

Project LIFE & SEARCH conduct intern interviews

On the first three Fridays in February, Project LIFE and Project SEARCH held their first ever virtual interview season for incoming candidates. Around 130 prospective student interns interviewed for 116 available seats through a new virtual format designed to maximize safety during the ongoing COVID crisis. When participants arrived at Butler Tech, they were shown to a room in Workforce Services where they met a panel of interviewers communicating through video conference on a large display screen.

The room contained trays of Legos with webcams set up to allow interviewers to see, in close detail, how candidates sorted and assembled the blocks as part of a hands on portion of each interview. Interviewers included instructors from Project LIFE and Project SEARCH as well as representatives from Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, Easterseals Tristate, and Butler Behavioral Health. We are happy to announce that the team accepted 121 students for 2021-2022.



Congressman Warren Davidson congratulates Congressional App Winners

11 Ross students were recognized by Congressman Warren Davidson for their outstanding achievements in the 4th annual Congressional App Challenge.

The challenge was created in order to inspire, include, and innovate efforts in developing STEM skills. The goal is to improve longterm employment prospects for students to fill the expanding gap between the tech labor force and the growing tech demands of employers. The winners will be showcased at the U.S. Capitol building and featured on [house.gov](https://www.house.gov). The winners are also invited to the capitol building to attend a tech seminar.

Team "SmarTracker" consisting of students Eric Eschenbrenner, Austin Burns, Joe Schottlekote, and Gabriel Kreate placed first in the competition. Their app focuses on locating missing students in the event of an emergency.





Lakota West Students Engineer Solutions to COVID Challenges

Story produced by Lakota Local Schools

When given the chance to find a problem and solve it, students in Jim McClure’s Engineering Design & Development capstone class looked no further than the halls of Lakota West High School. In the end, their work in the Butler Tech satellite course yielded industry-recognized certifications and viable solutions to two different challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic this school year.

Due to this year’s “no visitor” policy, instructor McClure decided to look at capstone projects a bit differently. Rather than linking groups up with local businesses seeking specific solutions, he gave students more free reign.

Throughout the course of their first semester projects, students earned their Lean Six Sigma yellow and green belt industry-recognized certifications - distinctions more frequently gained at the college level - while simultaneously completing their capstone projects. These certifications train participants to dig deeper into the problem and find the root cause before actually tackling the solution.

“Every day, we’d learn something new and then be able to go out on our own to actually practice it,” said Lakota West senior Alex Holloway.

Recognizing the importance of social distancing and the need to move students through the lunch line more efficiently, the group engineered a solution to help organize the crowds of students buying their lunch each day. The addition of stanchions to help guide students toward different food stations and an altered schedule for releasing students reduced the average time students spent purchasing their lunch by 40 percent. The group collaborated with the district’s Child Nutrition leaders and Lakota West’s cafeteria staff.

Another capstone group gained similar experience with their project, which aimed to install a mechanism to reinstate safe use of the school’s water fountains. With water fountains disabled throughout the building to minimize the spread of germs, students like senior Nate Nowicki observed that he and others weren’t drinking as much water as they should throughout the day. Following the Six Sigma problem-solving process, the group landed on an attachment to the traditional water fountain that allows students to refill their water bottles. After installing one device at main campus, the group is in the process of replicating it at other locations.

“It was cool because everyday it was something new, something different to do - and there wasn’t a set way to do it either,” said Nowicki, noting that even relocating their device to the freshman campus required modifications and improvements.

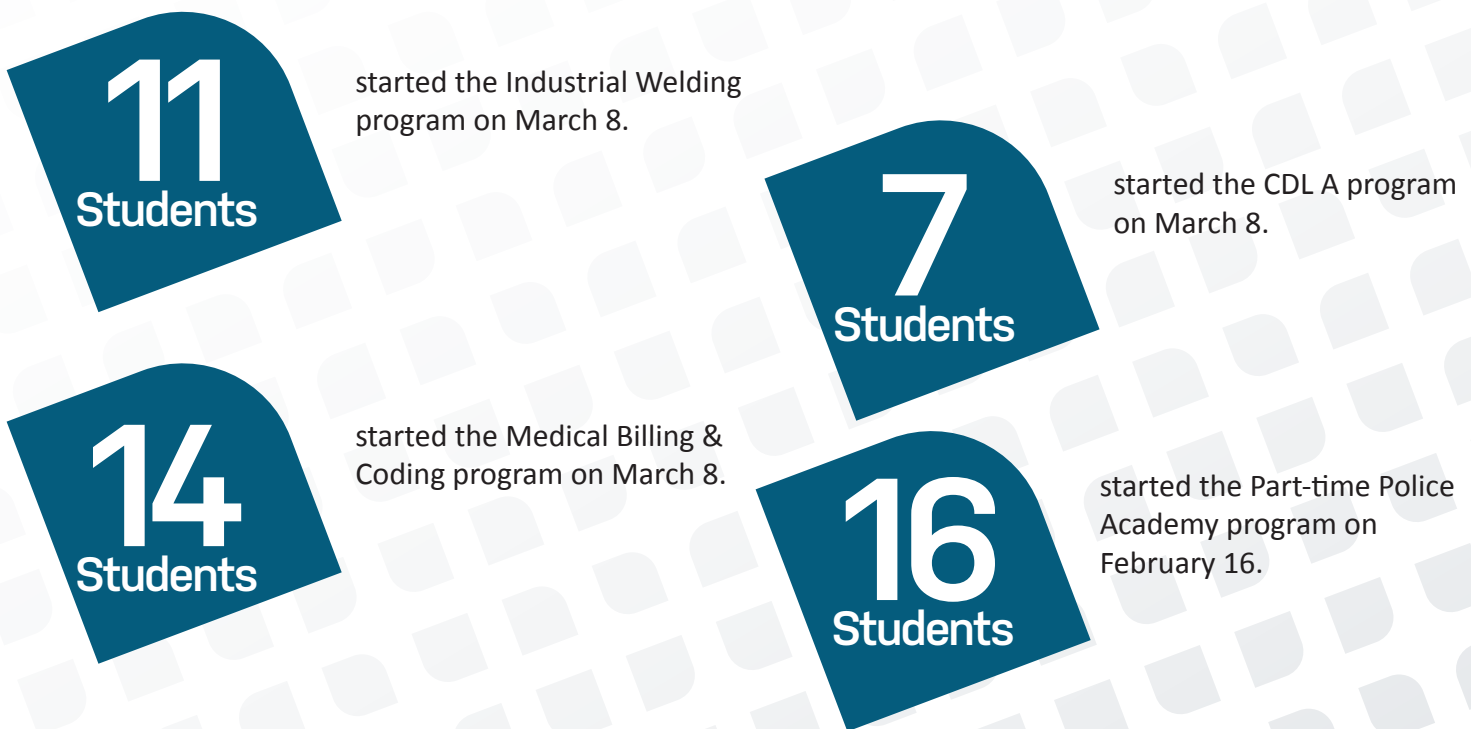
Butler Tech Alumni Joins West Chester Hospital’s Medical Imaging Team as CT Tech

Kali Duke recently joined West Chester Hospital’s MRI team working as a student technologist. Kali was one of our Butler Tech students (class of 2016) who found her niche during her rotations at the Hospital. After graduation, she was accepted into UC’s Advanced Medical Imaging Technology (AMIT) program. AMIT is a baccalaureate degree program where students learn both nuclear medicine and MRI imaging modalities.

Kali has already earned her certification through the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board and is now focusing her studies on Magnetic Resonance Imaging. She is on course to graduate from UC in August 2021 when she will be looking for full-time employment. Kali helps on evenings and weekends greeting patients, helping complete safety screening forms and starting IVs.



Butler Tech Adult Education Program Statistics





Butler Tech Alumni Spotlight: Emily Mullen

Butler Tech Program:

Talawanda Butler Tech Courses and FFA

Graduation Year: 2017

Instructors: Mike Derringer and Kari Roberts

Our most recent Alumni Spotlight features

Emily Mullen, whose Butler Tech experience was different from students who attend one of Butler Tech's campuses. Instead, Emily attended Talawanda High School and took Butler Tech courses in her school while also interacting with Butler Tech through the FFA chapter.



"As a freshman starting out in the Talawanda Butler Tech FFA chapter, I was extremely shy. However, I was fortunate to have an instructor that believed in me before I believed in myself. By the end of freshman year, I was participating in public speaking contests, parliamentary procedure contests as well as running for an office in the chapter. This was a far cry from the young girl who was scared of her own shadow at the beginning of the year," explained Emily.

"Our FFA chapter gave me the ability to explore the many sectors of the agricultural industry and develop a deeper passion for the dairy industry. However, the program is not just about "farming" as people like to think. This program gave me the ability to grow as an individual and hone in on specific skills that set me apart from a lot of individuals in my industry," Emily explained. "Contests such as public speaking and particularly procedure helped groom me into the leader I am today. The hands-on learning and important connections I made during those four years in high school are relationships and experiences I still reference today."

After Emily's Butler Tech courses and her involvement with the FFA chapter, she decided to take a huge step and become the first member of her family to attend college. Emily obtained a degree in dairy science from the Ohio State University in 2019, returning home to the family farm. Thanks to her early experiences with Butler Tech courses, Emily is now in charge of her family's operation where she manages 300 head of livestock a day and has opened her own small business.

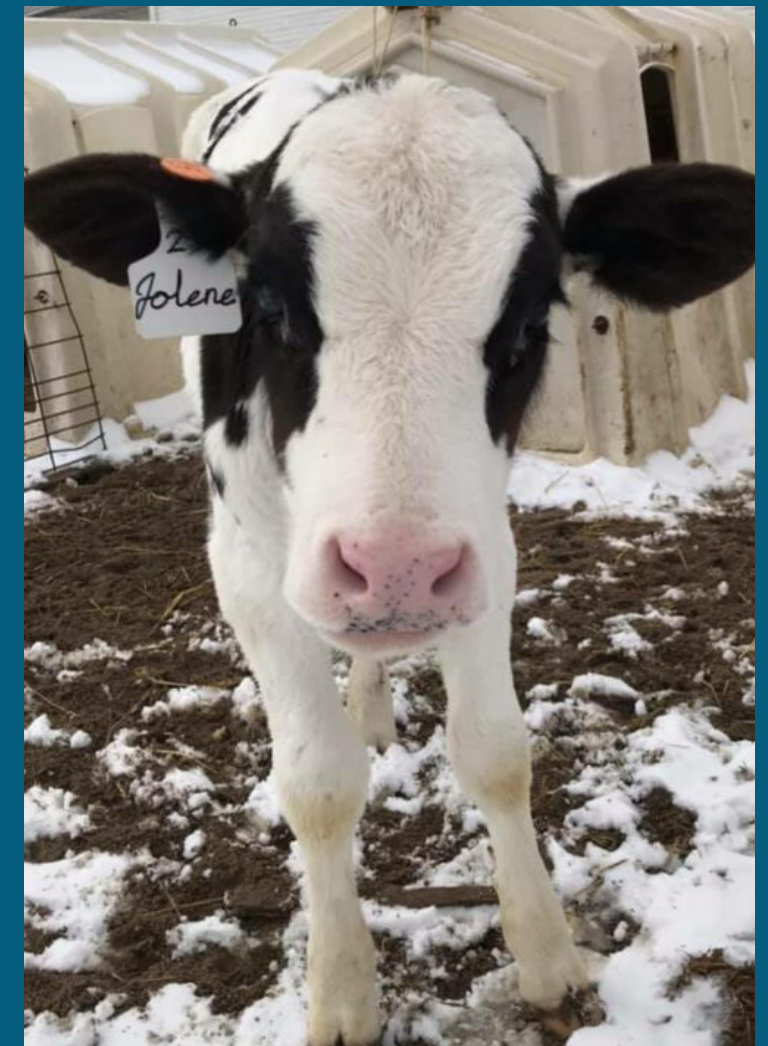
"I became very aware throughout my studies that in order to be a successful small farmer in today's industry it is important to diversify yourself. Therefore, I made the decision to begin making cow's milk soap and lotion as a way to have an outreach in my community and teach them about the industry," shared Emily.

Her ambition to think big quickly turned into a dream of pasteurizing and bottling her own milk and after many hours of research, Emily took a leap of faith and opened her own creamery. Today she offers cow's milk soap and lotion and provides the community with wholesome farm-fresh milk available in over 15 different flavors at The Mullen Dairy and Creamery.

"The Butler Tech courses and FFA gave me the ability to explore my passion and feel unashamed about having different interests than most kids my age. The classes gave me the ability to learn about business, leadership, and mechanical skill, and apply the knowledge directly to something that was involved in my personal life. Fast forward to my senior year, I had become president of the FFA chapter, was known around the state for my ability to represent the FFA Association, and I made connections among all sorts of people that I still refer to today. Butler Tech gave me the ability to explore the agricultural industries in ways that I never knew possible. It empowered me to become the best version of myself through leadership and self-discovery."

Emily's advice for current Butler Tech students...

"If I could go back and do it all again I'm not sure what I would do differently. I would encourage you to push yourself to do things that make you uncomfortable because there is no growth in the comfort zone. The harder you push yourself the more you will allow for self-discovery and realize what you are capable of doing. I can promise you it is greater than what you could ever imagine. Allow people to mentor you but also find your sense of direction and chase your dreams no matter what everyone else has to say. Everyone has a passion, but it boils down to your willingness to explore your options and take a leap of faith. We all deserve to have a career that we love and that we feel passionate about."





Butler Tech Adult Education Spotlight: Steven Morris

Butler Tech Property Services employee, Steven Morris, led a double life for almost a year. By day you could find him on any number of our campuses completing a variety of tasks including hanging televisions, fixing uneven doors at LeSourdsville or troubleshooting temperature issues. At the end of the work day, if he was lucky, he would escape to his truck to catch a quick nap before heading to Room 106 at Butler Tech’s LeSourdsville campus where he would spend the next 4 hours learning and earning his certifications in Industrial Maintenance Technology. For many adult students, going back to school is about making more money, but for Steven it was more than that.

“I hope to retire from Butler Tech, so I wanted something that would help me learn the industry terminology and allow me to have knowledgeable conversations with outside vendors that we’re using at our campuses,” explained Morris.

This double life of working and going to school all began on March 2, 2020, only 11 days before campuses closed due to COVID-19. However, with his continued dedication, Steven now has his Industrial Maintenance Electrical & Instrumentation Certifications and achieved his personal goal of gaining the knowledge needed to better serve Butler Tech. He plans to take a little time off from being a student, but already has visions of earning his welding certification next.

The hardest part of working and going back to school for Steven was not having as much time to spend with his wife and two girls. He beams with pride as he talks about a recent teacher conference for his 10-year-old daughter, Charlotte.

“The teacher congratulated me on finishing school and when I asked how she knew, she told me Charlotte had written about me for an assignment about their heroes.”

#TransformingLives



Introducing New Employees in Adult Education

Butler Tech welcomes three new full-time employees in Adult Education. Each come to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience in their field, a true asset for our students and existing staff.

Joel Seibert is our new Police and Private Security Commander. Joel previously worked at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy in London, Ohio. In his free time, he enjoys working on homes and flipping houses. “I am very much looking forward to working with such a great group of individuals and upholding the values of the Butler Tech family. I truly enjoy being a part of the students’ journey,” said Seibert. “As the Police Academy Commander, my job is to provide curriculum and instruction that goes beyond the standard. My mission is to give each student the foundation in law enforcement that allows them the opportunity to achieve their goals.”

Joan Vance is the new Emergency Medical Services Coordinator where she will work closely with our XYZ staff and students. Joan also works for the Gratis Township Fire Department and is a 2008 graduate of the Butler Tech Paramedic Academy.

“In 2014, I was hired part time as the EMS Coordinator for Butler Tech’s EMS program. In 2020, I completed my Bachelor of Science degree in Public Safety Management and Leadership,” shared Vance. “By moving into a full-time position, this will allow for more opportunities to interact



Joel Seibert



Joan Vance



Jeremy Lane

with our students. Navigating the paramedic program and its requirements can be challenging. I am looking forward to helping students to achieve their goals and have successful outcomes.”

Jeremy Lane is Butler Tech’s new Paramedic Coordinator. Jeremy comes to us from Atrium Medical Center where he served as an Emergency Medical Services liaison. He has authored and developed his own Advanced EKG course and book for EMS providers.

“I am looking forward to making Butler Tech the premier Paramedic program to attend in the area. With a great core staff of adjunct instructors, together we can do wonderful things here at Butler Tech,” shared Lane. “I understand that the students are making huge sacrifices to commit to the Paramedic program, I pledge my dedication to the students of the program 24/7. I want them to reach out to me for any needs that may help them make it through our program.”

Kari Roberts named Golden Owl Honoree

Each year the Ohio FFA recognizes 10 teachers in Ohio as Golden Owl Honorees. Butler Tech is excited to announce that Kari Roberts, agricultural education instructor at Talawanda High School, was chosen among the hundreds of nominations received this year.

The Golden Owl Honoree award recognizes teachers that have made a significant difference in the lives of students and in their community through their dedication to the profession. In addition to a plaque and award presentation, Roberts’ received \$500 for her FFA chapter to help continue the growth of her students into young leaders. Additionally, Roberts is now a nominee for the Ohio Ag Educator of the Year and a grand prize of \$3000.

The Golden Owl Honoree award is presented by: the Ohio FFA Foundation, Nationwide, Ohio Farm Bureau, Farm Credit Mid-America and AgCredit, ACA.



Upcoming Events:

March 19 & 20, 2021

Dunk and Donate - Virtual Event
Butler Tech Foundation Event

Thursday, April 8, 2021

5:30-6:30 pm

HVAC/R Graduation
Fairfield Twp. Event Center

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

HS Student Welcome Event #1
DRL, BSC, NSC, SOA

Thursday, March 25, 2021

HS Student Welcome Event #1
DRL

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

HS Student Welcome Event #2
DRL, BSC, NSC, SOA

Thursday, April 15, 2021

HS Student Welcome Event #2
DRL

Thursday, May 6, 2021

3:00-7:00 pm

Student Showcase Night
DRL, BSC, NSC, SOA

Monday May 17, 2021

Butler Tech HS Senior Ceremony
Cintas Center

Thursday, June 24, 2021

5:30-7:30pm

Healthcare Graduation
Fairfield Twp. Event Center



Transforming lives by making our students
career ready and college prepared.

