA International Leadership Conference (ILC). Congratulations to **Destinque Conley** (Anthony Wayne), who placed third in the Speaking Skills contest and **Jaylynn Greer** (Bowling Green), who placed in the Top 10 in the Interviewing Skills contest. In April, 25 students earned top awards at the Virtual Ohio HOSA competition and qualified for the ILC.



Members of the Crime Scene Investigation team from the Criminal Justice program who earned gold (first place) at the Ohio SkillsUSA Regional Competition included (L-R): **James Struffolino**, **Ronee Peterson-Loftis** and **Morgan Perkins**.

SkillsUSA

In February, Penta hosted the Ohio SkillsUSA Regional Competition for the second year. We had 90 competitors and 32 students earned either a gold, silver or bronze medal. First place (gold medal) winners included: **Jalynn Greer** (Bowling Green) for the Job Interview contest; **Daniel Mattimoe** (Oak Harbor) for the Automotive Service Technology contest; **Morgan Michael** (Otsego) for the Nurse Assisting contest; **Trystin Miklovic-Inbody** (North Baltimore) for the Photography contest; **Mary Paengrord** (Northwood) for the Medical Terminology contest; **Marissa Pendry** (Northwood) for the Prepared Speech contest; **Keonna Smith** (Springfield) for the First Aid/CPR contest; **Micah Solomon** (Perrysburg) for the Collision Repair Technology contest; **Dalton Yost** (Anthony Wayne) for the Welding contest; and the team of **Morgan Perkins** (Genoa), **Ronee Peterson-Loftis** (Otsego) and **James Struffolino** (Maumee) – all for the Crime Scene Investigation contest.



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| ELMWOOD | ROSSFORD |
| GENOA | SPRINGFIELD |
| LAKE | SWANTON |
| MAUMEE | WOODMORE |

ADMINISTRATION

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- Carrie Herringshaw, Treasurer
- Robert Falkenstein, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent
- Ryan Lee, Career-Technical Director

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Perspectives has been honored by:



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SPRING 2020 - VIRTUAL LEARNING THE PENTA WAY



Students in the Information Technologies Academy held a virtual meeting with David Kennedy, a famous cybersecurity expert.

Penta instructors were quite creative in offering Zoom meetings this spring when Penta's campus was closed. One Zoom meeting for students in the Information Technologies Academy program featured David Kennedy, founder and chief technology officer for Binary Defense in Stow, Ohio. Kennedy provided a glimpse of his career in cybersecurity and offered tips for applying to colleges.

Students in the Firefighter program met online with Mike Ciampo, instructor and 35-year veteran of the Fire Department of the City of New York, and JJ Cassetta, instructor and a 15-year member of the Orlando Fire Department. Ciampo and Cassetta shared ladder rescue videos and provided information about rescue scenarios. The Zoom meeting was made possible through Penta's partnership with Bowling Green State University State Fire School.

Penta's Automotive Technology students and Bob Anderson, instructor, participated in several Zoom meetings with guest speakers. One meeting featured Penta alumnus Lucas Balistreri (Automotive Technology, Class of 2011) who is an engineer with Dana. He spoke about the field of engineering and how his experience at Penta prepared him for his career.

Students Help Construct House For All Saints

Students in Penta's Construction programs worked until March building a 3,000 square foot home for the Diocese of Toledo/All Saints Church in Rossford. They framed the entire house and installed most of the electrical, windows, and roof. Students also completed most of the rough in and second floor ductwork for HVAC. The project was an incredible learning experience for the students, but unfortunately they could not finish the house due to the closure of school in the spring.



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